

Public Health Competencies

Integration and Monitoring in the
MPH Program

Topics

- Introduction to the PHC 6601 Seminar in Contemporary Public Health Issues
- MPH Portfolio
- Competencies
- Credentialing Examination

Seminar in Contemporary Public Health Issues

- Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
 - Discuss selected interdisciplinary, cross-cutting issues in Public Health,
 - Explain the interrelationships among the five core areas of public health in a written paper and an oral presentation, and
 - Complete an MPH Portfolio documenting achievement of MPH and concentration competencies.
 - Present written and oral reports of special project

Requirements

- 8 2-hour sessions = 1 credit
 - Spread over 2 years
 - 3-4 per semester
 - Keep this period open
 - This session required
- 6 Public Health Day presentations
- Written and oral report of special project
- MPH Exit Survey
- Register in last semester

Behavior

- Read material and come prepared to discuss
- Sign-in
- Stay until class is dismissed
- Silence cell phones and pagers

Relationships

- Seminar
- Internship
- Special Project
- Written and oral presentations
- Public Health Day

MPH Portfolio

- Rationale
 - Monitor achievement of competence
 - Organize critical information for potential employers
 - Articulate accomplishments and abilities

Table of Contents

- Competencies
 - MPH
 - Concentration
- Individual Plan of Study
- Resume or CV
- Writing samples
- Special project
 - Written report
 - Power Point Presentation

Other items may be added

- Letters of recommendation
- Internship information and evaluation
- Descriptions of other work experience
- Other academic projects
- Personal goals
- Honors and awards
- Examples of leadership

How to use the MPH Portfolio

- Bring it to every appointment with Catherine, Slande, and your advisor
- Keep it up-to-date
- Self-assess achievement of competencies
- Review all material before graduation and prepare a final portfolio that represents you and your best work!

Competencies

- Portfolio section 1
 - MPH competencies
 - Concentration competencies

Competency-based education in public health

- 1988 and 2003 Institute of Medicine Reports
- Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) Competency Project
- National Board of Public Health Examiners
- Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) criteria, amended June, 2005

MPH Competencies

- Derived from ten essential public health services
- Linked to specific learning objectives in each core course
- Learning objectives identified by ASPH working groups

MPH Competencies

- Interdisciplinary
 - Cut across all disciplines
 - Many are covered in the core courses and special projects
 - Others are addressed in this series of seminars

Concentration competencies

- Specific to each concentration
- Specify the skills MPH graduates in a specific concentration should have upon graduation
- Developed by UF faculty, based on contemporary recommendations

Where are competencies?

- Short versions in MPH Portfolios
- Long versions showing linkages between course learning objectives and the competencies are on the MPH website:
www.mph.ufl.edu

Credentiailling Examination

Purpose of the exam

To ensure that students and graduates from schools and programs of public health accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) have mastered the knowledge and skills relevant to contemporary public health practice.

What does the exam cover?

Five discipline-specific domains

- Biostatistics
- Environmental Health Sciences
- Epidemiology
- Health Policy and Management
- Social and Behavioral Sciences

Seven cross-cutting/interdisciplinary domains

- Communication and Informatics
- Diversity and Culture
- Leadership
- Professionalism
- Program Planning
- Public Health Biology
- Systems Thinking

Past Efforts

- Both ASPH and APHA established task forces on the credentialing of public health workers in the late 1980's stimulated, in part, by the call from the U.S. Surgeon General for such an effort
- In 1999, APHA and ASPH formed a Task Force on Public Health Workforce Credentialing

Recent Efforts

- January 2002, ASPH's Executive Committee approved moving forward to develop an independent Board of Public Health to issue examinations and provide those that pass the exam with a public health credential
- National Board of Public Health Examiners incorporated in September 2005
- December 2005, inaugural meeting of the board held in Philadelphia, PA

Eligibility for the Exam

- Eligible examinees are masters and doctoral graduates of CEPH-accredited schools and programs of public health
- Visit this website for a lot of useful information:
<http://www.nbphe.org/Exam.cfm>

The Exam

- Multiple-choice questions, some following cases or vignettes
- Approximately 4½ hours to complete
- Computer-based exam offered at testing centers in hundreds of locations nationally
- Cost: \$300-400 depending on registration date



Liaisons

- Each CEPH-accredited school and program has a liaison to NBPHE.
- NBPHE staff provide the liaisons with the most up-to-date information about the NBPHE credentialing exam, and have the opportunity for input into the exam development process.
- The liaison keeps the board informed of any concerns or questions from students, faculty, and staff.

First Exam August 2008

- About 660 graduates took the exam
- This exam provided a beta test for future exams
- UF graduates (who graduated within 3 years of accreditation - spring 2006 forward) are eligible to take the exam
- Core courses are targeted to the exam