American University of Beirut  
Faculty of Health Sciences  
Master of Public Health Program  

Orientation to Health Programs and Health Care Facilities  
PBHL 355  
Course Objectives and Requirements

Course Description
This course will orient students to the health programs and health care facilities where they will be conducting their practicum. Students will rotate among divisions within the health care organization, get insight into the philosophical underpinnings of programs and facilities, understand the mission and objectives of programs and organizations, and interact with staff and clients in an informal or more structured manner.

Course guidelines
- All full-time and part-time MPH students who are required to complete a practicum experience will be required to register for the Orientation to Health Programs and Health Care Facilities (PBHL 355) as part of their degree requirements.
- During this course students will be placed in a health organization/facility of their choice, and they will be working under the aegis of a specifically identified individual who will act as the coordinator for the total period required for the orientation.
- Students will be expected to complete a four-week rotation period in the facility they choose for a minimum of 10-20 hours of work per week (and a total of 80 hours). The criteria for the selection of the site will be the same as that of the selection of the practicum site.
- Students are requested to contact the MPH Practicum Coordinator during the spring semester to organize for their summer placements.
- The substance and approach of the orientation experience will vary depending on the student's area of concentration and his/her specific educational needs.
- Once students start their rotation, they are expected to report to the preceptor of their site who will be responsible for both evaluating and supervising the rotation process. No further follow-up from FHS faculty is anticipated.
- The student will be held accountable for the completion of the requirements of the course as set and agreed upon prior to the initiation of the orientation by the practicum coordinator and the site coordinator.
- Student’s final evaluation of this course will be based on the preceptor judgment of the student performance and completion of the course requirements. If the student does not “pass” this course, he/she cannot register for the practicum.

Credit Requirements, Timing and Scheduling

PBHL355 is a zero credit course with a pass or fail grade.
Students registering for the Practicum in the Fall semester need to take PBHL355 during the summer term preceding the practicum. As for the students registering for the Practicum in the Spring semester, they need to take PBHL355 during the semester break in January.

Scholarship students can register both PBHL355 and the Practicum during the Summer Semester. In exceptional cases, regular students can petition to do the same on the condition that the petition is submitted to the Practicum Coordinator before the advising for the Spring Semester.

Students doing their Practicum at the Faculty of Health Sciences in their respective Departments who wish to be exempted from the Orientation to the Practicum may apply for exemption. In the exceptional case when a student has to change his Practicum site after the Orientation (PBHL355) the student is required to complete an additional 40 hours at the new site before the start of the Practicum to familiarize him/herself with the site.

Scholarship students doing their Orientation to the Practicum in the Summer along with the Practicum can petition to do 40 hours instead of 80 hours of Orientation as long as the petition is approved by the preceptor and Practicum Coordinator.