

D18. All Remaining Degrees

Students enrolled in any of the SPH's degree programs that are not addressed in Criteria D2, D3, D9, D16 or D17 complete coursework that provides instruction in the foundational public health knowledge at a level of complexity appropriate to the level of the student's degree program.

The instruction and assessment of students' foundational public health knowledge are equivalent in depth to the instruction and assessment that would typically be associated with a three-semester-credit class, regardless of the number of credits awarded for the experience or the mode of delivery.

The school identifies at least one required assessment activity for each of the foundational public health learning objectives.

- 1) *Provide a matrix in the format of Template D18-1 that indicates the required assessment opportunities for each of the defined foundational public health learning objectives (1-12). Typically, the school will present a separate matrix for each degree program, but matrices may be combined if requirements are identical.*

Template D18-1

Content Coverage for BS degrees, Nutrition, Exercise Science and Health Data Science		
Content	Course	Describe specific assessment opportunity
1. Explain public health history, philosophy, and values.	PUBH 1101 Introduction to Public Health and Health Services	PUBH 1101–Students complete quiz/exam questions that address this competency. See ERF.
2. Identify the core functions of public health and the 10 Essential Services.	PUBH 1101 Introduction to Public Health and Health Services	PUBH 1101–Students complete quiz/exam questions that address this competency. In the Paper #1: Day in the Life of Public Health, students reflect on how public health has changed their lives pre-pandemic or during the pandemic. Content covered in Week 2 (p. 9; see ERF).
3. Explain the role of quantitative and qualitative methods and sciences in describing and assessing a population’s health.	PUBH 3199 Foundation of Research Methods or EXNS 3111W Exercise and Nutrition Sciences Research Methods	PUBH 3199–Students complete quizzes that address this competency. Additionally, students complete a research project, which requires the preparation of a survey to be disseminated and the findings reported on during the last week of the course. See ERF. EXNS 3111W–Students complete reading reflections that address this competency. Additionally, students complete a research proposal, which involves designing an appropriate research methodology to assess a population's health and address a proposed research question. See ERF.
4. List major causes and trends of morbidity and mortality in the US or other community relevant to the school or program.	PUBH 1101 Introduction to Public Health and Health Services EXNS 2123 Nutrition and Chronic Disease ⁸¹	PUBH 1101–Students complete quiz/exam questions that address this competency. Content covered in Weeks 14-22. See ERF. EXNS 2123–Students complete quizzes that address this competency. See ERF.
5. Discuss the science of primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention in population health, including health promotion, screening, etc.	PUBH 1101 Introduction to Public Health and Health Services	PUBH 1101–Students complete quiz/exam questions that address this competency. See ERF.

⁸¹ Only students in the BS in Exercise Science and BS in Nutrition students take EXNS 2123 (in addition to PUBH 1101).

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<p>6. Explain the critical importance of evidence in advancing public health knowledge.</p>	<p>PUBH 3199 Foundation of Research Methods or EXNS 3111W Exercise and Nutrition Sciences Research Methods</p>	<p>PUBH 3199–Students complete quizzes that address this competency. Additionally, students complete a research project, which requires understanding the critical importance of evidence in advancing public health knowledge. See ERF.</p> <p>EXNS 3111W–Students complete reading reflections that address this competency. Additionally, students develop a research proposal, which requires understanding the critical importance of evidence in advancing public health knowledge See ERF.</p>
<p>7. Explain effects of environmental factors on a population’s health.</p>	<p>EXNS 2120 Assessment of Nutritional Status⁸² PUBH 1101 Introduction to Public Health and Health Services</p>	<p>EXNS 2120–Students complete a NEMS Questionnaire and Quiz #3, which address this competency. See ERF.</p> <p>PUBH 1101–Students complete quiz/exam questions that address this competency. See ERF.</p>
<p>8. Explain biological and genetic factors that affect a population’s health.</p>	<p>EXNS 2123 Nutrition and Chronic Disease⁸³ PUBH 2110 Public Health Biology or BISC 1112 Introductory Biology: The Biology of Organisms⁸⁴</p>	<p>EXNS 2123–Students answer Midterm and Final exam questions and complete a Final Project, which addresses this competency. See ERF.</p> <p>PUBH 2110/BISC1112–Student write a Policy Brief, which examines a complex biological factor affecting human health and uses nonacademic language (p. 4).</p>
<p>9. Explain behavioral and psychological factors that affect a population’s health.</p>	<p>EXNS 2124 Lifecycle Nutrition⁸⁵ PUBH 1101 Introduction to Public Health and Health Services</p>	<p>EXNS 2124–Students complete case studies and two exams that address this competency. See ERF.</p> <p>PUBH 1101–Students complete quiz/exam questions that address this competency. See ERF.</p>

⁸² BS in Exercise Science and BS in Nutrition students take EXNS 2120 (in addition to PUBH 1101).

