

Name (optional): _____

Date: _____

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

Community Health Sciences

Self-Assessment Tool for Students in the PhD Program

Instructions:

This tool is designed to assess the extent to which you believe you have achieved the PhD competencies upon graduation from our program. These represent both SPH and CHS competencies that are found in the CHS Student Handbook.

While we expect that your skill levels are greater than after you completed your doctoral degree, 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 PhD degree), or from PhD courses. Please indicate all that apply with a check mark.

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PhD degree students are prepared to assume academic or research careers in a basic or applied science related to public health or careers in public health practice within both the public and private sectors.

Per the SPH competencies, the PhD graduate will be able to:

- a. Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of issues in his/her substantive interest area in the biological, physical or behavioral/social sciences related to public health.
- b. Demonstrate a high degree of mastery in appropriate theories, analytical skills, research design and methodology in the biological, physical or behavioral/social sciences related to public health.
- c. Identify knowledge gaps in the selected field, synthesize relevant information, and formulate focused research questions to address these gaps.
- d. Design and conduct original research that contributes to the knowledge in his/her selected field.
- e. Incorporate knowledge of cultural, social, behavioral and biological factors in formulating research questions, and design and implement research.
- f. Effectively and clearly communicate orally and in writing, and present public health issues and research findings in his/her area of expertise to peers, students, and the general public.
- g. Demonstrate teaching skills in working with students and other professionals in academic, research or practice settings.

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

Per the CHS competencies, the PhD graduate will be able to:

- a. To accomplish the SPH competencies above in the context of community health sciences, the student is expected to identify and master an appropriate set of theoretical perspectives and research methods in behavioral or social science disciplines that are useful to study his/her selected area.
- b. In order to develop careers in the multidisciplinary field of community health sciences, it is essential that the student develop mastery in both a major and collateral area along with the capacity to communicate and work with researchers and professionals in a wide variety of disciplines.
- c. In the rapidly changing public health environments, it is important to develop the attitudes and capacity to continuously seek and identify perspectives and methods that allow critical analysis of phenomena related to the student's specialized area.

Level of Experience (1-5)	Prior Experience	Concurrent Experience	PhD Courses