Centering Sustainability Work in Public Health Partnerships and Applied Student Practice at the CUNY School of Public Health

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Office of Experiential Learning

- Support the Fieldwork Process
  - 1:1 student advising, oversee enrollment, maintain course syllabus, opportunities newsletter, and database

- Purpose of Fieldwork
  - Applied learning experience (minimum 180 hours of service), aligned with competencies, that is planned, supervised, evaluated, and graded
  - Produce two deliverables - in program planning, implementation or operation, public health research, community health outreach, health advocacy, etc.

Office of Experiential Learning

- Build Partnerships with Employers and Institutions
  - Scope fieldwork projects, connect students and partners

- Collaborate with SPH Stakeholders
  - Harlem Health Initiative, Community Health Practice Collaborative, Population Health Informatics Practicum

- Support Partners in Capacity Building
  - CEESP, Interfaith Public Health Network

Community Health Fieldwork Collaborative

Purpose	Hands-On Experience	Process

For Community Health and Social Science (CHSS) MPH students to develop practical skills, gain work experience, make useful professional contacts, and further their public health competencies outside of the academic setting.

Fieldwork experiences allow students to develop, manage, evaluate, or lead evidence-based public health projects. Each experience varies according to the needs of the fieldwork site and students' interests and professional development goals.

Students select their first and second choice placements from the available fieldwork placements for their Collaborative cohort period, and they are placed into groups of 3-5 to work together over the course of two semesters.

Fieldwork Collaborative Timeline

Timeline	Host Organizations	CUNY SPH Student Teams
Late February– May 15	Work with CUNY SPH staff and faculty to develop a project proposal, designate a point person, and identify additional requirements for the student team (required vaccinations, documentation, required background checks, etc.).	Register for required CUNY SPH courses, including Community Health Practice Collaborative.
June 1	Course Begins	
June 1- June 7	Prepare relevant background information about the project to share with the student team.	Prepare for project work by attending course sessions; review project proposals, submit project preferences, and form teams.
June 7	Student Teams Finalized	
June 7- June 14	Work with student team to complete any additional requirements (required vaccinations, documentation, required background checks, etc.) needed to conduct project work.	Send introductory email to host organization; complete any additional requirements (required vaccinations, documentation, required background checks, etc.) needed to conduct project work
June 14- July 31	Project work (approximately 2 hours per week); provide feedback on the student team's project outline.	Project work (approximately 6 hours per week)
July 31	Provide feedback to student team and CUNY SPH faculty	Submit final presentation and deliverables to CUNY SPH faculty and host organization
July 31	End of Summer Semester	
August 26	Start of Fall Semester	
August 26- December 10	Project work (approximately 2 hours per week); provide feedback on the student team's project outline.	Project work (approximately 6 hours per week)
December 14 or 21	Attend student team's presentation and provide feedback.	Deliver a final presentation at CUNY SPH to the host organization.
December 22	Provide feedback to student team and CUNY SPH faculty	Submit final presentation and deliverables to CUNY SPH faculty and host organization
December 22	End of Fall Semester	

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Harlem Health Initiative

Purpose & mission

Activites

- Center community voices and value lived experience
- Encourage sustainable relationships between CUNY & CBOs, FBOs, community leaders & residents, and corporate partners
- Align projects within SPH & with external partners

Capacity-building with CBOs

- Workforce development
- Skill-building webinars
- Fieldwork student projects

Our Office Collaborations

Identified a **shared mission**: Center sustainability work to support CUNY SPH's partnerships

Prepare next generation of public health leaders

- >30 MPH capstone and fieldwork student placements
- Gil Addo Student Fellows: Fieldwork with HHI
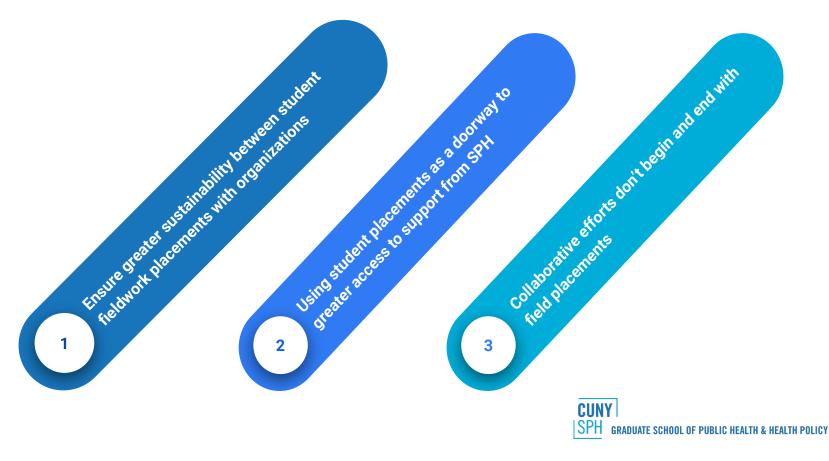
Fieldwork students with HHI partners

- CHSS Collaborative students with Dr. Cheryl Smith (Marcus Meets Malcolm), mapping Harlem dispensaries
- Fieldwork students at HCCI, NY Vaccine Literacy Campaign, Black Health, Pandemic Response Institute

Partner Perspectives

"We are grateful to our students for their dedicated work in bringing the group's discussions and analysis to life on the page. Just as importantly, we remain deeply impressed by the strength that all members of our group nurtured in our work together: actively **cultivating a form of care-oriented public health practice that strives toward healing and wholeness**, that remains open-hearted while also being open-eyed about challenges, and that is ultimately hopeful (with an active, activist spirit)."

"I am so pleased with the work from my students, and one has chosen to continue work on this project to produce a final manuscript for publication. The student **maintained professionalism and leadership at all times, came to meetings prepared and ready to engage** supervisors for feedback. We're excited to partner with CUNY SPH for future student work!"

Best Practices & Lessons Learned

1 — Ensure greater sustainability between student fieldwork placements with organizations

2 — Using student placements as a doorway to greater access to support from SPH

3 — Collaborative efforts don't begin and end with field placements

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Next Steps

More Harlem-centered projects

- Community Board 10
- Mt. Morris Community Improvement Association

Secure funding to support paid student placements with community partners

Create new workforce streams for burgeoning public health

- Cannabis
- Misinformation / Infodemics
- ROI in Public Health
- Health Communication: Data Visualization, Messaging, and Social Media

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Thank you.

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