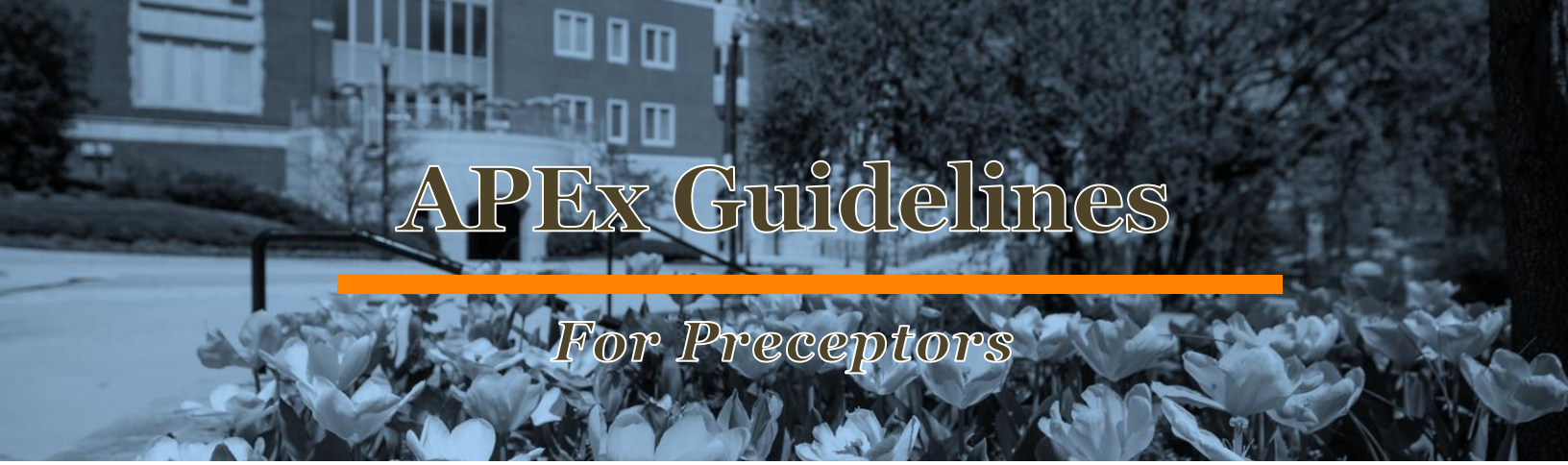

APEx Guidelines

For Preceptors

Applied Practice Experience Overview

The Applied Practice Experience (APEx) is a 240-hour professional experience enabling graduate students to develop public health competencies while contributing to projects that benefit a field organization. It is a learning opportunity for which the student intern earns six (6) semester hours of credit (PUBH 587) and is an important component of the MPH program as it allows application of academic theory, concepts, and skills in a realistic setting.

APEx Requirements

- Be involved in the work of a field organization on either a full-time or part-time basis for a total of 240 hours under the supervision and mentorship of a qualified preceptor.
- Produce at least two products that benefit the field organization and demonstrate mastery of five public health competencies (three foundational and two concentration).
- Complete all of the required assignments for the Applied Practice Experience course (PUBH 587), including a final report and oral poster presentation.

Preceptor Responsibilities

Before the APEx

- Meet with the student intern to discuss projects to be completed during the APEx. This includes at least two products that demonstrate five MPH competencies (three foundational and two concentration).
- Communicate expectations to the student intern and confirm start date and work schedule.
- Complete the 'Preceptor Information' section of the learning agreement.

During the APEx

- Orient the public health intern to the organization's mission, programs, policies, and other relevant information.
- Meet regularly with the student intern (weekly or every other week) to provide guidance, support, and constructive feedback.

- Complete an online midpoint evaluation of the student intern and discuss the ratings and comments with the intern.
- Communicate with the APEx coordinator as needed to ask questions, express concerns, or resolve issues.

After the APEx

- Complete an online final evaluation of the student intern and discuss the ratings and comments with the intern.
- Share any comments and/or suggestions about the APEx program with the APEx coordinator.

APEx Deliverables (PUBH 587)

The following forms should be completed by the preceptor and/or approved by the preceptor after student completion. These are requirements for the APEx course, PUBH 587.

- Learning Agreement
- Midpoint Evaluation of Student Intern (Qualtrics)
- Weekly time log (requires approval and signature of preceptor once the student has completed 240 hours)
- Final Evaluation of Student Intern (Qualtrics)

Resources

- The APEx Handbook, MPH competencies, and FAQ are available on the APEx webpage.
- Questions about the APEx can be directed to the APEx coordinator, Peyton Prothero, at pprother@utk.edu

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