



## PRACTICUM WAIVER

Practica, internships and “practice-experiences” have been expected for Schools of Public Health for almost two decades and national reports in the past decade have continued to emphasize this as an approach to improve the competency of professionals entering the field of public health. The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) requires that “All professional degree students must develop skills in basic public health concepts and demonstrate the application of these concepts through a practice experience that is relevant to the students’ areas of specialization.”

It is recognized that some students are admitted to schools of public health possessing extensive public health experience. In such a case the practicum may be waived. Before a waiver is granted, the student must demonstrate “experience in application of basic public health concepts and of specialty knowledge to the solution of community health problems.” Public health knowledge includes the core competencies as well as a population approach to health problems, use of a prevention framework, and collaboration with community partners. The student must also show that their previous experiences relate to specialty knowledge acquired in their Regional Campus or Division.

Eligible students should discuss the possibility of a waiver with their Academic Committee within 12 months of enrollment. The Committee will determine if the written summary of the student’s experiences demonstrates an adequate applied public health experience in the appropriate area of concentration. The summary should include:

- the name of the organization
- description of how the experience demonstrates application of the core and specialty public health knowledge
- approximate number of hours of experience
- name and title of supervisor(s).

When all parties have signed off, the original form and attachment should be forwarded by the student to the Student Affairs Office for inclusion in the student’s academic file. Copies should be sent to the faculty advisor and the Office of Public Health Practice/Regional Campus.

Approved by: Practice Council – August 10, 2006

Approved by: Faculty Council – August 24, 2006

Approved by: Executive Council – September 28, 2006

