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**Public Health Graduate Certificate**

**Academic Assessment Plan**

Reviewed with curriculum by the Academic Assessment Committee: 4/21/23

Reviewed by the Faculty Senate as an information item: 5/5/23

 **GRADUATE CERTIFICATE in PUBLIC HEALTH**

**Introduction**

The Graduate Certificate in Public Health shares the mission of the University of Alaska Anchorage Master of Public Health (MPH) Program. The mission is to promote equity, health, and well-being through excellence in the education of public health practice leaders, scientific investigation of public health issues, and community engagement in an organized effort to identify, assess, prevent, and mitigate community health challenges.

The Graduate Certificate in Public Health will prepare public health practitioners to apply skills in program planning and evaluation, data analysis, and health services administration and management. The program will have a strong focus on preparing students for work in public health-related agencies that serve rural and underserved communities.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Incorporating national MPH Program accreditation criteria (Council on Education for Public Health [CEPH], www.ceph.org) and quality standards, the overall student outcome is to educate public health professionals who can demonstrate attainment of 12 foundational public health learning objectives.

***Graduate Certificate in Public Health, Foundational Public Health Learning Objectives***

Profession and Science of Public Health

1. Explain public health history, philosophy, and values.
2. Identify the core functions of public health and the 10 Essential Services.
3. Explain the role of quantitative and qualitative methods and sciences in describing and assessing a population’s health.
4. List major causes and trends of morbidity and mortality in the U.S. or other community relevant to the school or program.
5. Discuss the science of primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention in population health, including health promotion, screening, etc.
6. Explain the critical importance of evidence in advancing public health knowledge.

Factors Related to Human Health

1. Explain effects of environmental factors on a population’s health.
2. Explain biological and genetic factors that affect a population’s health.
3. Explain behavioral and psychological factors that affect a population’s health.
4. Explain the social, political and economic determinants of health and how they contribute to population health and health inequities.
5. Explain how globalization affects global burdens of disease.
6. Explain an ecological perspective on the connections among human health, animal health, and ecosystem health (e.g., One Health)

Collectively, the MPH courses included in the Graduate Certificate in Public Health address of the foundational public health learning objectives. The courses with course numbers and titles are as follows:

* HS A605: Public Health and Society
* HS A615: Health Services Administration
* HS A624: Circumpolar Health Issues
* HS A625: Biostatistics for Health Professionals OR HS A626: Principles of Epidemiology
* HS/SWK A628: Program Evaluation
* HS A695: Applied Practice Experience

The final course students will take is HS A695: Applied Practice Experience (APE). The APE focuses on the development and implementation of a student-initiated practicum with a public-health-related community partner, in consultation with the student’s academic advisor. In the APE, students must demonstrate their achievement of the Foundational Public Health Learning Objectives. Additionally, in the final week of their APE, students present their practicum experience with a focus on how they applied the foundational public health learning objectives in their community project.

**Measures**

Each of the MPH courses included in the Graduate Certificate in Public Health address the specific Foundational Public Health Learning Objectives. The Table below presents an example of how HS A605: Public Health and Society, student learning objectives align with specific Foundational Public Health Learning Objectives.

| CEPH Foundational Public Health Learning Objectives | Assessment Measures |
| --- | --- |
| Explain the social, political and economic determinants of health and how they contribute to population health and health inequities | Weekly Unit 8- Discussion AssignmentAssignment 1Assignment 2 |
| Explain public health history, philosophy and values | Weekly Unit 1-Discussion Assignment |
| Explain behavioral and psychological factors that affect a population’s healthExplain biological and genetic factors that affect a population’s health | Weekly Units 5 & 6-Discussion Assignment |
| Explain the effects of environmental factors on a population’s healthExplain how globalization affects global burdens of disease | Weekly Unit 2- Discussion Assignment  |

**ePortfolio**

The Graduate Certificate in Public Health will require students to develop an individual program ePortfolio where course artifacts that demonstrate they have achieved the foundational public health learning objectives will be archived. The ePortfolio will be submitted to and assessed by the students’ academic advisor. Ideally, ePortfolios will be submitted at the end of each academic year, with the students submitting artifacts completed that year.

**Process**

The assessment of the Graduate Certificate in Public Health will be conducted throughout each academic year in a variety of ways. The annual assessment report will detail the program’s self-assessment of how well it has prepared its students in achieving the foundational public health learning outcomes in the previous academic year. Areas of challenges, opportunities, and growth in the along with reflection on how to better meet students’ needs and support our faculty and staff will be included.

The faculty, as well as the Division Director will offer input to the assessment report prior to the submission. Additionally, the content of the assessment report will be thoroughly reviewed during the fall and spring MPH faculty retreats. Highlights of program assessment reports will be shared with the program’s external advisory committee and the Student Advisory Council. These advisory committees provide guidance in terms of how the program can be improved.