

Assessment of Competencies for MPH in General Concentration		
Competency	Course number(s) and name(s)*	Describe specific assessment opportunity ⁿ
Evidence-based Approaches to Public Health		
1. Apply epidemiological methods to settings and situations in public health practice	MSPH 0614 Principles of Epidemiology	<p>Apply sampling methods, measures of disease frequency and association, principles of infectious disease transmission, and methods of diagnostic test interpretation to a chosen infectious disease outbreak case-study.</p> <p>Case Study by specifications: Discuss the design of, at least, five case studies from both qualitative and quantitative study designs. The case-study report includes a critical analysis of published articles to include identification of potential sources of bias, limitations of the study and/or data analysis, and an assessment of the results for generalizability to other populations</p>
2. Select quantitative and qualitative data collection methods appropriate for a given public health context	MSPH 0630 Program Planning & Evaluation	MSPH 0630 Program Planning & Evaluation Students as a class work with a community partner selected to participate in the class to complete the following activities select appropriate methods to evaluate public health programs , Design mixed methods surveys and data collection instruments to inform program development and/or use evaluation results in the development of an improvement plan
3. Analyze quantitative and qualitative data using biostatistics, informatics, computer-based programming and software, as appropriate	MBIO 0660 Biomedical Statistics	Using a quantitative data set provided to students, complete analyses for >2 groups comparisons and multiple regression using either R or Stata or SPSS. Students assess for normality, select the appropriate test(s), and interpret. They go through the regression model building process to arrive at a final model, evaluate for confounders, and assess for model

		assumptions. Students code qualitative data collected and analyze using MAXQDA.
4. Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy or practice	MSPH 0614 Principles of Epidemiology	Essays by guidelines: Data analysis designed to synthesize and apply quantitative methods for public health. Interpret key findings summarizing the results of statistical tests including crude and adjusted results with full interpretation of crude and adjusted measures of association for public health research, policy and practice.
Public Health & Health Care Systems		
5. Compare the organization, structure, and function of health care, public health, and regulatory systems across national and international settings	MSPH 0605 Introduction to Health Administration, Policy and Law	Instructor guided article critiques of peer reviewed commentaries and articles that highlight and examine the structure and function of health care and public health systems at the state, federal and international levels. An essential element of the critique is to compare health systems, public health systems and regulatory functions across national and international settings
6. Discuss the means by which structural bias, social inequities, and racism undermine health and create challenges to achieving health equity at organizational, community, and systemic levels	MSPH 0615 Health Disparities/Inequities	Determinants Analysis: As a part of the semester long individual project students work together to focus general topics they investigate by background and situational analysis then use systematic resources to describe the determinants of the problem at each level of the social ecological model. This culminating project allows the students to work together to describe the Alabama black belt counties and individually choose a determinant of health they will focus on for their final projects.
Planning & Management to Promote Health		

7. Assess population needs, assets and capacities that affect communities' health	MSPH 0630 Program Planning & Evaluation	Assignment # 2 Prepare a needs assessment for a special population and/or local community health provider
8. Apply awareness of cultural values and practices to the design or implementation of public health policies or programs	MSPH 0615 Health Disparities/Inequities	Determinants Analysis: As a part of the semester long individual project students work together to focus general topics they investigate by background and situational analysis then use systematic resources to describe the determinants of the problem at each level of the social ecological model. Students apply awareness of cultural values and practices by utilizing community participatory practices and engaging their chosen black belt communities in conversation to develop the research question and the risk factors selected for analysis. This culminating project allows the students to work together to describe the Alabama black belt counties and individually choose a determinant of health they will focus on for their final projects which will include the design or implementation of a public health policy or programmatic intervention.
9. Design a population-based policy, program, project or intervention	MSPH 0630 Program Planning & Evaluation	Assignment # 3 Develop an Intervention based upon needs assessment findings to include in Final Paper & Presentation
	MBIO 0700.01 Research Thesis or Practicum	Presentation of a scientific report that encompasses the results of a community needs assessment and evaluation of intervention strategies based upon a request or need of a rural community or local health agency is the major requirement of the course. Students are required to turn-in their scientific paper; they are also required to present orally. Students can choose any public health program in Alabama for their project.
10. Explain basic principles and tools of budget and resource management	MSPH 0605 Introduction to Health Administration, policy and Law	MSPH 0605 During the course each student identifies a community organization and health issue prevalent in rural black belt counties and develops a program plan to address the needs of

