

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.
- Confirm field site placement with the APEX coordinator to get the registration hold for PUBH 587 removed. Send preceptor the preceptor form to complete.

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 oral presentation.

Student Responsibilities

Before the APEX

- Attend an information session held by the APEX coordinator to review the purpose of the APEX and discuss strategies for identifying an appropriate field site.
- Contact prospective field sites. Communicate APEX guidelines and goals for the experience.

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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 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 oral presentation to faculty advisor, APEX coordinator, preceptor (if available), and other faculty and students.
- Turn in final report, student evaluation of APEX, information at graduation form, and any other missing assignments to Canvas by the last day of classes.

APEX Deliverables (PUBH 587)

- APEX Products and SMART Objectives
- Bi-Weekly Reports
- Midpoint and Final Evaluation
- APEX in Action
- Final Report
- Oral Presentation
- Student Evaluation of APEX
- Info at Graduation Form

Resources

- Past examples of student experiences are available on the [APEX in Action webpage](#).
- The Applied Practice Experience Handbook, timeline, 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 to the APEX coordinator, Peyton Prothero, at pprother@utk.edu