

# Public Health MPH

## G1: 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

### G1: 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

### G1: 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 32 students have registered for HLTH 6396 from Fall 2022 through Summer 2023 semesters. All the enrolled students have successfully completed their evaluation plans.

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

### Action - Foundational Public Health Knowledge

#### Action Description:

Indicators and goals will be updated for the coming year. They will be aligned with CEPH competencies and relevant courses in the program.

## G2: 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 ITEM LEVEL 1

**G2: 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

**G2: MPH Foundational Competencies**

**Indicator Description:**

Reading, viewing, and writing assignments in HLTH 5355: 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:**

All students enrolled in HLTH 5355 have obtained a grade of B or greater on their reflective summaries.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**Action - MPH Foundational Competencies**

**Action Description:**

Indicators and goals will be updated for the coming year. They will be aligned with CEPH competencies and relevant courses in the program.

**Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item**

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

**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:

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 in 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.

### **Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:**

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: Effective September 1, 2022, Dr. Praphul Joshi started to 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. The delivery of the MPH program is proposed to move from an executive hybrid delivery format to an online format during the 2023-24

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. A proposal to initiate a new concentration in the area of epidemiology is also being worked out. This new concentration and online course delivery is expected to increase enrollment to the program.

## **New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item**

### **Closing Summary:**

The MPH program has transitioned to 100% online starting Fall 2023. The program is actively working with SHSU Online and all courses have been built on Blackboard as 100% online. Landing pages have been updated as well as the admission process for international students. A new 4+1 proposal has been submitted for approval to be implemented in Spring 2024 that will enable recruiting students from the BS Public Health program. Marketing strategies have been developed with SHSU Online marketing team.