

Public Health MPH

Goal 1: Foundational Public Health Knowledge

Goal Description:

The content of the MPH program ensures that all MPH students are grounded in the foundational public health knowledge that is acquired in the five core content areas of public health: Biostatistics, Health Services Administration, Social and Behavioral Health, Epidemiology, and Environmental Health (CEPH 2016 Accreditation Criteria-D-1).

Providing Department: Public Health MPH

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Learning Objective 1: Foundational Public Health Knowledge

Learning Objective Description:

MPH students will select methods to evaluate public health programs for at-risk populations in the community (CEPH 2016 Accreditation Criteria-D2: Planning and Management to Promote Health).

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Indicator, Criterion, and Findings Item 3: Foundational Public Health Knowledge

Indicator Description:

MPH students enrolled in the HLTH 6396: Health Planning and Evaluation (Pre-Internship) course, will develop a process, impact, and outcome evaluation for a public health program in the community. The comprehensive evaluation plan will be aligned with a public health program using the PRECEDE and PROCEED framework.

Criterion Description:

MPH students will work in teams to develop a comprehensive program evaluation that includes a process, impact, and outcome component. Eighty-five percent of the students in each team will earn a grade of 90 or higher in the development of the evaluation plan.

Findings Description:

A total of 15 students were enrolled in HLTH 6396 during the assessment cycle; 12 students earned a grade of A (80 percent) on the comprehensive program evaluation and 3 students earned a grade of B (20 percent) on the comprehensive program evaluation. Learning objective 1 of the goal was achieved with 100 percent of the students earning a grade of B, or higher on the comprehensive program evaluation assignment.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Foundational Public Health Knowledge

Action Description:

The public health faculty determined that the knowledge and skills provided in this goal are critical in the professional development of graduate students seeking a MPH degree. The faculty were pleased with the results of the goal, and the objective will remain as a criterion in the next assessment cycle. The CEPH 2016 and 2021 accreditation criteria require that master's level students are competent in the skills of developing and administering program evaluations; analyzing the data from the evaluations; and revising health programs per the results of the evaluation.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Learning Objective 2: Foundational Public Health Knowledge

Learning Objective Description:

MPH students will design a population-based policy, program, project, or intervention that addresses the educational, health, and financial needs of an at-risk population in the community (CEPH 2016 Accreditation Criteria-D2: Planning and Management to Promote Health).

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Indicator, Criterion, Findings 2: MPH Foundational Competencies

Indicator Description:

MPH students enrolled in the HLTH 6352: Public Health Grant Writing course, will work in teams to investigate a grant that can be submitted to the funding agency that provides a targeted plan to address the educational, health, and financial needs of an at-risk population in the community. The components of the grant include a narrative, program justification, vision, mission, goals, objectives, timeline, budget, evaluation plan, marketing plan, targeted strategies, and a sustainability plan.

Criterion Description:

MPH students will work in teams to develop a program grant that is “submit ready” for an agency/organization that will improve the health knowledge and outcomes of an at-risk population. Ninety percent of the MPH students in each team will earn a grade of 90 or higher on the development of the grant in the course.

Findings Description:

A total of 14 students were enrolled in HLTH 6352 during the assessment cycle; 14 students earned a grade of A (100 percent) on the public health grant development assignment. Learning objective 2 of the goal was achieved with 100 percent of the students earning a grade of B, or higher on the public health grant development assignment.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Action Foundational Public Health Knowledge obj 2

Action Description:

The public health faculty determined that the knowledge and skills provided in this goal is critical in the professional development of graduate students seeking a MPH. The faculty were pleased with the results of the goal, and the objective will remain as a criterion in the next assessment cycle. The CEPH 2016 and 2021 accreditation criteria require that master’s level students are competent in developing public health related grants in a comprehensive manner. The public health faculty have experience developing, submitting, and administering large international, national, state, and local grants. These faculty have integrated the phases of grant management with MPH students which has resulted in numerous research articles, scholarly presentations, and GA positions in the department.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Learning Objective 3: Foundational Public Health Knowledge

Learning Objective Description:

MPH students will investigate the means by which structural bias, social inequities, and racism undermine health and create challenges in achieving health equity at organizational, community, and societal levels (CEPH 2016 Accreditation Criteria-D2: Public Health and Health Care Systems).

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Indicator Description 1: Foundational Public Health Knowledge

Indicator Description:

Assessing the resources and needs in an at-risk population via the development of an environmental will require MPH students enrolled in the HLTH 6396: Health Planning and Evaluation (Pre-Internship) course to investigate the economic, health, geographic, financial, cultural, and political variables in a community.

