

Deliverables

Practicum Abstract

All second-year cohort students in the Vanderbilt MPH program are required to submit an abstract and to design and present a poster at the Practicum Colloquium.

The Practicum Colloquium provides all MPH students an opportunity to present their practicum experiences in a conference-like setting. Students have an opportunity to practice presentation skills while receiving feedback from faculty and other graduate students in attendance.

For students who complete practicum requirements at two or more separate sites, they should consult with the practicum director to determine which site to use for the Practicum Colloquium abstract and poster.

Two outstanding practicum abstracts will be selected by a review committee of MPH faculty members and alumni. The winners will each receive a \$500 professional development award from the Vanderbilt MPH Program and they will also present a brief oral presentation at the Practicum Colloquium along with their poster. Winners will be notified by January 1.

General Abstract Guidelines

The abstract summarizes the main points of the student's experience. Typically, an abstract will include the following sections (% total of abstract):

1. Introduction: overall objective of practicum (~ 25%)
2. Methods: practicum project design or methods (~ 25%)
3. Results: primary results or outcomes (~ 35%)
4. Conclusions: principal conclusions or interpretations (~ 15%)

Students should consult the [AMA Manual of Style: A Guide for Authors and Editors \(10th edition\)](#) when developing their abstract. MPH students can access the electronic version for free from any VU-networked computer or by using their VU student VUNetID to log in to the VU library system. Please refer to the following sections on [abstracts](#), [references](#), [abbreviations](#), [punctuation](#), and [capitalization](#) for guidance.

When developing an [abstract](#), do not write in first person, avoid the [passive voice](#), and use full sentences. Abbreviations may be used after the term is spelled out in full once. Please verify official formal names of organizations, departments, entities, and projects before submitting abstract for review.

Specific Abstract Guidelines

- All second-year students in the MPH program are required to submit an abstract
- Abstracts should be 250-300 words
- All abstracts should include 3 keywords
- Abstracts should be uploaded via REDCap as a Word document saved with a file name using this format:
 - File name format: [Last Name]_Practicum_Abstract
 - Example: Hawkins_Practicum_Abstract

All abstracts must adhere to the following format. Use a header and address the specific questions for each of the required sections.

Practicum Abstract

Purpose/Significance

This section (2-3 sentences) should include the following:

- Overall context of practicum experience (Public Health issue being addressed)
- Name and location of practicum site
- Aims or objectives of practicum experience

Methods

This section (2-3 sentences) should describe what how you addressed your practicum objectives.

- Practicum project design or methods

Results/Outcome

This section (2-3 sentences) should describe your practicum results or outcomes.

- What were the outcomes
- What practicum products were produced

Conclusion

This section (2-3 sentences) should describe your principle conclusions or interpretations of your practicum.

- General interpretation of the results and their significance to public health
- If applicable, description of impact related to public health
- Lessons learned, did you achieve your overall practicum goal
- Any ongoing challenges