

OHSU-PSU School of Public Health

Integrative Project

BSTA 502IP / CPH 502IP / ESHH 5021P / EPI 502IP / HSMP 502IP / PHE 502IP

Course Description

A key culminating step for each MPH student is the Integrative Project, in which a high-quality written product is produced. The written product provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate their academic learning and public health practice skills through the synthesis of foundational and program competencies and application of those competencies to complex public health issues.

Student Learning Objectives

At the end of the Integrative Project course, students will demonstrate:

1. Ability to articulate and address a public health topic or issue
2. Synthesis and mastery of 2 foundational and 1 program level competencies, including CEPH Foundational Competency #6 (see items 2 and 3, below)
3. Application of an “equity lens” in relation to a public health issue and experience (CEPH Foundational Competency #6), demonstrated through integration of structural competency concepts and assessment of one’s positionality relative to this work
4. Communicate audience-appropriate public health content in writing (CEPH Foundational Competency #19)

Integrative Project Structure

The Integrative Project course is one assignment with two pieces: 1) a Substantive Paper, and 2) the Reflective Assessment. The Substantive Paper is a high-quality written document of your choice from a prior class in your degree program. The Reflective Assessment is a Portfolio of your work as an MPH student that demonstrates program and CEPH competencies, a self-assessment of those competencies (which includes your Substantive Paper). Details about the requirements of the assignment are on Sakai.

Due Dates

Students will submit an in-progress portfolio via Sakai no later than 5 PM of Week 6. The final portfolio is due by 5 PM Friday of Week 10.

Credit Hours and Grading

1 credit hour. Graded pass or no pass (P/NP). A grade of less than a pass (B-minus) will require the student to repeat the Integrative Project. Failure to satisfactorily demonstrate all of the designated competencies will result in failure of the Integrative Project course. Students have two attempts to pass the Integrative Project course; failure after the second attempt will result in dismissal from the School of Public Health.

Appendix A: 22 CEPH MPH Foundational Competencies

Evidence-based Approaches to Public Health

1. Apply epidemiological methods to settings and situations in public health practice
2. Select quantitative and qualitative data collection methods appropriate for a given public health context
3. Analyze quantitative and qualitative data using biostatistics, informatics, computer-based programming, and software, as appropriate
4. Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy, or practice

Public Health & Health Care Systems

5. Compare the organization, structure, and function of health care, public health, and regulatory systems across national and international settings
 6. Discuss the means by which structural bias, social inequities, and racism undermine health and create challenges to achieving health equity at organizational, community, and systemic levels
- #### Planning & Management to Promote Health
7. Assess population needs, assets, and capacities that affect communities' health
 8. Apply awareness of cultural values and practices to the design, implementation, or critique of public health policies or programs
 9. Design a population-based policy, program, project, or intervention
 10. Explain basic principles and tools of budget and resource management¹⁶
 11. Select methods to evaluate public health programs

Policy in Public Health

12. Discuss the policy-making process, including the roles of ethics and evidence
13. Propose strategies to identify relevant communities and individuals and build coalitions and partnerships for influencing public health outcomes
14. Advocate for political, social, or economic policies and programs that will improve health in diverse populations
15. Evaluate policies for their impact on public health and health equity

Leadership

16. Apply leadership and/or management principles to address a relevant issue
17. Apply negotiation and mediation skills to address organizational or community challenges

Communication

18. Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors
19. Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation to a non-academic, non-peer audience with attention to factors such as literacy and health literacy
20. Describe the importance of cultural humility in communicating public health content

Interprofessional and/or Intersectoral Practice

21. Integrate perspectives from other sectors and/or professions to promote and advance population health

Systems Thinking

22. Apply a systems thinking tool to visually represent a public health issue in a format other than standard narrative

Appendix B: MPH Program Competencies

Biostatistics

1. Apply appropriate principles of research design and population-based concepts to assess health problems.
2. Apply appropriate descriptive and inferential statistical methods to analyze risk determinants of disease and health conditions.
3. Apply descriptive and inferential statistical methods that are appropriate to the different study designs used in public health research.
4. Interpret and summarize results and communicate them to lay and professional audiences, in the context of proper public health principles and concepts.
5. Evaluate strengths and weaknesses of alternative research designs and analytic methods, and critically review and assess statistical analyses presented in public health literature.
6. Apply basic ethical principles pertaining to the collection, maintenance, use, and dissemination of public health data.
7. Identify cultural dimensions of conducting research, including culturally sensitive recruitment of study participants, and develop strategies for interpretation of data in the larger cultural context.

