

# Public Health Community Externship

Robert Keys III, MPH, [Laurel Desnick, MD](#), [Danielle Bienz, MEd](#), [David Evans, MD](#)

Published: October 28, 2015 | [10.15766/mep\\_2374-8265.10260](https://doi.org/10.15766/mep_2374-8265.10260) ([https://doi.org/10.15766/mep\\_2374-8265.10260](https://doi.org/10.15766/mep_2374-8265.10260))

---

[Abstract](#)

[Keywords](#)

[Educational Objectives](#)

[Author Information](#)

[References](#)

[Copyright](#)

[Citation](#)

## Included in this publication:

- Instructor's Guide.docx
- Curriculum Overview Sheet.pptx
- Evaluation of Public Health Community Externship.docx
- Readings Instructions.docx
- Reading Responses Worksheet.docx
- Demographic Analysis Instructions.docx
- Demographic Analysis Worksheet.docx
- Community Conversations Instructions.docx
- Community Conversations Worksheet.docx
- Health Domain Instructions.docx
- Health Domain Worksheet.docx
- Faculty Mentor Telephone Check-in Instructions.docx
- Annotated Literature Review Instructions.docx
- Translational Research Project Instructions.docx
- Translational Research Project Worksheet.docx
- Project Deliverables Instructions.docx
- Abstract Instructions.docx
- Academic Poster Instructions.docx

[Download \(/filer/media/1503670003/2113/\)](#)

To view all publication components, extract (i.e., unzip) them from the downloaded .zip file.

---



**Editor's Note:** This publication predates our implementation of the Educational Summary Report in 2016 and thus displays a different format than newer publications.

## Abstract

**Introduction:** For the past 14 years, the University of Washington's Rural/Underserved Opportunities Program (RUOP) has offered rising second-year students a public health community externship (PHCE). The PHCE introduces students to public health skills and concepts that are most relevant to their careers as future physicians such as interpreting community demographics and epidemiological data, facilitating community partnerships, and translating evidence-based literature into a localized intervention strategy. The PHCE compels students to pay attention to patients' lives outside of the exam room and empowers them to engage in upstream health issues. **Methods:** This practicum is in combination with a 4-week summer clinical rotation that takes place in rural or urban underserved communities across five northwestern states. Students devote an average of 10 hours a week to their practicum. The balance of their time is spent in clinic. Each student is assigned a faculty mentor who oversees his or her practicum. Faculty research mentors review assignments and offer guidance throughout the rotation. **Results:** From 2009 to 2014, 646 students enrolled in this elective experience. Of these students, 99.3% successfully completed the curriculum. On average, students scored the question "Did you develop a positive attitude toward rural/underserved community medicine?" a 5.6 on a 6-point Likert-type scale. In 2014, the demographic analysis and the annotated literature review were the highest rated assignments among students, with a 4.75 mean score. Students regularly reported positive feedback from community partners, local and/or regional media coverage of their work, and local funding to support their projects. **Discussion:** The PHCE outlined in this publication provides students with a public health skill set that is most relevant to 21st century medicine. Medical students gain experience in assessing communities, building partnerships, and translating evidence-based literature strategies into local community health programs.

## Keywords

[Medical Education \(/search/?q=Medical Education\)](#), [Translational Research \(/search/?q=Translational Research\)](#), [Public Health \(/search/?q=Public Health\)](#), [Practicum \(/search/?q=Practicum\)](#), [Community Development \(/search/?q=Community Development\)](#), [Community Medicine \(/search/?q=Community Medicine\)](#), [Evidence-Based Public Health \(/search/?q=Evidence-Based Public Health\)](#), [Community Health Assessment \(/search/?q=Community Health Assessment\)](#)

---

## Educational Objectives

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Identify one or more health issues of their assigned community by analyzing and integrating publicly accessible demographic information, epidemiological evidence, and results of community conversations (Week 1).
  2. Discuss with their faculty mentor two or more differences between treating individual patients and addressing a community health issue (Week 2).
  3. Establish a relationship with a community partner as a means to address a public health issue (Week 3).
  4. Analyze at least five peer-reviewed articles and describe how each article could potentially translate into a locally appropriate public health project to be evaluated by local partners and faculty mentors (Week 3).
  5. Synthesize their community assessment and evidence-based literature into a public health project design that is evaluated by faculty mentors and community partners.
-

## Author Information

**Robert Keys III, MPH:** University of Washington School of Medicine

**Laurel Desnick, MD:** University of Washington School of Medicine

**Danielle Bienz, MEd:** University of Washington School of Medicine

**David Evans, MD:** University of Washington School of Medicine

---

### Disclosures

None to report.

### Funding/Support

None to report.

