Ways to Involve MPH students in your IBH&D work and research:

Be a Practicum Preceptor for an MPH student (requires relatively high involvement)

- To complete their MPH, all students must complete at least 120 hours of supervised public health fieldwork (practicum). The practicum may be finished in as little as 3 weeks but should not take more than 2 semesters (28 weeks) to be completed. Certain program-specific elements of the Practicum vary by department.
- See the attached summary of expectations from the GW MPH Guide for Practicum Preceptors.

Be a data sponsor/research mentor for an Epidemiology MPH student’s CE (requires less involvement)

- To complete their MPH, students in the Epidemiology track must complete a Culminating Experience (CE), for which they are required “to identify and define a specific public health issue and formulate hypotheses to address that issue. Students work with data obtained through either primary research or from an existing dataset. The process of proposal development, data analysis, interpretation, and extrapolation of the results culminates in a written report or manuscript and an oral presentation.” This process is generally completed in one or sometimes 2 semesters.
- Many students can use research they already have access to for their practicums, but some cannot, and they are looking for projects and data! They need a data sponsor.
- See summary below of expectations for working with a student on data analysis.

Researchers interested in being a data sponsor/research mentor would be expected to:

- **Provide (or help navigate if public access) data that could be used to meet CE requirements.** (Given the timeframe for most CEs, students need data that is de-identified and/or already under an existing IRB protocol in order to be approved.)
- **Meet with the student to discuss possible research questions, data availability, and requirements/expectations to be able to access the data.**
- Help shape appropriate study questions, select outcome variables and understand current research context, and communicate limitations to data usage.
- If the researcher hopes for a published paper from the CE project, they should expect to be more heavily involved.

**Note:** Students will have a faculty advisor within the DEPI who is responsible for guiding them through the “process of proposal development, data analysis, interpretation” and will approve the final report and presentation as well as access to some additional support if needed for study design and SAS programming. **There are no formal requirements to be a data sponsor and any level of involvement by Institute for Brain Health and Dementia faculty members is of course welcome!**

If you are interested, please contact Meg Ulfers mulfers@email.gwu.edu or Adam Ciarleglio aciarleglio@email.gwu.edu, co-chairs of the Institute for Brain Health and Dementia’s Student Engagement Subcommittee, with your name and areas of research where you might have some questions a student could tackle from available data 😊.
Highlighted Expectations from Guide for Practicum Preceptors

Certain program-specific elements of the Practicum vary by department, but the following are Practicum standards for all MPH students:

- Practicum must be conducted in public health or related setting
- Practicum must be supervised by an experienced public health (or related field) professional
- **Student must complete at least 120 hours of supervised public health fieldwork**
  - The practicum may be finished in as little as 3 weeks but should not take more than 2 semesters (28 weeks) to be completed
- Student will receive a grade of Credit/No Credit by academic department, based in part on recommendation by Site Preceptor via Final Evaluation

Practicum sites should:

- Serve a public health, health services, or social impact mission, or support an agency or department with such a mission
- Address significant public health, health services, or social problems
- Offer students the opportunity to learn from public health professionals in a supervised environment
- **Have well-defined activities that will enable students to apply their knowledge and skills**

A practicum preceptor agrees to directly supervise the student during the Practicum experience. Roles and responsibilities include:

- Review GWSPH Preceptor Practicum Guidebook
- Work with the student to design, review, and approve their Applied Practical Experience Proposal
  - This includes identifying activities that apply to the student’s program-specific competencies
  - The preceptor will need to approve the student’s proposal through an online management system
- **Engage with student onsite and provide constructive feedback and guidance**
- Verify student’s weekly hours
- Complete Midterm Evaluation (in conjunction with the student) and Final Site Preceptor Evaluation
- **Address any reports from the student of concerns, including but not limited to site safety issues and sexual harassment**