

Name (optional): _____

Date: _____

Years of paid work in public health by graduation date: _____

Community Health Sciences

Self-Assessment Tool for Students in the MPH Program

Instructions:

This tool is designed to assess the extent to which you believe you have achieved the MPH competencies upon graduation from our program. These represent both SPH and CHS competencies that are found in the CHS Student Handbook. Competencies that are duplicates have been blocked out so that you only need to respond once.

After graduation many of you will be entering the public health workforce as professionals for the first time. You are not expected to have expertise in every competency.

A. *In the first column*, please indicate the level of achievement you possess at graduation (from 1 to 5) for all items listed.

For the purpose of self-assessment, the following definitions are used for guidance and are listed at the top of each page:

- 1 – Unqualified:** assess knowledge/skill as inadequate and performance in area would be difficult without technical assistance; assistance would be needed if required to apply this knowledge/skill
- 2 – Beginner:** feel knowledge/skill is characterized by uncertainty and lack of confidence
- 3 – Adequate:** consider knowledge/skill is satisfactory or average
- 4 – Competent:** feel knowledge/skill exceeds the average but is less than the level of expert
- 5 – Expert:** possess this knowledge/skill as a result of training and/or experience and feel able to speak and act with authority in this area

B. *In the second column*, please indicate where you have achieved the competencies listed. The choices are: prior experience (before entering SPH), concurrent experience (while completing MPH degree), or from MPH courses. Please indicate all that apply with a check mark.

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2.0 Analytic Skills (SPH competencies)

MPH students will be able to:

- 2a. Define a problem in public health.
- 2b. Use appropriate data and statistical methods for problem identification and resolutions and for program planning, implementation and evaluation.
- 2c. Select and define variables relevant to defined public health problems.
- 2d. Use data to illuminate ethical, political, scientific, economic and overall public health issues.
- 2e. Synthesize core public health knowledge using analytic tools.
- 2f. Integrate theory into public health practice.
- 2g. Apply empirical knowledge to public health practice.
- 2h. Apply rigorous critical thinking to the analysis of public health problems.

Level of experience (1-5)	Prior Experience	Concurrent Experience	MPH Courses

Analytic Skills (CHS competencies)

MPH students will be able to:

- 2i. Identify components of good research design.

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- 2j. Design a simple quantitative research study to include:
 - a. Develop hypotheses and frame research questions;
 - b. Select a research question and focus;
 - c. Defend research question’s conceptualization;
 - d. Place the question in the context of appropriate theoretical constructs;
 - e. Select methods of inquiry (type of quantitative or combination of methods; select or monitor selection of appropriate research tools).
- 2k. Select the qualitative research method appropriate for a particular public health research problem and explain how qualitative research would interact with public health data sets and their quantitative information sources in the field.
- 2l. Critically evaluate the design, assessment, analytical method, and conclusions of research in CHS.

3.0 Cultural Skills (SPH competencies)

MPH students will be able to:

- 3a. Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the dynamic forces of cultural diversity and their implications for public health both within the United States and internationally.
- 3b. Interact sensitively, effectively and professionally with people from diverse ethnic, socioeconomic, educational and professional backgrounds, and with persons of all ages and lifestyle preferences.
- 3c. Identify the role of cultural factors in determining disease, disease prevention, health promoting behavior, and health care services organization and delivery.
- 3d. Develop and adapt approaches to public health that take into account cultural differences.

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Cultural Skills (CHS competencies)

MPH students will be able to:

- 3e. Promote cultural competence within an organization.

Level of experience (1-5)	Prior Experience	Concurrent Experience	MPH Courses

4.0 Information and Technology (SPH Competencies)

MPH students will be able to:

- 4a. Define a public health problem for purposes of literature research process.
- 4b. Demonstrate library skills, including the ability to conduct computerized literature searches, for researching problems in public health.
- 4c. Use one of several statistical packages (e.g., EPI Info, SAS) to analyze data to address public health problems.
- 4d. Use basic data management software in public health.
- 4e. Use one of several graphics software packages (e.g., POWERPOINT) to develop presentations for public health problems..
- 4f. Describe the role of information systems in improving the effectiveness of public health activities.

