PUBH 7800: Public Health Practicum

MPH Program Competencies for Practicum Proposal

The Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) has defined the five disciplines to be taught in graduate-level public health programs: biostatistics, environmental health sciences, epidemiology, health policy and management, and social and behavioral sciences. A sub-committee of faculty members from ATSU used these domains as the basis for developing the competencies to be taught in the MPH and MPH Dental Public Health Concentration courses at ATSU.

Students in the practicum course will identify the competencies (from the list below) that will be entailed in their practicum project. It is not necessary, nor is it feasible, that a practicum experience would address all of the competencies listed. Identify a reasonable subset.

**MPH and MPH Dental Public Health Concentration Competencies**

1. Integrate skills and knowledge to effectively advocate for and evaluate public health policy, legislation, and regulations that:
   a. protect and promote the public’s health, and
   b. effectively reduce negative environmental impacts and promote healthier environments.

2. Assess and communicate to the appropriate audience:
   a. health risks,
   b. disparities in health care availability, and environments, and
   c. environmental and safety issues.

3. Incorporate ethical and professional standards in behavior, programs, and activities.

4. Derive the tools to assess, develop, implement, and evaluate public health programs, systems, and partnerships.

5. Analyze the main components and issues of the organization, financing, and delivery of health services and public health systems.

6. Use information technology to access, evaluate, interpret, and communicate public health information.

7. Develop and appraise leadership skills.

8. Generalize, analyze, and interpret biostatistics in describing the health of communities.
9. Develop and translate different measurement scales and data distributions to determine statistical methodology.

10. Evaluate, interpret, and communicate results of descriptive and inferential statistical analyses of public health data to a variety of audiences.

11. Analyze terminology, definitions, data sources, principles, and limitations related to the epidemiology of public health.

12. Calculate, synthesize, and communicate epidemiological information to a variety of audiences.

13. Examine quality and performance improvement concepts to address organizational performance issues and resolve problems.

14. Evaluate social and behavioral theories, concepts, models, and evidence-based approaches and determine how their implementation may impact the health of individuals and communities.

15. Develop, organize, and critique components of research.

**Additional MPH Competencies**

1. Determine, appraise, and communicate cultural specific needs that result in better health interventions, and improve availability, acceptability, and accessibility of healthcare access among diverse populations.

2. Critique the utility of community-based participatory research to improve health in diverse populations.

3. Analyze the effects of behavior on human biology and examine the role of public health in mitigating negative outcomes and promoting healthier environments.

4. Develop and translate evidence-based concepts to public health laws, policies, and regulations for the development and implementation of health promotion and disease prevention programs.

5. Analyze how pivotal events in the history of public health influence the profession and how they will continue to impact the field in the future.

6. Derive and defend definitions within the public health field that capture its unique characteristics and analyze how these definitions shape and should shape professional practice.
7. Categorize qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods in relation to their strengths, limitations, and appropriate uses.

8. Analyze the validity of systems models and debate the merits of applying these models to public health problems.

Additional MPH Dental Public Health Concentration Competencies

1. Plan oral health programs for populations.

2. Select interventions and strategies for the prevention and control of oral diseases and promotion of oral health.

3. Implement, manage, and develop resources for oral health programs for populations.

4. Incorporate ethical standards in oral health programs and activities.

5. Evaluate and monitor dental care delivery systems.

6. Design and understand the use of surveillance systems to monitor oral health.

7. Communicate and collaborate with groups and individuals on oral health issues.

8. Advocate for, implement, and evaluate public health policy legislation and regulations to protect and promote the public’s oral health.

9. Critique and synthesize scientific literature.

10. Design and conduct population-based studies to answer oral and public health questions.

11. Analyze the effects of behavior on human biology and examine the role of public health in mitigating negative outcomes and promoting healthier environments.