Criterion Description:

MPH students will develop an environmental scan that reflects the economic, health, geographic, financial, cultural, and political variables in a community and use this information from to develop a needs assessment for an at-risk population within the community. Ninety percent of the MPH students will earn a grade of 90 or higher on the development of the environmental scan and the needs assessment.

Findings Description:

A total of 15 students were enrolled in HLTH 6396 during the assessment cycle; 12 students earned a grade of A (80 percent) on the needs assessment/environmental scan project and 3 students earned a grade of B (20 percent) on the environmental scan project. Learning objective 3 of the goal was achieved with 100 percent of the students earning a grade of B, or higher on the environmental scan project.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Foundational Public Health Knowledge obj 3

Action Description:

The public health faculty determined that the knowledge and skills provided in this goal is critical in the professional development of graduate students seeking a MPH degree. The faculty were pleased with the results of the goal, and the objective will remain as a criterion in the next assessment cycle. The CEPH 2016 and 2021 accreditation criteria require that master's level students are competent in the development of community needs assessments and environmental scans with under-represented populations who may be at risk for discrimination, unjust and unfair treatment, and have the potential to be victims of racial inequities.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Indicator Description 2: Foundational Public Health Knowledge

Indicator Description:

Assessing the resources and needs in an at-risk population via the development of an environmental will require MPH students enrolled in the HLTH 6396: Health Planning and Evaluation (Pre-Internship) course to investigate the economic, health, geographic, financial, cultural, and political variables in a community.

Criterion Description:

MPH students will develop an environmental scan that reflects the economic, health, geographic, financial, cultural, and political variables in a community and use this information from to develop a needs assessment for an at-risk population within the community. Ninety percent of the MPH students will earn a grade of 90 or higher on the development of the environmental scan and the needs assessment.

Findings Description:

A total of 15 students were enrolled in HLTH 6396 during the assessment cycle; 12 students earned a grade of A (80 percent) on the environmental scan project and 3 students earned a grade of B (20 percent) on the environmental scan project. Learning objective 3 of the goal was achieved with 100 percent of the students earning a grade of B, or higher on the environmental scan project.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Foundational Public Health Knowledge obj 3

Action Description:

The public health faculty determined that the knowledge and skills provided in this goal is critical in the professional development of graduate students seeking a MPH degree. The faculty were pleased with the results of the goal, and the objective will remain as a criterion in the next assessment cycle. The CEPH 2016 and 2021 accreditation criteria require that master's level

students are competent in the development of community needs assessments and environmental scans with under-represented populations who may be at risk for discrimination, unjust and unfair treatment, and have the potential to be victims of racial inequities.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Indicator Description Item 1: MPH Foundational Competencies

Indicator Description:

Reading, viewing, and writing assignments in HLTH 5335: Health Services Administration, will require MPH students to identify factors which influence personal positions and beliefs relating to controversial and ethical issues in the health field that serve as barriers for health equity and accessibility for individuals.

Criterion Description:

MPH students will participate in public health opportunities that serve to enhance their ability to perform effectively in teams in community engagement activities, public health simulation events, and/or real-time public health events each academic year. Through the use of a reflective summary, 90 percent of the students will earn a grade of 90 or higher in the inter-professional practice activity that are guided by the MPH faculty each year.

Findings Description:

A total of 19 students were enrolled in HLTH 5335 during the assessment cycle; 10 students earned a grade of A (53 percent) on the health equity reflective summary and 9 students earned a grade of B (47 percent) on the health equity reflective summary. Learning objective 1 of the goal was achieved with 100 percent of the students earning a grade of B, or higher on the health equity reflective summary.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

MPH Foundational Competencies

Action Description:

The public health faculty determined that the knowledge and skills provided in this goal is critical in the professional development of graduate students seeking a MPH degree. The faculty were pleased with the results of the goal, and the objective will remain as a criterion in the next assessment cycle. The CEPH 2016 and 2021 accreditation criteria require that master's level students synthesize the value of working with diverse organizations in communities that collaborate to provide equitable public health services to under-represented populations.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Performance Objective 1: Growth of Master of Public Health (MPH) Program

Performance Objective Description:

The THECB allowed graduate students to transfer into the new MPH program to enroll in fall 2020 courses. In an effort to earn the MPH degree, students (N=22) enrolled in the MS in Health program during this time were given the option to transfer into the new degree program. A total of 21 MS students (95 percent) opted to transfer to the MPH degree, leaving one student to complete the MS degree. Thus, the MPH program started with 21 students, and they are required to complete the MPH degree by the end of the 2022 academic year.

