4.2 Graduate Certificate in Ethnic and Rural Health Disparities (EHRD)

The Certificate in Ethnic and Rural Health Disparities (ERHD) prepares professionals to identify, analyze and develop culturally competent projects for specific ethnic and rural communities in the United States and global communities. This online certificate program provides students with specific public health skills that will assist health researchers and public health professionals in working with and developing culturally competent health care programs for ethnic and health disparity populations. Program Director is Eric Bailey, PhD, MPH.

Program Objectives

The major program objectives for this online Ethnic Health and Health Disparities Certificate program are:
1. Identify and assess the major health issues associated with specific ethnic and health disparity populations in eastern North Carolina, North Carolina and the United States;
2. Explore ethnic health and health disparity issues, including its unique and cultural health features;
3. Examine health, illness and disease processes from a biopsychosociocultural (BPSC) perspective;
4. Apply principles and strategies derived from public health and medical anthropology toward planning, implementing and evaluating specific ethnic health and health disparities intervention programs;
5. Develop culturally competent understanding, appreciation, and respect of ethnic and health disparity differences and similarities within, among and between groups;
6. Develop assessment tools that are unbiased, culturally sensitive and advocacy-oriented;
7. Develop specific public health skill sets that will better assist health professionals in working with ethnic and health disparity groups;
8. Provide an online, 12 semester hour certificate program for public health professionals and graduate students that can be completed within one year.

Program Description

The 12-semester hour Graduate Certificate in Ethnic Health and Health Disparities is designed for public health professionals working in public health agencies and graduate students in Public Health, Allied Health, School of Nursing or School of Medicine programs.

Completion of the certificate requires completion of approved coursework with an overall grade point average of 3.0 (B). A student may earn only 3 semester hours of credit at a C level. Transfer hours are not accepted into the certificate program.

This certificate is offered only online. No face-to-face meetings are required. This certificate is can be completed in 12 months, depending on the student’s schedule.

The certificate may create a pathway to a MPH Degree at ECU. However, it is of import to note that completion of the certificate does not guarantee admission into a graduate degree program. Application to the graduate degree program must be made separately.
Applicants must meet ECU admission requirements: an earned baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university with a grade point average of 2.5 or above and acceptable scores on an approved standardized exam such as the GRE or GMAT. Admissions to the Ethnic Health and Health Disparities Certificate Program are semi-annual. The courses in sequence are shown in Exhibit 8.

Exhibit 8. Sequence of courses are as follows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Name (All Distance Education)</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MPH 5005</td>
<td>African-American Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH 6007</td>
<td>Global Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH 8008</td>
<td>Ethnic Health and Health Disparities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH 8009</td>
<td>Capstone Experience in Ethnic Health &amp; Health Disparities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits: 12 SH