The purpose of the MPH internship is twofold: (1) to provide a variety of opportunities in which the student can enrich mastery of the MPH competencies and (2) to advance understanding and capacity to apply the specific health management and policy competencies. Typically, PHMP MPH students should seek an internship that will extend their post-graduate competitive profile in future education or in various government, private, and agency employment markets. In general, public health management and policy students conduct their internships in official public health agencies (e.g., local, state, and federal health departments), other agencies that offer public health services (e.g., neighborhood health centers, health planning agencies, community health units of hospitals), and policy analysis and evaluation institutes/centers.

This document is intended as an overall guide to MPH program expectations for internships for public health management and policy students. The intent is for PHMP students to acquire practical experience in several of the competencies for which they have received didactic and classroom-based exercises. No one student will perform all activities on this list. Consult with your supervisory chair and with the Associate Director of the MPH Program about these requirements when selecting your internship site, preceptor, and special project.

PHMP students should conduct their internships in sites that will allow them to do one or more of the following activities. These activities are a subset of the MPH competencies.

- Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems
- Analyze and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community using an ecological framework
- Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems
- Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
- Use laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
- Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable
- Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services
- Communicate effectively with public health constituencies in oral and written forms

Special projects that PHMP students may select within their internship sites should focus on the following competencies expected of PHMP concentration graduates.

- Program/project planning
- Grant writing
- Strategic planning
- Project management
- Financial management
- Problem solving/crisis management
- Program evaluation/performance measurement
- Policy development and analysis

A special project, of course, is likely to be further refined to a very specific aspect of the above list. For example, a student who is working on performance measurement may have a special project involving development and selection of performance measures. Students are expected to understand the larger public health context in which their specific projects are conducted.