

# 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 72 students have registered for HLTH 6396 from Fall 2023 through Summer 2024 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 ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

### 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:**

Class project in HLTH 5353 Epidemiology, will require MPH students to identify a public health problem, conduct an epidemiological assessment, and utilize different study designs to evaluate the problem.

##### **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 46 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):**

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.

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

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.

**New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item**

**Closing Summary:**

During the 2023-24 year, BS (Public Health)-MPH 4+1 degree, DO/MPH joint degree programs were approved. New students in the programs have been recruited and marketing efforts are underway to recruit more students from these initiatives. The program plans to work closely with SHSU Online to increase recruitment efforts.