



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES
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Fall 2017

Re: Preceptorship of MPH students for SPH 297: Public Health Practicum

Dear Potential Preceptor:

Thank you for your interest to serve as a practicum site for students in our Master's degree program in Public Health (MPH). The practicum is the program's capstone or "culminating" experience and is meant to provide the sort of real-world experiences that students will encounter as they embark upon their professional careers. The practicum provides opportunities to integrate principles gained from academic course work and to implement them in professional settings under the guidance of seasoned mentors.

In brief, students typically identify a practicum site, project and preceptor in the winter quarter, January through March. This involves working with the preceptor to identify a particular project and develop a concise written plan. We emphasize that the project should be of benefit and interest to the preceptor and sponsoring agency. It is meant to be a practical experience rather than a pure research endeavor. Most typically it involves work related to ongoing agency projects that the agency itself is not able to pursue due to resource limitation. Thus, the benefits are mutual: the student receives mentorship and experience, and the agency received help in furthering its agenda.

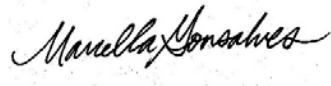
While winter quarter is typically devoted to the preparatory activities described above, the main work of the project is usually done during spring quarter, April through June. This involves 30 hours per week over the 10-week quarter on the part of the student for a total of 300 hours. Not all of these hours need be spent on site. Students may need at various times to work in the library, at the agency site, or in a field site.

It is important that the student have ongoing mentorship, and therefore we request that you meet with the student at least weekly to assess project and provide mentorship, and therefore we request that you meet with the student at least weekly to assess the project and provide mentorship. This will include ongoing advice, review and comment on the student's final

report and poster, and a mid and end-of-quarter evaluation. We also strongly request that you attend the June symposium at which the student presents his or her work.

If you are interested in mentoring a student, we invite you to complete our [Practicum Opportunity Form](#) or to contact me to discuss potential opportunities with your organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marcella Gonsalves". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Dr. Marcella Gonsalves
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University of California, Davis

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