

East Carolina University Department of Public Health

Master of Public Health:
Competencies



Brody School of Medicine
Department of Public Health

MPH Competencies

- The Master of Public Health (MPH) Program at East Carolina University expects each MPH graduate to possess a set of fundamental skills and knowledge for public health practice and research, as set forth by the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH). These skills and knowledge are referred to as competencies. Students must demonstrate competencies at 3 levels:
 - Discipline-specific in 5 public health domains (core coursework);
 - Culminating experience: related to the professional paper and field practicum; and
 - Concentration Competencies

MPH Competencies

- There are a total of 20 core competencies in the MPH program. Competencies in core coursework are measured by the instructor.
- Instructors report any student who does not meet a competency to the student's advisor. The advisor meets with the student and a remediation plan is designed.
- Similarly, competencies are included and measured in the professional paper and field practicum. Students must demonstrate competency in these courses to proceed in the program.

MPH Competencies

Biostatistics (Core)

- Apply descriptive techniques commonly used to summarize public health data
 - BIOS 7021, MPH 6020

MPH Competencies

Biostatistics (Core)

- **Apply common statistical methods for inference**
 - BIOS 7021, MPH 6020

MPH Competencies

Biostatistics (Core)

- Interpret results of statistical analysis found in public health studies
 - MPH 6011, MPH 6020

MPH Competencies

Biostatistics (Core)

- Use vital statistics and other public health records in the description of population health characteristics and in public health research and evaluation
 - MPH 6020

MPH Competencies

Environmental Health (Core)

- Specify approaches for assessing, preventing, and controlling environmental hazards that pose risks to human health and safety
 - MPH 6010

MPH Competencies

Epidemiology (Core)

- Describe a public health problem in terms of magnitude, person, time, and place
 - MPH 6011, MPH 6903, MPH 6991

MPH Competencies

Epidemiology (Core)

- Calculate basic epidemiology measures
 - MPH 6011, BIOS 7021

MPH Competencies

Epidemiology (Core)

- Comprehend basic ethical and legal principles pertaining to the collection, maintenance, use, and dissemination of epidemiological data
 - MPH 6011, MPH 6991

MPH Competencies

Epidemiology (Core)

- Recognize the principles and limitations of public health screening programs
 - MPH 6011, MPH 6000

MPH Competencies

Health Policy and Management (Core)

- Identify the main components and issues of the organization, financing, and delivery of health services in the US
 - MPH 6000

MPH Competencies

Health Policy and Management (Core)

- Use the principles of program planning, development, budgeting, management, and evaluation in organizational and community initiatives
 - MPH 6000

MPH Competencies

Health Behavior (Core)

- Describe the role of social and community factors in both the onset and solution of public health problems
 - MPH 6013, MPH 6035, MPH 6991, MPH 6903

MPH Competencies

Health Behavior (Core)

- Identify basic theories, concepts, and models from a range of social and behavioral disciplines that are used in public health research and practice
 - MPH 6013, MPH 6020, MPH 6991, MPH 6903

MPH Competencies

Health Behavior (Core)

- Use evidence-based approaches in the development and evaluation of social and behavioral science interventions
 - MPH 6013, MPH 6020

MPH Competencies

Health Behavior (Core)

- Describe steps and procedures for the planning, implementation, and evaluation of public health programs, policies, and interventions
 - MPH 6000, MPH 6013

MPH Competencies

Health Communication (Core)

- **Develop cogent and persuasive written materials regarding public health topics**
 - MPH 6013, MPH 6903, MPH 6991

MPH Competencies

Health Communication (Core)

- **Deliver oral presentations using recognized criteria for effective information dissemination**
 - MPH 6000, MPH 6992, MPH 6903

MPH Competencies

Diversity (Core)

- Demonstrate sensitivity to varied cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds of individuals and groups including: education, health, literacy, race, gender, age, profession, political preferences, health conditions, religion/spirituality, place of origin, sexual orientation, and lifestyle
 - MPH 6035

MPH Competencies

Program Planning (Core)

- Prepare proposals for funding from internal and external sources
- Apply evidence-based concepts in public health decision-making
 - MPH 6000

MPH Competencies

- There are three concentrations in the MPH program: (1) Epidemiology, (2) Health Administration, and (3) Health Behavior. Each concentration has a set of competencies.
- Course syllabi in concentration courses will measure relevant competencies identified by the instructor.
- Students will select courses, in concert with their advisor, so that the set of concentration competencies is met. Students who do not meet a competency will be referred to their advisor and a remediation plan will be developed.

MPH Competencies

Epidemiology Concentration

- Critically evaluate public health literature through application of fundamental principles and methods of epidemiology,
- Develop a foundation for designing valid and efficient protocols to address public health problems, and
- Apply quantitative skills to analyze, interpret, and synthesize epidemiologic data related to public health issues.

MPH Competencies

Health Administration Concentration

- Design, implement, and evaluate health promotion and disease prevention interventions that target multiple levels of the social ecological framework
- Use qualitative and quantitative software to analyze data regarding programmatic needs, performance, and evaluation
- Use formative, process, intermediate, and outcome measures to plan and evaluate public health interventions
- Design a theoretical framework and/ or a logic model to guide intervention development and/ or data collection for program evaluation

MPH Competencies

Health Behavior Concentration

- Design a theoretical framework and/ or a logic model to guide intervention development and/ or data collection for program evaluation,
- Design health promotion and disease prevention interventions that address implementation and evaluation and target multiple levels of the social ecological framework,
- Use qualitative and quantitative methods to analyze data regarding programmatic needs, performance, and evaluation,
- Use formative, process, intermediate, and outcome measures to plan and evaluate public health interventions.

MPH Competencies

- The professional paper and the field practicum are the culminating experiences for the Master of Public Health program.
- Five core competencies are assessed in the first portion of the professional paper experience, MPH 6991.
- Only one competency is assessed in the second portion of the professional paper experience, MPH 6992.

MPH Competencies

Professional Paper (MPH 6991)

- Describe a public health problem in terms of magnitude, person, time, and place
- Comprehend basic ethical and legal principles
- Describe the role of social and community factors in both the onset and solution of public health problems
- Identify basic theories, concepts, and models from a range of social and behavioral disciplines that are used in public health research
- Develop cogent and persuasive written materials regarding public health topics

MPH Competencies

Professional Paper (MPH 6992)

- Deliver oral presentations using recognized criteria for effective information dissemination

MPH Competencies

Field Practicum (MPH 6903, MPH 6905)

- Describe a public health problem in terms of magnitude, person, time, and place
- Describe the role of social and community factors in both the onset and solution of public health problems
- Identify the basic theories, concepts, and models from a range of social and behavioral disciplines that are used in public health research and practice
- Develop cogent and persuasive written materials, regarding public health topics
- Deliver oral presentations using recognized criteria for effective information dissemination

MPH Competencies

Field Practicum (MPH 6904)

- Describe a public health problem in terms of magnitude, person, time, and place
- Identify the basic theories, concepts, and models from a range of social and behavioral disciplines that are used in public health research and practice
- Develop cogent and persuasive written materials regarding public health topics

MPH Competencies

****Attainment of all competencies is necessary for graduation.****

- Students are recommended to meet with their advisors, at least two times a year, to review progress toward achieving competencies.
- Records of competencies are maintained by the MPH Student Coordinator. Students are able to view their competency records by contacting the MPH Student Coordinator.