

Community Service Requirement for MPH Program

All MPH students will be required to complete at least one **six-hour** community service activity before graduating.

The MPH Program at West Chester University (WCU) provides students the opportunity to engage in community service to enable students to cultivate professionalism and conscious responsibility toward the profession along with the goals of public health through service to communities, agencies, underserved populations and organizations.

The overall public health purpose of the community service requirement activity is to enable students to participate in a variety of public health related activities within the community setting. These activities serve the purpose of introducing students to the role of community service as a public health professional.

The community service needs to be organized through a non-profit organization/agency. Also, note that service to professional organizations cannot be counted as meeting the Community Service requirement. Satisfactory completion of the Community Service requirement before graduation clearance can be processed to receive the MPH diploma.

Find your specific track and follow those instructions

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Community Health Track (CHT) Community Service Requirement

At this time, the Community Service Requirement for students in the **Community Health Track** will be met through completing the following service-learning project (minimum of six hours of community service) through the required track course:

HEA 531 – FALL – Community as a Basis for Health

In the HEA 531 course as part of the service learning project requirement: students have the opportunity to apply community needs assessment methods to a specific community; and to plan, implement and assess a health education activity (learning station/poster/lesson plan). For example, in Fall 2014 students provided community service in a Latino community at a designated community-based event (held every Fall in Kennett Square, PA: Vive tu Vida community-based event). Students completed a written reflection paper on the service learning activity. The service activities are fully integrated into the course; linked to specific goals/objectives for the activities; and reflection and reciprocity are integral components of the service-learning project.

When you enroll in HEA 531 the instructor provides all the necessary information to work at the community site in the course and the instructions for the community service learning project. There is no action needed on the community service website.

The community service activity is linked to the **Community Health** Track objectives noted below. Examples of community service are also provided.

Community Health Track Competencies/Learning Objectives

1. Assess Needs, Assets and Capacity for Health Education
2. Plan Health Education
3. Implement Health Education
4. Conduct Evaluation and Research Related to Health education
5. Administer and Manage Health Education
6. Serve as a Health Education Resource Person
7. Communicate and Advocate for Health and Health Education

Examples of Community Health Service That May Be Practiced in the HEA 531 Course

- Participating in community-based health education programs and activities.
- Participating in health and wellness and fairs/events.
- Assisting community-based agencies with health education-related interventions.
- Assisting agencies in the planning, implementing and evaluation of health education programs and activities.
- Assisting agencies in the coordination of health education activities.
- Serving as a health education resource to community members.

Environmental Health Track Community Service Requirement

At this time, the Community Service Requirement for students in the **Environmental Health Track** will be met through completing the service – learning project through the required track course:

ENV524 – FALL – Industrial Hygiene

You are required to complete **at least six hours of community service before graduating**. You are to work with the MPH Instructor, who teaches **ENV 524 Industrial Hygiene** to identify an approved volunteer and community service activity. The service activity is linked to this specific track course and a community service experience.

To fulfill the community service requirement, the procedure for, **Environmental health** students is as follows:

1. Log onto the [MPH Community Service Application](#)
2. Find the community service activity related to **ENV 524** for your enrolled semester.
3. Select that activity
4. Submit the application to register your contact information and the agency through which you will provide community service.
5. Once you click submit the online form will automatically be sent to your MPH service faculty Instructor for approval. Wait for an email from your MPH service faculty Instructor for the course, before proceeding with the community service.
6. Once approved, via email, complete the community service activity.
7. After you complete the required hours log into the MPH Community Service application again through the MPH Community Service website and record your hours. The report will automatically be sent to your MPH service faculty member.

The community service activity is linked to the **Environmental Health** Track objectives noted below. Examples of community service are also provided.

Environmental Health Competencies/Learning Objectives

1. Identify illness and injury causing agents in workplaces, residences, health care facilities and other institutions, and the outdoor environment.
2. Measure biological, chemical and physical disease agents in any environment and assess compliance with environmental regulations and professional standard.
3. Analyze, interpret and evaluate toxicological, epidemiological and environmental exposure data
4. Quantitatively assess risk using mathematical models.
5. Communicate risk information to the populations they serve
6. Plan and manage emergency preparedness programs
7. Integrate, implement and evaluate control strategies to reduce environmental risks
8. Lead, manage and administer environmental health programs
9. Apply appropriate research principles and methods in Environmental Health.
10. Advance the profession of Environmental Health

Health Care Management Community Service Requirement

At this time, the Community Service Requirement for students in the **Health Care Management Track** will be met through completing the service-learning requirement through the required track course:

HEA613 – FALL – Advocacy and Quality of Health Care Services

You are required to complete **at least six hours of community service before graduating**. You are to work with the MPH Instructor, who teaches **HEA613 Advocacy and Quality of Health Care Services** to identify an approved volunteer and community service activity. The service activity is linked to this specific track course and a community service experience.