In order to be in compliance with the program guidelines, 100 percent (N=21) of the MS in Health transfer students will complete their MPH degree by the end of the 2022 academic year.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

KPI I: Growth of Master of Public Health (MPH) Program

KPI Description:

The number of graduate students enrolled in the MPH program will increase during the 2021-2022 assessment cycle.

Results Description:

A total of 46 students applied for the MPH program during the assessment cycle. The mean enrollment in the fall 2021, spring 2022, and summer 2022 semesters was 28. During this same period, five (5) students deferred their enrollment due to complications acquiring their student Visa, and seven (7) students withdrew from the program because of various family, medical, vocational situations. A total of fourteen (14) students graduated from the MPH program during the assessment cycle. These numbers indicate a true increase in enrollment from the 2020-2021 cycle which included the MS in Health students transferring into the MPH program in fall 2020. Thus, the KPI was met indicating an increase in enrollment in the MPH program.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Growth of Master of Public Health (MPH) Program

Action Description:

The public health faculty were pleased with the enrollment growth and retention rate of the students in the MPH program. The faculty and administrative staff in the department want to maintain this KPI during the next assessment cycle, and they are committed to promote the program to undergraduate students and other students expressing interest in a graduate public health degree.

Goal 2: MPH Foundational Competencies

Goal Description:

The content of the MPH program ensures that all MPH students demonstrate competency in the traditional public health core knowledge areas that include: Biostatistics, Health Services Administration, Social and Behavioral Health, Epidemiology, and Environmental Health (CEPH 2016 Accreditation Criteria-D-2-Interprofessional Practice).

Providing Department: Public Health MPH

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Learning Objective 1: MPH Foundational Competencies

Learning Objective Description:

MPH students will investigate the means by which structural bias, social inequities, and racism undermine health and create challenges in achieving health equity at organizational, community, and societal levels (CEPH 2016 Accreditation Criteria-D2: Public Health and Health Care Systems).

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Indicator, Criterion, and Findings Item 3: MPH Foundational Competencies

Indicator Description:

Reading, viewing, and writing assignments in HLTH 5335: Health Services Administration, will require MPH students to identify factors which influence personal positions and beliefs relating to controversial and ethical issues in the health field that serve as barriers for health equity and accessibility for individuals.

Criterion Description:

MPH students will participate in public health opportunities that serve to enhance their ability to perform effectively in teams in community engagement activities, public health simulation events, and/or real-time public health events each academic year. Through the use of a reflective summary, 90 percent of the students will earn a grade of 90 or higher in the inter-professional practice activity that are guided by the MPH faculty each year.

Findings Description:

A total of 19 students were enrolled in HLTH 5335 during the assessment cycle; 10 students earned a grade of A (53 percent) on the health equity reflective summary and 9 students earned a grade of B (47 percent) on the health equity reflective summary. Learning objective 1 of the goal was achieved with

100 percent of the students earning a grade of B, or higher on the health equity reflective summary.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

MPH Foundational Competencies

Action Description:

The public health faculty determined that the knowledge and skills provided in this goal is critical in the professional development of graduate students seeking a MPH degree. The faculty were pleased with the results of the goal, and the objective will remain as a criterion in the next assessment cycle. The CEPH 2016 and 2021 accreditation criteria require that master's level students synthesize the value of working with diverse organizations in communities that collaborate to provide equitable public health services to under-represented populations.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Performance Objective 2: Sustained graduation rates of MPH students

Performance Objective Description:

The CEPH requires graduate public health programs to maintain a minimum graduation rate of 70 percent for full-time (six hours per semester) students entering the program within a 2.5-year period. The Population Health program faculty seek to attain this graduation rate for MPH students attending the program on a full-time basis.

The MPH program will achieve an overall graduation rate of 70 percent or greater for students enrolled in the program within a 2.5 year period.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

KPI 2: Sustained graduation rates of MPH students

KPI Description:

The graduation rates of students completing the MPH program will meet the minimum rate required for the accreditation of Schools of Public Health and Public Health Programs by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH 2016 Accreditation Criteria-B2).

Results Description:

A total of 4 (four) students graduated from the MPH program during the assessment cycle. These four students enrolled and completed the MPH program within the designated 2.5 year period. These four graduates did not include the MS in Health students who transferred into the MPH program in fall 2020. These four graduates entered the MPH program in fall 2020; and one student graduated in spring 2022, and three students graduated in summer 2022. Thus, KPI 2 was met, and the MPH program did achieve an overall graduation rate of 70 percent or greater for students enrolled in the program within a 2.5-year period.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Sustained graduation rates of MPH students

Action Description:

The public health faculty were pleased with the graduation rate of the students in the MPH program. The faculty and administrative staff in the department want to maintain this KPI during the next assessment cycle, and they are committed to provide students with the academic resources they require to ensure the successful completion of the MPH degree within a 2.5 year period.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):

Closing Summary

The KPI's for the MPH program will remain during the next assessment cycle as they are critical form program growth and for accreditation purposes. Recruiting efforts for the program will be made through the COHS under the guidance of Dr. Zapalac, Karen Leonhart, and through our faculty, students, and staff.

