

MPH Program Competencies

The VCU MPH Program includes four tracks: Generalist, Epidemiology, Environmental Health and Addiction Studies. All tracks include the same 21-credit core coursework requirement. Competencies have been examined in relationship to the core coursework and to the track-specific work listed for each of the specialties. Our Department elected to adapt the core competencies outlined by the Association for Schools of Public Health (ASPH) in order to be comparable to other Programs across the country. Core faculty have reviewed these competencies to confirm coverage and identify where each of the listed competencies is addressed. Table V.C.-1 lists the adopted competencies for all VCU MPH Program students. Course objectives are periodically reviewed against the desired competencies, and this process will continue. The Curriculum Committee will be charged with a biannual review of all curricula and the adopted competencies.

The General competencies and those for the Generalist Track are shown below . Program faculty approved these draft competencies by vote at the September 2007 faculty meeting (9/19/07).

Competencies are on the web at http://www.epidemiology.vcu.edu/MPH_Program/competencies.htm

Table V.C.-1. MPH Competencies – All Students

| Health Policy and Management* |
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| 1. Identify the main components and issues of the organization, financing and delivery of health services and public health systems in the US. |
| 2. Discuss the policy process for improving the health status of populations. |
| 3. Describe the legal and ethical bases for public health and health services. |
| 4. Apply quality and performance improvement concepts to address organizational performance issues. |
| 5. Demonstrate leadership skills for building partnerships. |
| 6. Apply principles of strategic planning and marketing to public health. |
| 7. Communicate health policy and management issues using appropriate channels and technologies. |
| 8. Apply the principles of program planning, development, budgeting, management and evaluation in organizational and community initiatives. |
| 9. Explain methods of ensuring community health safety and preparedness. |
| 10. Apply "systems thinking" for resolving organizational problems. |

| Leadership |
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| 1. Demonstrate effective oral and written skills for communicating with different co-workers and/or audiences in the context of professional public health activities. |
| 2. Engage in dialogue and learning from others to advance public health goals. |
| 3. Demonstrate team-building, negotiation, and conflict management skills. |
| 4. Demonstrate transparency, integrity, and honesty in all actions. |
| 5. Use collaborative methods for achieving organizational and community health goals. |

*Adopted from ASPH

Table V.C.-2. Competencies for the Generalist Track

| Competencies | Learning Arena | Evaluation |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in | EPID 571 | Examinations |

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| the community through use of the principles of hazard assessment and definition. | EPID 600 EPID 604 EPID 606 BIOS 543 | Assignments (exercises and papers) |
| Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues through use of educational principles and knowledge of cultural differences and imperatives. | EPID 600 EPID 605 SBHD 608 | Examinations Assignments (exercises and papers) |
| Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems through use of the principles on team development and organizational theory. | EPID 600 EPID 603 EPID 604 SBHD 608 Internship | Examinations Assignments (exercises and papers) |
| Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts by means of budget development, setting of program goals and understanding of administrative principles that apply to public health agencies | EPID 602 EPID 603 | Examinations Assignments (exercises and papers) |
| Understand the role of public health laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety. | EPID 600 EPID 604 EPID 618 Internship | Examinations Assignments (exercises and papers) Internship |
| Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services through use of applied epidemiology and statistics. | EPID 571 EPID 606 BIOS 543 MPH Research Project | Examinations Assignments (exercises and papers) Internship MPH Research Project |
| Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems through studies addressing the most important public health issues in the community. | EPID 571 EPID 605 SBHD 608 BIOS 543 Internship MPH Research Project | Examinations Assignments (exercises and papers) Internship MPH Research Project |