

**Temporary Policy Changes for Fulfilling
the Hands-on-Experience Requirement for HSSP
April 2020**

Rationale:

In this unprecedented time, we acknowledge the difficulties that HSSP students might be facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, we recognize the disruptive impact of the pandemic on fulfilling the Hands-on-Experience (HOE), particularly among rising seniors. Because of the national and global efforts to contain the pandemic, many internship sites canceled their internships, or postponed them to undetermined dates. Similarly, the Study Abroad program has been cancelled this summer, and its return next fall hinges upon the successful containment of the pandemic in the near future. The pandemic is also affecting the current HOE options which we have historically approved, such as classes that rely heavily on field activities (Justice Brandeis Semester classes). Thus, we would like to propose some temporary policy changes that could help rising seniors to fulfil their HOE taking into consideration these exceptional circumstances. In sum, these policy changes provide students with broader options (listed below) for completing their HOE this summer and next academic year. We will continue to update our policies as it pertains to the development of the COVID19 pandemic.

Goals:

- Balancing the goals and the realities of HOE in an era of social distancing
- Sustain the link of academic coursework and field experience in this difficult time

Who does this affect?

- HSSP majors who plan to graduate by May 2021
- Until more is known, students graduating after May 2021 are asked to work by the established guidelines, with the expectation that study abroad, JBS courses, and internship sites will be more available in the near future. This policy may be adjusted/adapted based on developments with the pandemic.

Options:

1. Conduct a remote internship and take HSSP 89a:

- a) Work with your preferred or established site to develop a plan for remote work as pertains to your academic goals and interests

- i. A summer internship must be related to health with a minimum time commitment of 110 hours over minimum 8 weeks
- ii. A school-year internship must be related to health with a minimum time commitment of 100 hours over the semester
- b) Still need to be pre-approved by the Internship Instructor (Dr. Mayada Saadoun)

1. Satisfy HOE through other existing courses or methods:

- a) Through exercising option 1 in the HOE list which entails taking one of the following classes:
 - i. LGLS 161b: Advocacy for Policy Change
 - Must notify the course instructor of your plans of using LGLS 161b to fulfill your HOE, and to work on a health-related final paper.
 - ii. PAX 89a: Internship in Peace, Conflict & Coexistence Studies
 - iii. WMGS 89a: When Violence Hits Home
 - iv. PSYC 161a Clinical Psychology Practicum I & PSYC 161b Clinical Psychology Practicum II
 - Must complete the year-long sequence (i.e., both PSYC 161a and PSYC 161 to receive credit

Note: some of these classes might be affected by the pandemic and we are working with their instructors to understand the impact of the pandemic on their academic plans for this summer and the next academic year.

Note: If you select one of these substitutions, upon completion of the course you must submit [Petition to Request Substitution for a Requirement](#).

- b) HSSP 98a/b - Independent Research
- c) HSSP 99d - Senior Thesis

2. Take a 4-credit research methods class, such as:

- a) ANTH 81a: Conducting Ethnographic Fieldwork
- b) BIOL 51a: Biostatistics
- c) BUS 111a: Business Analytics
- d) ECON 83: Statistics for Economic Analysis

Note: Students must have taken the prerequisites for the course, which are Econ 2a or 10a, and Math 10a (or pass the departmental calculus exam).

Econ 83a is offered both semesters as well as in the summer school. Student who wish to enroll must email the department administrator, Leslie Yancich (lesliey@brandeis.edu), to let her know they want to get into the course. Students should NOT contact the course instructor. All enrollments into our core courses are done by consent code only, which Leslie handles on behalf of the instructors.

- e) POL 52b: Introduction to Stats for Social Sciences
- g) SOC 118a: Observing the Social World: Doing Qualitative Sociology

- h) SOC 181a: Methods of Social Inquiry
- i) SOC 182a: Applied Research Methods
- j) ANTH 182b Engaged Anthropology
- k) At instructor's discretion, students might take HSSP 40a: Application of Epidemiologic Methods (2-credit class) coupled with conducting a field-based project/final paper which needs to be health-related.

Note: Any of the aforementioned research methods classes will count toward the HSSP HOE, substituting for HSSP 89a. It will not also count toward other HSSP requirements, including the "free" elective. Also, students need to work on a health-related final paper/project in the courses that requires final paper or project.

Note: If you select one of these substitutions, upon completion of the course you must submit [Petition to Request Substitution for a Requirement](#).

3. Conduct an online health-related study abroad program that has hands on component, such as a remote internship.

*Approved online IFSA courses:

- a) Contemporary Issues in Public Health in the Yucatan
- b) [Internship and Methodology Seminar](#)

Note: If you select one of these substitutions, upon completion of the course you must submit [Petition to Request Substitution for a Requirement](#).

4. Take HSSP 89a with a field-based research project (and without a formal internship).

Note: In addition to the HSSP 89a course requirements, students without an internship will need to conduct a limited field-based research project. This project will require a research plan, including data analysis or small number of remote interviews, and to deliver a final paper that describes the project.

If you have more questions on how to fulfill the HSSP HOE requirement, please contact Dr. Saadoun, the HSSP internship instructor.