UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
HED 595: Field Experience in Health Education
3 Credits (3 hours)

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Course Overview
Field experience in Health Education is designed as a culminating experience to provide graduate students in health education an opportunity to apply health education and health promotion knowledge and skills in a professional supervised setting. Since the Field Experience is to observe a student’s ability and competency to integrate, synthesize and apply health education and health promotion knowledge and skills in a professional supervised setting, students should enroll for Field Experience at the end of their graduate program. The Health Education Graduate Studies Program requires that students complete a total of three (3) credit hours of Field Experience. Students must complete 150 hours of work for each three hours of credit.

Course Competencies
Since Field Experience is designated as a culminating experience, students are encouraged to apply as many of the Competencies of the Roles and Responsibilities of the Graduate Level Trained Health Educator (See MS HED graduate handbook). Each student is expected to obtain a copy of the competencies prior to beginning the field experience and then share that list with the preceptor/mentor or field experience supervisor.

Course Assignments and Expectations
1. Students are expected to identify possible agencies with which they would like to explore a field experience. The professor of Field Experience will assist you in identifying agencies if you have exhausted your possibilities.
2. Students are expected to make contact with the appropriate individual at the agency who would supervise the field experience, schedule an appointment and meet with the individual to explore the possibility of a field experience. In scheduling an appointment, you must keep in mind that the expectation is to see how well this placement will help you apply the principles, skills and competencies of health education. Interviewing for a field placement is similar to applying for a job and going for a job interview. You may want to interview with more than one agency prior to making a decision. Ideally the individual who oversees your placement should have a health education or related degree. Make sure to share the course syllabus and list of competencies with the field site interviewer, discuss what it is you would like to do and what their expectations are of you. The key question to ask “is there a match?”
3. Once you have made a tentative decision, submit to the UNM field coordinator a description of the following:
   • Name and description of the agency
   • Name and contact information (phone number email and physical address) of the on site supervisor
   • Three major objectives that you expect to meet and accomplish while completing your field placement.
4. Final approval must be received by the UNM field coordinator prior to beginning the field experience.
5. Once approval has been given you must negotiate with the agency Health Education and or Health Promotion Supervisor to ensure there is an agreement on the identified objectives which you are to meet. Make sure you give yourself an adequate timeline in which to meet those objectives.
6. Keep a weekly log of your field experience (field log) recording:
   • the number of hours worked
   • the tasks experienced
   • the competencies demonstrated on a daily/weekly and cumulative basis
   • reflections on what you are learning
7. Email to the UNM field coordinator your weekly field logs on the first Monday of each month, until the field experience is completed.
   • Make sure to save your electronic mailings and submit them with your final report. When you send e-mails the subject field should read: [your name], HED 595 Monthly log #1
8. You must attend all meetings of field experience as mandated by the professor of record and/or site supervisor. Meetings will accommodate work/school schedules.
9. At the end of your field experience you will turn in a report that a) summarizes your experiences, b) describes what you learned throughout your experience, c) outlines the professional competencies you developed/refined and, d) discusses to what extent you met your objectives.
10. Your onsite supervisor will complete an evaluation form in which he/she will evaluate your performance and which will be submitted directly to the professor of record. Please meet with your onsite supervisor in an exit interview to discuss this evaluation.

**GRADES**
Your final grade will be based on the professor of record’s assessment of how well your stated objectives were met, including how many levels of competencies you were able to met and effectively assess. Letter grades will be awarded based on the outcome of all completed requirements, the site supervisors’ evaluations and the UNM supervisor. Note: The hours and schedule you work is negotiable between you and your supervisor. An incomplete can be arranged should you not complete the necessary hours within the timeline of one semester. **150 Hours of Work for 3 units of credit.**