Goal 1: Foundational Public Health Knowledge

This goal will remain in the assessment plan during the next academic year as it is critical for CEPH accreditation. Additional assignments from new MPH courses will be included in the related learning objectives for this goal. Several new courses have been offered to students during the assessment cycle and include: Immigrant and Refugee Health, Leadership for Health Professionals, Community Health, Research Methods, Public Health Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Environmental Health. Two new courses will be included in the assessment plan for each learning objective during the next cycle. Findings from these assignments will be used as findings for the CEPH accreditation report.

Goal 2: MPH Foundational Competencies

This goal will remain in the assessment plan during the next academic year as it is critical for CEPH accreditation. Additional assignments from new MPH courses will be included in the related learning objectives for this goal. Several new courses have been offered to students during the assessment cycle and include: Immigrant and Refugee Health, Leadership for Health Professionals, Community Health, Research Methods, Public Health Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Environmental Health. Two new courses will be included in the assessment plan for each learning objective during the next cycle. Findings from these assignments will be used as findings for the CEPH accreditation report.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

The department and the public health program faculty are committed to ensure the graduate students enrolled in the MPH program are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions that are required to be successful professionals in the field of public health. To ensure this overall commitment, the following improvements in the graduate programs in the department will be implemented during the next assessment cycle:

Effective September 1, 2022, Dr. Praphul Joshi will serve as the graduate coordinator for the MPH and the Health Care Quality and Safety programs. Having one overarching graduate coordinator will streamline the program application and interview process, the course registration process, and the communication and academic progress of the graduate students in the department. Dr. Joshi served as the MPH coordinator at his previous university and developed a comprehensive online program with 100-plus students is continuous enrollment each academic year.

The delivery of the MPH program will move from an executive hybrid delivery format to an online format during the academic year. This change in the facilitation of the program will allow graduate students who work full-time to have flexibility with the completion of course assignments. In addition, the online format will allow international students to enroll in the program without having to seek a student visa and an I-20 to enroll in academic programs in the US, therefore increasing program enrollment.

Effective September 1, 2022, the Department of Population Health name has changed to the Department of Public Health. This new name is more identifiable with potential students and is recognized in more universities as a department. Additionally, the term public health is internationally recognized due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Closing Summary:

The MPH program has continued to be successful in regard to program enrollment, student graduation, student retention, and the cumulative GPA of the students enrolled in the program.

The KPI's for the MPH program will remain during the next assessment cycle as they are critical form program growth and for accreditation purposes. Recruiting efforts for the program will be made through the COHS under the guidance of Dr. Zapalac, Karen Leonhart, and through our faculty, students, and staff.

Goal 1: Foundational Public Health Knowledge

This goal will remain in the assessment plan during the next academic year as it is critical for CEPH accreditation. Additional assignments from new MPH courses will be included in the related learning objectives for this goal. Several new courses have been offered to students during the assessment cycle and include: Immigrant and Refugee Health, Leadership for Health Professionals, Community Health, Research Methods, Public Health Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Environmental Health. Two new courses will be included in the assessment plan for each learning objective during the next cycle. Findings from these assignments will be used as findings for the CEPH accreditation report.

Goal 2: MPH Foundational Competencies

This goal will remain in the assessment plan during the next academic year as it is critical for CEPH accreditation. Additional assignments from new MPH courses will be included in the related learning objectives for this goal. Several new courses have been offered to students during the assessment cycle and include: Immigrant and Refugee Health, Leadership for Health Professionals, Community Health, Research Methods, Public Health Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Environmental Health. Two new courses will be included in the assessment plan for each learning objective during the next cycle. Findings from these assignments will be used as findings for the CEPH accreditation report.

The program goals and related student learning objectives will remain as priority areas for the MPH program during the next assessment cycle. The KPI's will also remain as indicators of the MPH program success. Goal 1 and 2, and KPI 1 and 2 are driven by the CEPH 2016 accreditation criteria.

The department and the public health program faculty are committed to ensure the graduate students enrolled in the MPH program are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions that are required to be successful professionals in the field of public health. To ensure this overall commitment, the following improvements in the graduate programs in the department will be implemented during the next assessment cycle:

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