

## Guidelines for Consortium of Eastern Ohio Master of Public Health Independent Study

### Catalog description

Independent Studies in Public Health (1-3 credits): Research or other individual project designed jointly by student and instructor. Intended to cover topics not available in electives list. May only be taken for a maximum of 3 credits.

Prerequisite: Permission of academic advisor and faculty preceptor. Taken for a grade.

### Course objectives

- Research a public health topic under academic faculty supervision.
- Produce a written paper resulting from your research.

### Process

1. Establish a faculty preceptor—you can discuss who would be appropriate with your academic advisor.
2. Establish a community preceptor—this is someone who works in the community who may have a project for you (*optional*).
3. Develop objectives with your preceptor(s)—these are goals that you and your preceptor(s) would like to have accomplished by the end of the independent study. These objectives should be agreed upon by you and your preceptor(s). Send a copy of this completed form to your campus director and the MPH program office ([pubhlth@neomed.edu](mailto:pubhlth@neomed.edu) or fax 330-325-5907). *At minimum*, your final product should be a written paper with literature search, study findings and references.
4. Complete the independent study competency template—the first column should be completed at the beginning of the practicum and the second column should be completed at the end of the practicum. Turn in the completed template to your preceptor(s) and MPH program office.
5. Complete a “journal” for your experience (the template is at the end of this form). Turn in the completed journal with your competencies to your preceptors and the MPH program office.
6. Have your faculty preceptor turn in a letter grade (whole letter grade only, no pluses or minuses) when you have completed your independent study (see second page of this form). Preceptor(s) should agree on the final grade. If your faculty preceptor is at your home university, they can turn it into your campus director. If your faculty preceptor is not located at your home university, he/she should turn it in to the MPH office ([pubhlth@neomed.edu](mailto:pubhlth@neomed.edu) or fax 330-325-5907).

### Other guidelines

- The independent study may only be taken once for no more than 3 credit hours.
- Each semester credit is equivalent to about 45 hours of work. Three semester credits is about 135 hours of work.

### Independent Study Form

Student name	
Student email address	
Study topic	
Faculty preceptor	
Faculty email address	
Community preceptor (name & title, agency name) ( <i>optional</i> )	
Community preceptor email address	
Semester	
Number of credits	
Describe final product	
List your objectives	
List student qualifications (core courses completed)	
How meetings will occur (in person, phone, online)	
Describe frequency and length of meetings	
Other comments (e.g., if worked with an organization, etc.)	
<b>Office use only</b> Reviewed and approved by MPH Curriculum Committee	

**To be completed at the end of the Independent Study by preceptor(s)**

<b>Grade</b>	
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- Grade must be whole letter only (e.g. A, B, C)
- If there is more than one preceptor, please confer and agree on a grade.
- Criteria:
  - i. Quality of written product
  - ii. Ability to complete objectives
  - iii. Ability to achieve competencies
  - iv. Quality of journal
  - v. Professionalism demonstrated.
- Please submit grade to the MPH office on this form at [pubhlth@neomed.edu](mailto:pubhlth@neomed.edu) so that it can be routed to the appropriate school (if appropriate).

<b>Comments</b> ( <i>please offer the student feedback—thank you!</i> ):

## Consortium of Eastern Ohio Master of Public Health Independent Study Competencies

**Instructions:** At the *beginning* of the independent study, indicate the competencies that you believe you will achieve in the independent study in the first column. At the *end* of the independent study, reflect on how you did in achieving these competencies (what did you achieve and how did you do it?) and add any additional competencies that you may not have marked at the beginning of the independent study. Turn this finalized set of competencies into your preceptors and the MPH program office ([pubhlth@neomed.edu](mailto:pubhlth@neomed.edu) or fax 330-325-5907) at the end of the independent study.

		<b>[COMPLETE AT BEGINNING OF INDEPENDENT STUDY] Which competencies do you think you might try to address? Please indicate with an "X" in this column</b>	<b>[COMPLETE AT THE END OF THE INDEPENDENT STUDY] Reflection on your success in achieving the competency. What was achieved and how did you do it?</b>
	<b>Competencies</b>		
C-EVI1	Apply epidemiological methods to the breadth of settings and situations in public health practice		
C-EVI2	Select quantitative and qualitative data collection methods appropriate for a given public health context		
C-EVI3	Analyze quantitative and qualitative data using biostatistics, informatics, computer-based programming and software, as appropriate		
C-EVI4	Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy or practice		
C-HCS1	Compare the organization, structure and function of health care, public health and regulatory systems across national and international settings		
C-HCS2	Discuss the means by which structural bias, social inequities and racism undermine health and create challenges to achieving health equity at organizational, community and societal levels		
C-MGT1	Assess population needs, assets and capacities that affect communities' health		
C-MGT2	Apply awareness of cultural values and practices to the design or implementation of public health policies or programs		
C-MGT3	Design a population-based policy, program, project or intervention		
C-MGT4	Explain basic principles and tools of budget and resource management		
C-MGT5	Select methods to evaluate public health programs		
C-POL1	Discuss multiple dimensions of the policy-making process, including the roles of ethics and evidence		
C-POL2	Propose strategies to identify stakeholders and build coalitions and partnerships for influencing public health outcomes		
C-POL3	Advocate for political, social or economic policies and programs that will improve health in diverse populations		
C-POL4	Evaluate policies for their impact on public health and health equity		
C-LEA1	Apply principles of leadership, governance and management, which include		

		<b>[COMPLETE AT BEGINNING OF INDEPENDENT STUDY] Which competencies do you think you might try to address? Please indicate with an "X" in this column</b>	<b>[COMPLETE AT THE END OF THE INDEPENDENT STUDY] Reflection on your success in achieving the competency. What was achieved and how did you do it?</b>
	creating a vision, empowering others, fostering collaboration and guiding decision making		
C-LEA2	Apply negotiation and mediation skills to address organizational or community challenges		
C-COM1	Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors		
C-COM2	Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation		
C-COM3	Describe the importance of cultural competence in communicating public health content		
C-IPP1	Perform effectively on interprofessional teams		
C-SYS1	Apply systems thinking tools to a public health issue		
	<b>Generalist Track Competencies</b>		
G1	Prepare proposals for funding from external sources.		
G2	Demonstrate the ability to design, implement and execute a research protocol.		
G3	Consider the role of cultural and social factors in the planning and delivery of public health services and interventions.		
G4	Demonstrate critical evaluation of ethical values, theories, and principles that guide public health inquiry and decision-making.		
G5	Analyze the public health information infrastructure used to collect, process, maintain, and disseminate data in order to allow for decision-making at an administrative level.		
G6	Apply theory and strategy-based communication principles adapted to different contexts.		
G7	Identify factors that affect the context of how biological, chemical, and physical agents affect human health.		

## Journal Template

- **Activity**—what you did e.g. attended a meeting, worked on brochure, did a literature search, discussed high bacteria counts at the local beaches with the registered sanitarian.
- **Reflection/Competencies Addressed** —impressions that you had about the activity and how a competency was address e.g. “this will be useful in my current job because ...” or “I was impressed at the knowledge that the health commissioner displayed at the city council meeting. I used negotiation skills to try to advocate for building bike lanes in the city at this council meeting.” (C-LEA2)

Please include descriptive detail. If you interacted with a person, please list their name (or at least their title). The contents of this journal should be shared with your preceptor(s), MPH program coordinator and MPH program director. Your permission will be requested to share this journal with anyone else.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Reflection/Competencies Addressed</b>	<b># Hours</b>