---

## References

1. Brill JR, Shobhina GC, Rusch RB, Seibert CS. A mapping process for identifying and enhancing public health education in required medical student clerkships. *Am J Prev Med.* 2011;41(4)(suppl 3):S304-S305. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2011.06.008> (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2011.06.008>)
2. Buckner AV, Ndjakani YD, Banks B, Blumenthal DS. Using service-learning to teach community health: the Morehouse School of Medicine community health course. *Acad Med.* 2010;85(10):1645-1651. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/ACM.0b013e3181f08348> (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/ACM.0b013e3181f08348>)
3. Chamberlain LJ, Wang NE, Ho ET, Banchoff AW, Braddock CH III, Gesundheit N. Integrating collaborative population health projects into a medical student curriculum at Stanford. *Acad Med.* 2008;83(4):338-344. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/ACM.0b013e318166a11b> (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/ACM.0b013e318166a11b>)
4. Geppert CMA, Arndell CL, Clithero A, et al. Reuniting public health and medicine: the University of New Mexico School of Medicine public health certificate. *Am J Prev Med.* 2011;41(4)(suppl 3):S214-S219. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2011.06.001> (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2011.06.001>)
5. Haq C, Sterns M., Brill J, et al. Training in urban medicine and public health: TRIUMPH. *Acad Med.* 2013;88(3):352-363. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/ACM.0b013e3182811a75> (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/ACM.0b013e3182811a75>)
6. Kaprielian VS, Silberberg M, McDonald MA, et al., Teaching population health: a competency map approach to education. *Acad Med.* 2013;88(5):626-637. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/ACM.0b013e31828acf27> (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/ACM.0b013e31828acf27>)
7. McIntosh S, Block RC, Kapsak G, Pearson TA. Training medical students in community health: a novel required fourth-year clerkship at the University of Rochester. *Acad Med.* 2008;83(4):357-364. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/ACM.0b013e3181668410> (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/ACM.0b013e3181668410>)
8. Michener JL, Yaggy S, Lyn M, et al. Improving the health of the community: Duke's experience with community engagement. *Acad Med.* 2008;83(4):408-413. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/ACM.0b013e3181668450> (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/ACM.0b013e3181668450>)
9. Ornt DB, Aron DC, King NB, et al. Population medicine in a curricular revision at Case Western Reserve. *Acad Med.* 2008;83(4):327-331. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/ACM.0b013e318166ab8a> (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/ACM.0b013e318166ab8a>)
10. Stebbins S, Sanders JL, Vukotich CJ Jr, Mahoney JF. Public health area of concentration: a model for integration into medical school curricula. *Am J Prev Med.* 2011;41(4)(suppl 3):S237-S241. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2011.06.020> (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2011.06.020>)
11. Tobey M, Sacks C, Foster D, Norman D, Karol S, Lee P. American Indian Health in South Dakota—A Health Systems Case. *MedEdPORTAL Publications*; 2014. Available from: <https://www.mededportal.org/publication/9869> (<https://www.mededportal.org/publication/9869>) [http://dx.doi.org/10.15766/mep\\_2374-8265.9869](http://dx.doi.org/10.15766/mep_2374-8265.9869) ([http://dx.doi.org/10.15766/mep\\_2374-8265.9869](http://dx.doi.org/10.15766/mep_2374-8265.9869))

---

## Copyright

© 2015 Keys III et al. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode>) license.

---

## Citation

Keys III R, Desnick L, Bienz D, Evans D. Public health community externship. *MedEdPORTAL*. 2015;11:10260. [https://doi.org/10.15766/mep\\_2374-8265.10260](https://doi.org/10.15766/mep_2374-8265.10260) ([https://doi.org/10.15766/mep\\_2374-8265.10260](https://doi.org/10.15766/mep_2374-8265.10260))

## Related Publications

[Preventing Obesity in Patients through Community Health Prevention Programs \(http://www.mededportal.org/publication/9687/\)](http://www.mededportal.org/publication/9687/)

[Working Together to Access Dental Care for Young Underserved Children: A Problem-Based Learning Approach to Increase Health Professional Students' Awareness \(http://www.mededportal.org/publication/9380/\)](http://www.mededportal.org/publication/9380/)

[Camp PathOlogical: An Innovative Summer School Program for High School Students Addressing Health Disparities, Social Determinants of Disease and Related Clinical/Translational Research \(http://www.mededportal.org/publication/9531/\)](http://www.mededportal.org/publication/9531/)

[Enhancing the Health of Communities: A Primer on Empowerment \(http://www.mededportal.org/publication/8400/\)](http://www.mededportal.org/publication/8400/)

[American Indian Health in South Dakota—A Health Systems Case \(http://www.mededportal.org/publication/9869/\)](http://www.mededportal.org/publication/9869/)