Environmental Systems & Human Health

1. Communicate the relationship between environmental systems and human health, particularly in response to a changing climate.
2. Analyze how environmental hazards (chemical, physical and biological) interact with natural and built systems, including the mechanisms of their adverse effects on humans.
3. Assess and interpret relevant literature in the area of public health and environmental hazards.
4. Evaluate the risk of environmental exposures to human populations through the incorporation of exposure, toxicological, and other relevant data into risk assessment methodology.
5. Discuss how federal and state regulatory programs, guidelines and authorities impact environmental and occupational health issues.
6. Apply ethical principles that govern the practice of environmental risk assessment, management, and communication.
7. Specify approaches for assessing, preventing and controlling environmental and occupational hazards that pose risks to human health and safety.
8. Integrate, synthesize and apply theory to practice in the context of a research study, policy consequences, or environmental exposure.
9. Explain the general mechanisms of toxicity in eliciting a human health effect in response to various environmental and occupational exposures.

Epidemiology

1. Apply population-based concepts of epidemiology and risk determination to the assessment of health problems.
2. Apply evidence-based knowledge of health determinants to public health issues.
3. Apply and interpret a variety of statistical methods commonly used in medical and public health research.
4. Propose and test a research hypothesis.
5. Identify ethical principles problems that arise in public health policy decisions.
6. Apply knowledge of cultural dimensions in conducting research, including culturally sensitive recruitment of study participants, and develop strategies for interpretation of data in the larger cultural context.
7. Integrate and apply relevant literature in epidemiology to public health issues and policy.
8. Communicate public health principles and concepts through various strategies across multiple sectors of the community.

Health Management & Policy

1. Demonstrate effective verbal, written and interpersonal communication skills.
2. Demonstrate ethical, social, and cultural competency.
3. Engage with, and integrate the knowledge and experience of other health professions, stakeholders, and communities.
4. Demonstrate critical and self-reflective thinking.
5. Apply theory to practice to design, implement, manage, and evaluate organizational performance and health policy.
6. Apply policy process knowledge and advocacy techniques to develop and implement policies that advance health.
7. Select and apply appropriate methods to analyze, evaluate, and manage health system programs and services.
8. Demonstrate professionalism and leadership skills

Health Promotion

1. Apply theory in the development, implementation, and evaluation of health promotion interventions, programs, and policies.
2. Develop interventions and programs to effect change at multiple levels, including individual, community, organization, and policy.
3. Design and implement strategies to promote health.
4. Solicit and integrate input from community and organization stakeholders.
5. Design and deliver health communication messages.
6. Evaluate and interpret results from program evaluations and other research.
7. Define health problems, frame hypotheses, design research procedures, and outline methods of analysis.
8. Apply ethical principles that govern the practice of public health promotion.
9. Demonstrate cultural competency in health promotion among all social and cultural communities.

Public Health Practice

1. Assess, analyze, and synthesize the health status of vulnerable populations.
2. Identify, develop and manage interventions to promote and protect the health of populations at risk.
3. Lead and participate in inter-professional efforts to address health inequities with community partners.
4. Conduct, participate in or apply research which improves the health of a population.
5. Assess and integrate cultural beliefs and practices into public health interventions.
6. Develop and plan interventions utilizing principles of health systems organization and health care finance to address health disparities.
7. Apply program planning and quality improvement principles in the development, management, and/or evaluation of population health services.
8. Demonstrate basic skills in the development of a grant proposal.
9. Employ techniques to manage human, fiscal, and other public health resources.