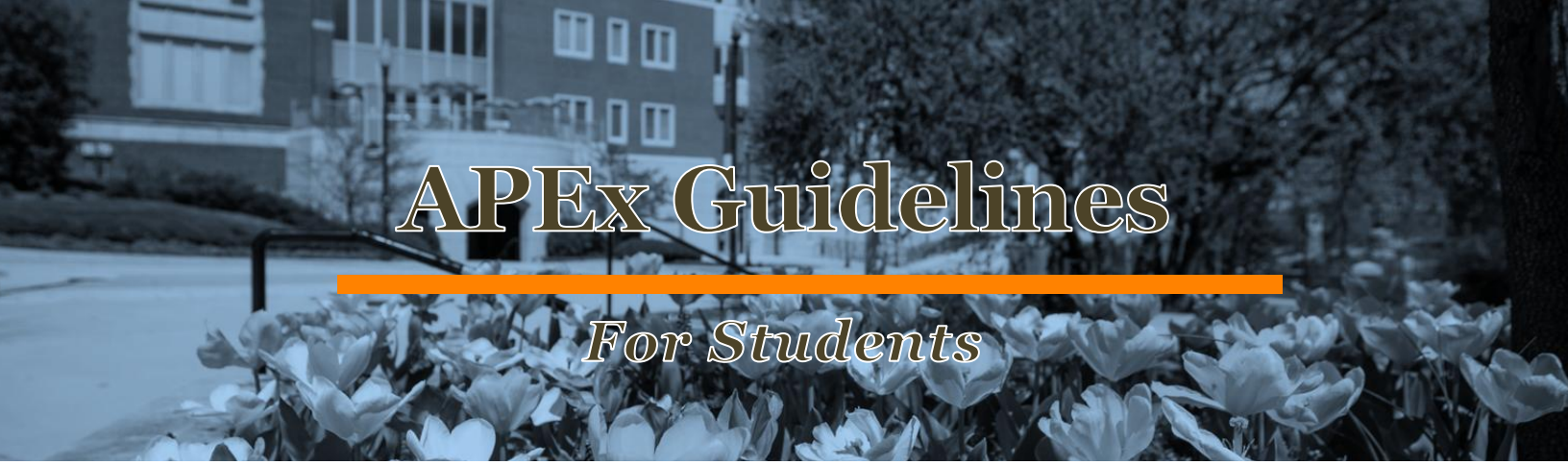

APEx Guidelines

For Students

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

Before the APEx

- Complete the majority of your MPH courses earning an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Complete the APEx student request form and receive approval from the APEx coordinator and your faculty advisor to complete the APEx in the requested semester.
- Complete learning agreement and send to APEx coordinator for approval. Register for PUBH 587.

During the APEx

- Be involved in the work of a field organization on either a full-time or part-time basis for a total of 240 hours.
- 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 PUBH 587, including a final report and poster presentation.

Student Responsibilities

Before the APEx

- Attend an information and planning session held by the APEx coordinator to review the APEx requirements, assignments, and strategies for identifying an appropriate site.
- Contact prospective field sites. Communicate APEx guidelines and goals for the experience.

During the APEx

- Follow all policies, rules, and regulations of the field organization.
- Maintain the mutually agreed upon hours and schedule.
- Meet regularly with preceptor (weekly or every other week) to discuss progress and performance.
- Submit assignments for PUBH 587 to Canvas on time and incorporate feedback and requests for revisions in a timely manner.

After the APEx

- Send a thank-you letter to preceptor.
- Deliver poster presentation to faculty advisor and the APEx coordinator.
- Turn in final report, student evaluation of APEx, MPH exit survey, and any other missing assignments to Canvas by the last day of classes.

APEx Deliverables (PUBH 587)

- Weekly Time Log
- APEx Journals
- Preceptor Midpoint and Final Evaluation
- Midpoint and Final Products
- Final Report
- Poster Presentation
- Student Evaluation of APEx
- MPH Exit Survey
- Self-Assessment of Competencies

Resources

- The Applied Practice Experience Handbook and FAQ are available on the APEx webpage.
- The Center for Career Development and Academic Exploration provides extensive resources for resumes, cover letters, and interviews.
- Questions about the APEx can be directed Peyton Prothero at pprother@utk.edu