		the population that the community organization serves. The resource allocation and management plan are developed as a critical part of this process.
11. Select methods to evaluate public health programs	MSPH 0630 Program Planning & Evaluation	Examination #1 identify the appropriate evaluation methods for each health program
Policy in Public Health		
12. Discuss multiple dimensions of the policy-making process, including the roles of ethics and evidence	MSPH 0605 Introduction to Health Administration, Policy and Law	Each student identifies as the beginning of the class a state policy that has been proposed for the next legislative session in the Alabama congressional process. Each proposed legislation is tracked from introduction, to committee in both the House of Representatives and Senate. The class visits the Congressional committee to which their policy is assigned and engages the committee on ethical and research grounds based upon their empirical research on the topic. A class session is devoted to discussing the dimensions of the policy-making process including the ethical considerations and the use of evidenced based research to inform the process.
13. Propose strategies to identify relevant communities and individuals and build coalitions and partnerships for influencing public health outcomes	MSPH 0626 Public Health	Assignment #1: Students will do a literature review and do a paper to propose strategies to identify stakeholders and build coalitions and partnerships for influencing public health outcomes inclusive of values of the society, and the use of knowledge the ability to address existing and/or emerging health problems in populations.
14. Advocate for political, social or economic policies and programs that will improve health in diverse populations	MSPH 0610 Psychosocial Determinants of Health	Final Paper- Advocacy paper focused on environmental policies. Students are required to present their findings orally. Students can choose any topic of environmental health policy for their project and conduct a policy analysis applicable to a rural community setting. This analysis must include advocacy for a specific political, social, or economic policy that improve the environment for the community selected.

15. Evaluate policies for their impact on public health and health equity	MSPH 0600 Environmental Health Sciences	Assignment #2 Federal register project: The federal register is the national source of announcement for any new regulations and modifications to existing regulations. There is a minimum of 30-day comment period that is associated with each announcement which provides an opportunity for scientist, activist, and public health practitioners to provide commentary to support or advocate against the regulation announced. These comments are reviewed by a team of subject matter experts that have been identified by the agency. Each student will access the federal register and identify an environmental health related regulation that has been announced or amended within the past 30 days. A comment will be prepared utilizing relevant data to evaluate the positive or negative impacts to population health and health equity if the regulation is adopted or amended. The comment must identify a relevant target population, a review of the relevant past regulatory actions taken, and articulate a recommendation that supports or argues against the proposed action.
Leadership		
16. Apply leadership and/or management principles to address a relevant issue	MSPH 0626 Public Health	<p>Group Project #1: Students will discuss the importance of public health functions to the development of a community considering the science, politics and preventive measures impacting public health.</p> <p>Group Project #2: Students will describe why the essential public health functions are important to public health, making sure to mention why the choices that people make, and their behavior are important considerations to ensuring that the public health functions are successfully carried out to improve the health of the population</p>
17. Apply negotiation and mediation skills to address organizational or community challenges	MSPH 0605 Introduction to Health Administration, Policy and Law MSPH 0626 Public Health	Assignment #2 After a review of negotiation and mediation techniques and strategies the class is asked to apply these skills in response to a case study that incorporates competing priorities of

		partner organizations that must come together to implement a strategy to address issues raised during a natural disaster or change in political leadership. Each student is assessed individually on their ability to apply negotiation and mediation skills during the assignment.
Communication		
18. Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors	MSPH 0631 Health Education & Communication	Communication Strategy Selection for Different Audiences and Sectors Assignment: Students select audiences from different sectors (e.g. K-12, professionals, lay community members), for one or multiple health issues of interest. For each sector and health aim, propose a strategy to reach them that includes consideration of audience needs, cultural competency, appropriate channels/materials, trusted sources and possible partners. Examination #1- utilizing strategies reviewed in chapters 1-3 select the best method for each target population
19. Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation to a non-academic, non-peer audience with attention to factors such as literacy and health literacy	MSPH 0631 Health Education & Communication	Final Presentation & Paper- choose target population and develop a primary intervention campaign on a topic of their choosing. Students will then present their campaign using oral presentation format of their choice and provide a written report in the form of a final research paper using APA formatting.
20. Describe the importance of cultural humility in communicating public health content	MSPH 0615 Health Disparities/Inequities	Students describe the importance of cultural competence in selecting communication strategies, includes consequences of not considering cultural competence factors. Students articulate how their product meets cultural competence considerations, and the impact on these considerations on achieving health aims.
Interprofessional Practice		
21. Integrate perspectives from other sectors and/or professions to promote and advance population health	IBSC 0601 Spheres of Ethics and Public Health	Students work on teams with students from other public health programs, clergy, and theology

		students to develop and implement an ethical intervention in a community setting
Systems Thinking		
22. Apply a systems thinking tool to visually represent a public health issue in a format other than standard narrative	<p>MSPH 0614 Principles of Epidemiology</p> <p>MSPH 0626 Public Health</p>	<p>Unit examination: A block examination covering basic understanding of the theory, methods, and body of knowledge of epidemiology, using an integrated 'One Health' approach, in which humans, animals and their environment are critical factors in epidemiological profiling. Causal loop diagrams discussed in class are used to depict interactions on examination.</p> <p>Paper and Systems Diagram - Taking a One Health Approach to Address a Public Health Need: After learning a variety of systems thinking tools and frameworks from the literature and through lecture, students are challenged to create and apply a causal loop one health diagram to assess and address a public health need of importance.</p>