

UNMC, College of Public Health
Applied Practice Experience (APEX) Opportunities

Partner organization name: West Central District Health Department

Partner organization website: wcdhd.org

Partner organization brief description:

The West Central District Health Department (WCDHD) is a local public health agency working to support health, safety, and well-being in the Nebraska counties of Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, Thomas, Hooker, and Arthur. We aim to educate, promote, and improve the overall health of our communities and each resident; allowing all who live, work, and play within to thrive.

Partner organization's point of contact name and email:

Meghan Trevino, Executive Director, trevinom@wcdhd.org

Description of partner organization's priority opportunities (APEX activities):

- Creating an organizational policy manual (review of outdated policies, development of policies that would be beneficial for the organization, and organizing all into an easy to use manual)
- Review and update public health emergency preparedness plans in accordance with emergency preparedness core capabilities

Timeframe of proposed activities: Activities ongoing; Spring 2026

Benefit of proposed activities to partner organization:

These activities will strengthen WCDHD's internal infrastructure and operational readiness. Developing an updated policy manual will ensure consistent application of organizational standards, enhance compliance, and improve efficiency across programs. Reviewing and updating public health emergency preparedness (PHEP) plans will align the organization's response capacity with state and federal core capabilities, ensuring preparedness for a wide range of public health threats and emergencies. Together, these efforts will create a stronger foundation for effective service delivery and accountability.

Benefit of proposed activities to the student:

The student will gain valuable, real-world experience in public health administration, policy development, and emergency preparedness planning. They will learn how to evaluate existing organizational systems, interpret relevant statutes and guidance, and draft clear, implementable policies. The student will also develop skills in project management, cross-sector collaboration, and systems-level thinking—all essential competencies for future public health leaders.

Skill sets of students requested:

- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Attention to detail and ability to organize complex information
- Familiarity with public health frameworks, policies, and terminology
- Understanding of emergency preparedness and response principles
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office and/or Google Workspace
- Critical thinking and problem-solving skills

*Note—An affiliation agreement will be required prior to student engagement

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- Ability to work independently and collaboratively

Additional Information (format of preferred engagement-virtual, hybrid, in-person; partner organization's location):

Virtual; however, open to hybrid if requested; located in North Platte, NE (820 S Maple St, North Platte, NE 69101)