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Information and Technology (CHS competencies)

MPH students will be able to:

- 4g. Access and use national/state/local data sets with respect to:
 - a. Data management;
 - b. Statistical significance of data;
 - c. Primary and secondary analysis of data.
- 4h. Monitor data gathering (review instruments, observation, interviews, etc.).
- 4i. Monitor and review data analysis.

Level of experience (1-5)	Prior Experience	Concurrent Experience	MPH Courses

5.0 Communication Skills (SPH Competencies)

MPH students will be able to:

- 5a. Communicate effectively both in writing and orally to diverse professional and lay audiences regarding public health issues.
- 5b. Present accurately and effectively demographic, statistical, programmatic and scientific public health information for professionals and lay audiences.
- 5c. Lead and participate in groups to address specific public health issues.
- 5d. Use the media to communicate important public health information.

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6.0 Policy Development (SPH Competencies)

MPH students will be able to:

- 6a. Understand the historical development and structure of state, local and federal public health-related agencies.
- 6b. Describe the U.S. institutions and processes of policy-making in public health and recognize that these differ in different societies.
- 6c. Communicate an understanding of the impact of public policies and policy-making on one’s work in public health.
- 6d. Recognize relevant theories of social policy and how they explain policy-making in public health.
- 6e. Describe the use of evidence-based decision-making in policy-making in public health.
- 6f. Describe processes and strategies used to inform and influence policy makers as they develop policies, laws, and regulations that impact on the public’s health.

Level of experience (1-5)	Prior Experience	Concurrent Experience	MPH Courses

Policy Development (CHS competencies)

MPH students will be able to:

- 6g. Analyze public policy regulation and/or legislation.
- 6h. Design a policy position and write a policy statement.
- 6i. Design and carry out an advocacy plan promoting the policy.
- 6j. Prepare and deliver testimony to a governmental agency.
- 6k. Create, debate, and defend a policy position in a controversial area.

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7.0 Leadership and Systems Thinking (SPH Competencies)

MPH students will be able to:

- 7a. Know what is required to assess a public health organization’s structure and performance.
- 7b. Participate in and contribute to strategic planning in public health.
- 7c. Describe public health and health care delivery systems.
- 7d. Describe the elements of organizational leadership including strategies for coordinating teams, managing conflicts, motivating staff, and continuous quality improvement.

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Leadership and Systems Thinking (CHS Competencies)

MPH students will be able to:

- 7e. Use analytical, synthesis and critical thinking skills to develop solutions to complex public health problems and situations demonstrating creative problem-solving.
- 7f. Access relevant resources for further professional development.

Level of experience (1-5)	Prior Experience	Concurrent Experience	MPH Courses

8.0 Financial Planning and Management (SPH Competencies)

MPH students will be able to:

- 8a. Develop and justify a budget.
- 8b. Manage public health programs within budget constraints.
- 8c. Monitor performance of public health programs.
- 8d. Understand the role of cost-effectiveness, cost-benefit, and cost utility analyses in the management of public health resources.

Level of experience (1-5)	Prior Experience	Concurrent Experience	MPH Courses

Financial Planning and Management (CHS Competencies)

MPH students will be able to:

- 8e. Develop a competitive application for funding a public health program or project.

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9.0 Community Dimensions of Practice (SPH Competencies)

MPH students will be able to:

- 9a. Establish and maintain linkages with key stakeholders in community-based initiatives to address public health issues.
- 9b. Describe the process for developing, implementing, and evaluating a community public health assessment.
- 9c. Describe the scientific, ethical, and practice dimensions of community-based participatory research.

Level of experience (1-5)	Prior Experience	Concurrent Experience	MPH Courses

Community Dimensions of Practice (CHS Competencies)

MPH students will be able to:

- 9d. Involve community in assessing need for health programs, selecting health program approach, planning, implementing and evaluating health programs and policies.
- 9e. Use participatory and translational principles in intervention dissemination.

Level of experience (1-5)	Prior Experience	Concurrent Experience	MPH Courses

10.0 Ethics (SPH Competencies)

MPH students will be able to:

- 10a. Use and apply ethical analysis to inform decision-making in public health.
- 10b. Apply ethical principles to the collection, maintenance, use, and dissemination of data and information.

Level of experience (1-5)	Prior Experience	Concurrent Experience	MPH Courses

