



Health Education 480 Fieldwork and Reflective Seminar

Primary prevention, health disparities and inequities, social justice, and the restructuring of the health care industry, continue to challenge the way we look at resources related to the health and well being of our citizens. Students are taught skills related to planning, analysis, evaluation, primary prevention, health promotion and small group work, which are all based on the standards of practice in the field of health education and public health. These are the very skills that make health educators uniquely qualified to work in a variety of health related settings.

The purpose of the course is to prepare undergraduate students for professional employment in Public Health and Health Education by providing supervised practical work place experience and a weekly three-hour skill based reflective seminar. Field work provides on-the-job professional training with supervision. Students interview and select an agency to work with for the semester. Students are required to work for 20 hours a week for 13 weeks. We have over 50 associations with community based organizations and agencies throughout the Bay Area. Placements are selected in the non-profit and public sectors, as well as the private sector. Areas of interest may include public health, health promotion, school health, outreach, research, public policy, planning, environmental health, epidemiology, patient education, and media advocacy.

HED 480 provides a variety of opportunities for students to engage in the practice of Health Education. For the Reflective Seminar students are responsible for developing and organizing a workshop for the class. The teams have 2 hours to present a workshop on a health related topic which includes developing a lecture, facilitating group discussions, and conducting exercises and activities. The training is interactive and relevant to the profession of Health Education focusing on skills such as problem solving, group process, empathy and listening.

So much of what Health Educators do includes facilitation of group work and group dynamics; conducting meetings, trainings, workshops or conferences for small and large groups. Even relationships between organizations, agencies or programs require skills in group process and facilitation.