

Student Learning Outcomes and Competencies
Emphasis: Public Health Nutrition

The MPH Program is dedicated to assessment of student learning and to appropriate changes in curriculum and courses whenever necessary. At the completion of the degree each student should be able to meet all the Graduate School’s Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs), the MPH SLOs, along with the MPH 12 Foundational Objectives and 22 Foundational Competencies in addition to the Emphasis Area Competencies. All courses taken for the degree are expected to meet at least one competency.

Kansas State University Graduate Student Learning Outcomes

Knowledge	Demonstrate [a] thorough understanding and/or competency in a specific area of emphasis, study, or profession.
Skills	Demonstrate the ability to apply knowledge through critical thinking, inquiry, analysis, and communication to solve problems and to produce scholarly and creative works including but not limited to design, art, performance, [and/or] original research in the form of [a] thesis or dissertation.
Attitudes and Professional Conduct	Exhibit an awareness of their responsibilities (professional integrity, ethical behavior, ability to work with diverse groups of peoples, etc.) and engage in professional conduct towards all constituent groups, including students, faculty, public, etc.

Public Health Core Courses Required of Each MPH Student

Area	Required Course
Biostatistics	MPH 701 – Fundamental Methods of Biostatistics (3 hrs)
Environmental Health	MPH 802 – Environmental Health (3 hrs)
Epidemiology	MPH 754 – Introduction to Epidemiology (3 hrs)
Health Services Administration	MPH 720 – Administration of Health Care Organizations (3 hrs)
Social and Behavioral Sciences	MPH 818 – Social and Behavioral Bases of Public Health (3 hrs)
Public Health Practice	MPH 840 – Public Health Practice (6 hrs with no thesis) (3 hrs + 6 hrs of thesis research)

The required courses listed above, cover the 12 Foundational Objectives and 22 Foundational Competencies needed by public health professionals listed below and on the next page.

12 Public Health Foundational Objectives	MPH 701	MPH 720	MPH 754	MPH 802	MPH 818
1. Explain public health history, philosophy and values		x	x		x
2. Identify the core functions of public health and the 10 Essential Services		x			
3. Explain the role of quantitative and qualitative methods and sciences in describing and assessing a population’s health	x	x	x		
4. List major causes and trends of morbidity and mortality in the US or other community relevant to the school or program		x	x		
5. Discuss the science of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention in population health, including health promotion, screening, etc.	x	x	x		
6. Explain the critical importance of evidence in advancing public health knowledge	x	x	x		
7. Explain effects of environmental factors on a population’s health	x			x	
8. Explain biological and genetic factors that affect a population’s health			x	x	
9. Explain behavioral and psychological factors that affect a population’s health	x	x			x
10. Explain the social, political and economic determinants of health and how they contribute to population health and health inequities		x			x
11. Explain how globalization affects global burdens of disease			x	x	
12. Explain an ecological perspective on the connections among human health, animal health and ecosystem health (eg, One Health)				x	x

22 Public Health Foundational Competencies and Course Taught In	MPH 701	MPH 720	MPH 754	MPH 802	MPH 818
Evidence-based Approaches to Public Health					
1. Apply epidemiological methods to the breadth of settings and situations in public health practice	x		x		
2. Select quantitative and qualitative data collection methods appropriate for a given public health context	x	x	x		
3. Analyze quantitative and qualitative data using biostatistics, informatics, computer-based programming and software, as appropriate	x	x	x		
4. Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy or practice	x		x		
Public Health and Health Care Systems					
5. Compare the organization, structure and function of health care, public health and regulatory systems across national and international settings		x			
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 societal levels					x
Planning and Management to Promote Health					
7. Assess population needs, assets and capacities that affect communities' health		x		x	
8. Apply awareness of cultural values and practices to the design or implementation of public health policies or programs					x
9. Design a population-based policy, program, project or intervention			x		
10. Explain basic principles and tools of budget and resource management		x	x		
11. Select methods to evaluate public health programs	x	x	x		
Policy in Public Health					
12. Discuss multiple dimensions of the policy-making process, including the roles of ethics and evidence		x	x	x	
13. Propose strategies to identify stakeholders and build coalitions and partnerships for influencing public health outcomes		x		x	x
14. Advocate for political, social or economic policies and programs that will improve health in diverse populations		x			
15. Evaluate policies for their impact on public health and health equity			x	x	
Leadership					
16. Apply principles of leadership, governance and management, which include creating a vision, empowering others, fostering collaboration and guiding decision making		x			x
17. Apply negotiation and mediation skills to address organizational or community challenges		x			
Communication					
18. Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors	FNDH 880				
19. Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation	FNDH 880				
20. Describe the importance of cultural competence in communicating public health content		x			x
Interprofessional Practice					
21. Perform effectively on interprofessional teams		x			x
Systems Thinking					
22. Apply systems thinking tools to a public health issue			x	x	