⁸³ BS in Exercise Science and BS in Nutrition students take EXNS 2123.

⁸⁴ BS in Health Data Science students take PUBH 2110 or BISC 1112.

⁸⁵ BS in Exercise Science and BS in Nutrition students take EXNS 2124 (in addition to PUBH 1101).

10. Explain the social, political, and economic determinants of health and how they contribute to population health and health inequities.	PUBH 1101 Introduction to Public Health and Health Services	PUBH 1101–Students complete quiz/exam questions that address this competency. Content covered in Weeks 8-12. See ERF.
11. Explain how globalization affects global burdens of disease.	PUBH 1101 Introduction to Public Health and Health Services	PUBH 1101–Students complete quiz/exam questions that address this competency. Globalization is covered throughout the course as a contributor to the global health disease burden. Content is covered in Chapters 1, 6, 7, 8, and 13 in the textbook. See ERF.
12. Explain an ecological perspective on the connections among human health, animal health and ecosystem health (e.g., One Health).	PUBH 1101 Introduction to Public Health and Health Services	PUBH 1101–Students complete quiz/exam questions that address this competency. Content is covered in Chapter 14 of the textbook. See ERF.

Content Coverage for all remaining graduate degrees (MHA, MHA@GW, MS in Strength and Conditioning and PhD in Exercise Physiology and Applied Nutrition)		
Content	Course	Describe specific assessment opportunity
1. Explain public health history, philosophy and values.	PUBH 6080 Pathways to Public Health	Week 2 Quiz. See ERF.
2. Identify the core functions of public health and the 10 Essential Services.	PUBH 6080 Pathways to Public Health	Week 3 Quiz. See ERF.
3. Explain the role of quantitative and qualitative methods and sciences in describing and assessing a population’s health.	PUBH 6080 Pathways to Public Health	Week 4 Quiz. See ERF.
4. List major causes and trends of morbidity and mortality in the US or other community relevant to the school or program.	PUBH 6080 Pathways to Public Health	Week 6 Quiz. See ERF.
5. Discuss the science of primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention in population health, including health promotion, screening, etc.	PUBH 6080 Pathways to Public Health	Week 7 Quiz. See ERF.
6. Explain the critical importance of evidence in advancing public health knowledge,	PUBH 6080 Pathways to Public Health	Week 5 Quiz. See ERF.

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7. Explain effects of environmental factors on a population's health.	PUBH 6080 Pathways to Public Health	Week 9 Quiz. See ERF.
8. Explain biological and genetic factors that affect a population's health.	PUBH 6080 Pathways to Public Health	Week 8 Quiz. See ERF.
9. Explain behavioral and psychological factors that affect a population's health.	PUBH 6080 Pathways to Public Health	Week 13 Quiz. See ERF.
10. Explain the social, political, and economic determinants of health and how they contribute to population health and health inequities.	PUBH 6080 Pathways to Public Health	Week 12 Quiz. See ERF.
11. Explain how globalization affects global burdens of disease.	PUBH 6080 Pathways to Public Health	Week 11 Quiz. See ERF.
12. Explain an ecological perspective on the connections among human health, animal health and ecosystem health (e.g., One Health).	PUBH 6080 Pathways to Public Health	Week 10 Quiz. See ERF.

- 2) *Briefly explain how the school ensures that the instruction and assessment in introductory public health knowledge is generally equivalent to the instruction and assessment typically associated with a three-semester-credit course.*

Undergraduate Programs

The instruction and assessment in basic public health knowledge is achieved through required undergraduate coursework. All students, regardless of major, enroll in PUBH 1101 Introduction to Public Health and Health Services (3 credits), which addresses the bulk of introductory public health knowledge. Depending on the major, students take one of two research methods courses: PUBH 3199 Research Methods (3 credits) or EXNS 3111W Exercise and Nutrition Sciences Research Methods (3 credits). All these courses have graded assignments, such as quizzes, exams and papers, assessed by the instructor.