To fulfill the community service requirement, the procedure for **Health Care Management**, students is as follows:

1. Log onto the [MPH Community Service Application](#)
2. Find the community service activity related to **HEA 613** for your enrolled semester.
3. Select that activity
4. Submit the application to register your contact information and the agency through which you will provide community service.
5. Once you click submit the online form will automatically be sent to your MPH service faculty Instructor for approval. Wait for an email from your MPH service faculty Instructor for the course, before proceeding with the community service.
6. Once approved, via email, complete the community service activity.
7. After you complete the required hours log into the MPH Community Service application again through the MPH Community Service website and record your hours. The report will automatically be sent to your MPH service faculty member.

The community service activity is linked to the **Health Care Management** Track objectives noted below. Examples of community service are also provided

Health Care Management Track Competencies/Learning Objectives

Upon completion of the Health Care Management Track graduates will be able to:

1. Effectively transfer information in oral, written, and non-verbal form to others, including the ability to judge what needs to be communicated, when it needs to be communicated, to whom, how and how much, and where this communication should take place.
2. Formulate the right questions and answers, think logically and independently, conceptualize and problem solve in an unstructured environment.
3. Develop an understanding of planning and decision-making, organizing, leading, and controlling an organization's human, financial, physical, and information resources to achieve organizational goals in an efficient and effective manner.

4. Recognize and analyze health system and sub-system properties, processes, and outputs, and the dynamic interactions within the system and with the external environment.
5. Develop, implement, manage, and evaluate economic and financial models in order to plan and guide the organization to achieve its strategic goals and objectives.

Acceptable Types of Health Care Management Community Service

A list of activities is provided below to offer examples and guidance. Note that the list is not prescriptive and other activities are encouraged with prior approval.

1. Advocate for patients in service settings.
2. Facilitate access to health care insurance particularly for disadvantaged population groups.
3. Participate in health care delivery related interventions in community settings.
4. Advocate for legislative policy and programs that are related to health care issues.
5. 5. Participate in community engagement and advocacy for legislative policies and programs related to improving population health status.
6. Assist agencies with steps associated with their planning process.
7. Help with research related to planning, implementation, or evaluation of community outreach services offered by healthcare institutions

***The competencies for the Health Care Management focused elective area follow the criteria set forth by the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME).**

Nutrition Track Community Service Requirement

At this time, the community Service Requirement for students in the **Nutrition Track** will be met through completing the service-learning requirement through the required track course:

NTD515 – FALL – Public Health Nutrition

You are required to complete **at least six hours of community service before graduating**. You are to work with the MPH Instructor, who teaches **NTD515 Public Health Nutrition** to identify an approved volunteer and community service activity. The service activity is linked to this specific track course and a community service experience.

To fulfill the community service requirement, the procedure for **Nutrition** students is as follows:

1. Log onto the [MPH Community Service Application](#)
2. Find the community service activity related to **NTD 515** for your enrolled semester.
3. Select that activity
4. Submit the application to register your contact information and the agency through which you will provide community service.
5. Once you click submit the online form will automatically be sent to your MPH service faculty Instructor for approval. Wait for an email from your MPH service faculty Instructor for the course, before proceeding with the community service.
6. Once approved, via email, complete the community service activity.
7. After you complete the required hours log into the MPH Community Service application again through the MPH Community Service website and record your hours. The report will automatically be sent to your MPH service faculty member.

The community service activity is linked to the **Nutrition Track** objectives noted below. Examples of community service are also provided.

Nutrition Track Competencies/Learning Objectives

1. Apply the science of food and nutrition to support optimal nutritional status in individuals, groups and populations.
2. Assesses and prioritizes nutritional problems of individuals, groups and populations using appropriate nutritional assessment techniques.
3. Develop, implement and evaluate effective community-based food and nutrition programs that promote optimal health and disease prevention.
4. Communicate accurate, evidence-based nutrition information at levels appropriate for various audiences.
5. Advocate for public policy at local, state and national levels in food and nutrition areas.

Acceptable Types of Nutrition Community Service

A list of activities is provided below to offer examples and guidance. Note that the list is not prescriptive and other activities are encouraged with prior approval.

1. Advocate for vulnerable population groups such as food insecure. (Objective 2)
2. Facilitate access to food assistance program especially disadvantaged population groups. (Objective 2)
3. Participate in nutrition related interventions in community settings. (Objectives 1, 3,4)
4. Advocate for legislative policy and programs that are related to nutrition, food and health care issues (Objective 4,5)
5. Participate in community engagement and advocacy for legislative policies and programs related to improving population health status. (Objective 5)
6. Assist agencies with steps associated with their planning process. (Objectives 2,3)
7. Help with research related to planning, implementation, or evaluation of community outreach services offered by healthcare institutions. (Objectives 1,2,3)