

Academic Public Health Partnership Framework

What is an Academic Public Health Partnership?

It is an organized, purposeful, actionable, and mutually beneficial relationship between a public health department and an academic institution.

What are we doing and why?

We are building and creating actionable working relationships with schools. The purpose of these partnerships is to strengthen public health in Texas by creating a collaborative network that will enhance capacity and resiliency, prepare the workforce, and address public health challenges.

Focus Areas

The Academic Public Health Partnership activities strengthen the Texas public health system through three focus areas: practice, workforce development, and research.

- 1. PRACTICE:** Any opportunity or experience where students apply the skills, concepts, strategies, and knowledge learned in the classroom in a real public health setting.

Examples of PRACTICE activities include:

- Practicums, internships, fellowships, residency rotations, classroom projects, field projects (CASPAR or community needs assessments), consulting on curriculum, DSHS staff provide guest lectures, integrate real-world classroom projects into curriculum (a real world public health problem, challenge, case study into a classroom assignment or as part of curriculum)

- 2. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:** Training, educating, advancing, expanding, and enhancing the knowledge, skills, and abilities of people who do or will do public health work.

Examples of WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT activities include:

- Faculty could develop and deliver public health skill trainings for DSHS staff, trainings on new and emerging public health topics, present at Grand Rounds or Journal Club, provide technical assistance to DSHS programs and staff
- DSHS staff could host career panels or DSHS informational sessions, provide consultation on curriculum, guest lecture

- 3. RESEARCH:** To generate evidence-based knowledge and insights that can inform public health policies, programs, and interventions.

Examples of Research activities include:

- Joint research projects, joint grants, IRB Projects, publications, evaluation, serve as a DSHS IRB member, student research projects, data analysis, data collection, evaluations, student datasets, literature reviews, survey development, faculty mentoring DSHS staff on research projects

Benefits of Academic Public Health Partnerships

- Improve the relevance of education to public health practice (bridging the gap between academia and practice)
- Creating innovative, relevant public health practices and research
- Facilitate connections, communication, and trust between our two organizations
- Share and replicate evidence-based projects, initiatives, and interventions to the broader public health system
- Pooling resources, expertise, and funding can maximize reach and effectiveness to public health in Texas
- Provide opportunities and space to meet our organization's strategic goals and fulfill our missions
- Build up the future public health workforce and retain and train the current workforce

