



Call for Practitioner Peer Reviewers

The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) seeks public health practitioners to serve as site visitors.

What is a site visitor?

Site visitors:

- serve the public health field as volunteer peer reviewers¹
- help assure quality in public health higher education

Site visitors perform the following duties:

- travel to universities that hold or seek accreditation for programs of study in public health
- participate in 2-3 days of on-site interviews at the university
- collaborate with fellow reviewers to draft a comprehensive report that assesses the extent to which the school or program meets the accreditation criteria
- bring public health workforce perspectives to the accreditation process

All site visitors meet the following qualifications:

- Hold or held (if retired) a position as a public health practitioner
- Are or were primarily employed in a non-academic setting relevant to public health
- Possess at least 10 years of professional experience in public health
- Have a master's degree in public health or a closely related field, at a minimum
- Possess strong writing, communication and analytical skills
- Have adequate time to devote to preparation for and participation in the site visit

Time commitment:

Training

CEPH provides comprehensive training to prepare site visitors for their roles. Site visitors must:

- complete all modules of self-paced online training course
- participate in at least one distance-based summative workshop
- submit documents as requested

The online training course requires six hours of self-paced work over a defined time period and is followed by a 2-hour, distance-based, live training session with discussion and application exercises. All online modules must be completed before attending the live session.

¹ CEPH does not pay honoraria for the services of team members but does reimburse actual costs.



Site visits

After completing training, site visitors participate in approximately one-to-two site visits a year. Requests for participation typically come to visitors 3-5 months in advance of the site visit.

Each site visit requires the following:

- Approximately 15-30 hours of preparatory work in the 4-6 weeks immediately preceding the site visit. Preparation includes reviewing documents, drafting report sections, booking travel, and participating in a conference call
- 3-4 days of travel and on-site work, including full-day agendas and evening meetings
- Approximately 2 hours after the site visit for editing, review, and final paperwork

Background:

CEPH is an independent agency recognized by the US Department of Education to accredit schools of public health and public health programs offered in other university settings. These schools and programs prepare students for entry into careers in public health. The primary professional degree is the Master of Public Health (MPH), but baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degrees are offered as well.

Accreditation is a voluntary, non-governmental process of self-study and external review intended to evaluate, enhance and publicly recognize quality in programs of public health and schools of public health. One of the steps required for accreditation is a site visit during which peer evaluators validate the information that schools and programs provide to CEPH in a "self-study document." The peer evaluators' written report from the site visit provides a unique perspective about the program or school: the report's direct observations provide important information for ultimate decisions on accreditation.

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