Student Accountability for 22 Foundational Competencies

Each student should document and address how five of the 22 MPH Foundational Competencies were attained and utilized during the applied practice experience. *One of the 22 must be #21. Perform effectively on interprofessional teams.* This explanation should be in the integrated learning experience report and PowerPoint presentation. These competencies are informed by the traditional public health core knowledge areas, (biostatistics, epidemiology, social and behavioral sciences, health services administration and environmental health sciences), as well as cross-cutting and emerging public health areas.

In addition, each MPH emphasis area has its own set of unique competencies expected of students completing coursework in the emphasis area.

Public Health Nutrition Emphasis Area Competencies

PHN Emphasis Area Competency		Description of Competency	Required Course
1	Information literacy of public health nutrition	Inform public health practice through analysis of evidence-based policy, systems, and environmental change.	FNDH 820 and FNDH 844
2	Compare and relate research into practice	Examine chronic disease surveillance, policy, program planning and evaluation, and program management, in the context of public health nutrition.	FNDH 600 and FNDH 820
3	Population-based health administration	Critically examine population-based nutrition programs.	FNDH 600
4	Analysis of human nutrition principles	Examine epidemiological concepts of human nutrition in order to improve population health and reduce disease risk.	FNDH 600
5	Analysis of nutrition epidemiology	Describe criteria for validity in nutritional epidemiological methodology.	FNDH 844

Public Health Nutrition Required and Elective Courses

Prerequisite courses: Students without an undergraduate degree in nutrition or dietetics or graduate work in nutrition need an understanding of human nutrition similar to that which is taught in FNDH 400 Human Nutrition and FNDH 450 Nutritional Assessment. These courses or the equivalent must be completed before the student is approved for full admission status in the program.

Requirements and Credit Hours			
Required courses 10 hours		FNDH 600	Public Health Nutrition (3 hrs) (may substitute elective if already taken)
		FNDH 844	Nutritional Epidemiology (3 hrs)
		FNDH 820	Functional Foods for Chronic Disease Prevention (3 hrs)
		FNDH 880	Graduate Seminar in Human Nutrition (1 hr)
Elective Courses 11 hours			
AAI 801	Interdisciplinary Process (online Manhattan; face-to-face Olathe) (3 hrs)	FSSH 714	Program Design, Evaluation, and Implementation (3 hrs)
FNDH 620	Nutrient Metabolism (3 hrs)	KIN 610	Program Planning and Evaluation (3 hrs)
FNDH 631	Clinical Nutrition I (3 hrs)	KIN 805	Physical Activity and Human Behavior (3 hrs)
FNDH 632	Clinical Nutrition II (3 hrs)	MC 750	Strategic Health Communication (3 hrs) (alt years)
FNDH 635	Nutrition and Exercise (3 hrs)	MC 760	Communication and Risk (3 hrs) (alternate years)
FNDH 700	Global Health and Nutrition (3 hrs)	PSYCH 518	Introduction to Health Psychology (3 hrs)
FNDH 718	Physical Health and Aging (3 hrs)	SOCIO 541	Wealth, Power and Privilege (3 hrs)
FNDH 726	Nutrition and Wellness (3 hrs)	SOCIO 570	Race and Ethnic Relations in the USA (3 hrs)
FNDH 735	Advanced Energy Balance (3 hrs)	STAT 705	Regression and Analysis of Variance (3 hrs)
FNDH 780	Problems in Nutrition (variable)	STAT 710	Sample Survey Methods (3 hrs)
FNDH 782	Topics in Human Nutrition (3 hrs)	STAT 713	Applied Linear Stat Models (3 hrs) (same as STAT 705 only more mathematical)
FNDH 800	Nutrition Education and Communication (3 hrs)	STAT 716	Non-parametric Statistics (3 hrs)
FNDH 810	Advanced Macronutrient Metabolism (5 hrs)	STAT 717	Categorical Data Analysis (3 hrs)
FNDH 812	Advanced Micronutrient Metabolism (3 hrs)	STAT 720	Design Experiments (3 hrs)
FNDH 841	Consumer Response Evaluation (3 hrs)	STAT 725	Intro to SAS Computing (1 hr)
FNDH 862	Maternal and Child Nutrition (3 hrs) (GP Prog)	STAT 730	Multivariate Statistical Methods (3 hrs)
FNDH 891	Environmental Scanning and Analysis of Current Issues in Dietetics (3 hrs)	<i>Plus any graduate course approved by the graduate committee and the program director.</i>	