Graduate Programs

The instruction and assessment in basic public health knowledge is achieved through one of two mechanisms:

- Students must have graduated with a public health degree from a CEPH accredited school or program; or
- Students must successfully pass degree-required public health-related courses plus PUBH 6080 Pathways to Public Health. The online PUBH 6080 Pathways in Public Health requires students to view asynchronous lecture content, engage with assigned readings and complete short activities and assessment. Students must earn at least 80% on all 12 quizzes to pass the class; quizzes may be repeated later until a passing grade of 80% is obtained. The workload of PUBH 6080 is equivalent to a one-credit course. The additional degree-required public health courses vary by degree.
 - Students in the residential MHA program complete PUBH 6080 to successfully earn a grade in HSML 6202 Introduction to the US Health Services Delivery (2 credits). This course addresses public health content such as the organization of the US health system. Additionally, MHA students enroll in a 2-credit public health selective course,⁸⁶ which provides additional didactics and application of the introductory public health knowledge learned. During the three courses, students engage in instruction and assessment that exceeds the requirements of a three-semester-credit course.
 - Students in the MHA@GW program complete PUBH 6080 as an embedded module in HSML 6267 Community Engagement (Module 4; 5 credits), thus exceeding the three-semester-credit course requirement. HSML 6267 focuses on the engagement with the community and the roles of federal, state and local government in public health. Students also develop a community health needs assessment plan and communicate with key stakeholders to address community and population health needs.
 - Students in the MS in Strength and Conditioning program complete PUBH 6002 Biostatistical Applications for Public Health (3 credits), which provides additional didactics and application of the introductory public health knowledge learned. Between PUBH 6080 and PUBH 6002, students engage in instruction and assessment that exceeds the requirements of a three-semester-credit course.
 - Students in the PhD in Exercise Physiology and Applied Nutrition program are required to take PUBH 8001 PhD Seminar on Cross-Cutting Concepts in Public Health (1 credit) and PUBH 6421 Responsible Conduct of Research (1 credit), which provide additional didactics and application of the introductory public

⁸⁶ A selective course is one chosen by students from a list of pre-approved public health courses (all PUBH course numbers).

health knowledge learned. PUBH 6080 content is a required component of PUBH 8001 so students may not successfully pass PUBH 8001 without passing the quizzes in PUBH 6080. During the three courses, students engage in instruction and assessment typically associated with a three-semester-credit course.

3) *Provide supporting documentation for each assessment activity listed in Template D18-1. Documentation should include the following, as relevant, for each listed assessment:*

- *assignment instructions or guidelines as provided to students*
- *writing prompts provided to students*
- *sample exam question(s)*

See ERF > Criterion D > Criterion D18 > D18.3: Remaining Deg_Syllabi.

4) *If applicable, assess strengths and weaknesses related to this criterion and plans for improvement in this area.*

Strengths

- PUBH 6080 Pathways to Public Health is taken by all residential and online MS, PhD, and MHA students who have not previously earned a public health degree from a CEPH accredited school or program. This course is free and is fully asynchronous so students can complete the material on their own schedules.
- PUBH 6080 Pathways to Public Health was traditionally offered only on the 2U platform, which created access issues for residential students and faculty who were not as familiar with this platform. In fall 2023, GWSPH moved PUBH 6080 content into Blackboard and embedded links in specific classes. Additionally, the Assistant Dean for Academic Innovation created assignment folders for students to upload their certificates of completion, making it easier for faculty to confirm completion.
- As of October 19, 2023, three undergraduate students have declared their major to be Health Data Science. They will begin taking major courses in spring 2024.
- EXNS 3111W is now being offered both in the fall and spring semesters for greater accessibility and smaller class sizes for students.
- Enrollment is strong for both the residential MHA and MHA@GW programs. Of note, the MHA@GW program is one of the largest executive format health management programs in the country.
- The MHA@GW was designed for mid-career health sector professionals using a number of progressive online pedagogical approaches and features, such as an integrated curriculum using a five-credit module structure that students enroll in sequentially, synchronous team meetings and class sessions that leverage our learners' professional experiences as a teaching tool, a highly reflective curriculum that utilizes tools such as a longitudinal e-portfolio and assignments that draw upon our learners' workplace experiences, multiple immersions where students have an opportunity to explore topics, leadership and ethics, and perform an onsite analysis of a city's/region's health care system and services, and a novel capstone course focused on systems thinking and organizational learning. Alum interviews and an in-progress study indicate that graduates are finding a high level of utility and value in the MHA@GW program and the skills they have developed with us.
- MPH and MHA students can engage in several curricular activities together, including the onsite MHA@GW immersion experiences and several interprofessional education offerings each year.

Challenges

- Ensuring course offerings meet the needs of our growing undergraduate student body is a challenge.

Future Plans

- In fall 2024, PUBH 3199 Research Methods will receive a permanent course number of PUBH 2140 Foundation of Research Methods. The course was refreshed by a member of the Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics and includes additional real-life applications of statistics in public health.