All MPH graduate students must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or above in ALL graduate course work to remain in good standing in the program and to graduate with an MPH degree. Detailed information concerning this requirement may be found on the Graduate School website: <http://www.k-state.edu/grad/>

Applied Practice Experience (APE) and Integrated Learning Experience (ILE) expected of Each MPH Student

The Applied Practice Experience (APE) requirement is 240 hours in a non-academic setting and is typically completed *at the end of the coursework* so that a student may apply the knowledge gained from graduate courses. In addition, the student must be in good academic standing (i.e., not on probation) as outlined in the Graduate Handbook section F, before they will be allowed participate in the APE.

The Integrated Learning Experience (ILE) requirement is a high quality written document about a project carried out for a non-academic public health entity, plus a public presentation, along with the oral exam. It is completed at the end of all coursework **and** completion of the APE. The written report is submitted to the graduate committee *at least two weeks* before the presentation and oral exam.

The APE and ILE requirements are met with the following (MPH 840):

- The APE (240 hours) requires delivery of at least two different portfolio products (poster, brochures, updated learning materials, website, training manuals, etc.) along with a short discussion of at least five of the 22 Public Health Foundational Competencies and how they were utilized during the APE.
- The ILE requires a high quality written document met with the following:
 1. A written document/report of the project carried out in a non-academic setting and oral exam (which includes the oral presentation); **or**
 2. Six credit hours of public health thesis research and three credit hours (180 hours) of APE (MPH 840), as explained above. If completing a thesis, the research should be focused on population-based health questions rather than on basic research in a laboratory. This does not preclude laboratory analyses of data gathered in populations of animals or humans. A thesis completed as partial fulfillment for the MPH degree must be accepted by the Graduate School, becomes a single-authored publication and contributes to the body of knowledge in public health.

Upon completion of the oral exam and all edits have been made to the ILE document or thesis, the ILE is submitted to the MPH Program office along with all APE portfolio products. The thesis is submitted to K-REx.

Summary

Requirement	Credit Requirement	Total
MPH Core Courses required by all emphasis areas	15-17 hours	15-17 credit hours
Emphasis area courses	19-21 hours	19-21 credit hours
Applied Practical Experience (or Thesis and APE) and ILE	6-9 hours	6-9 credit hours
Total required for MPH degree		42 credit hours

Outline of MPH Course – Follow the sequence below depending on the semester you begin.*

Year 1, Fall Semester – 9 credits	Year 2, Fall Semester – 9 credits
• MPH 701 – Fundamental Methods of Biostatistics (3 hrs)	• Emphasis area required courses (9 hrs)
• MPH 754 – Introduction to Epidemiology (3 hrs)	• Start planning for Applied Practical Experience (APE)
• MPH 802 – Environmental Health (3 hrs)	• Attend MPH Meeting for MPH 840 (APE orientation)
Year 1, Spring Semester – 9 credits	Year 2, Spring Semester – 9 credits
• MPH 720 – Administration of Health Care Organizations (3 hrs)	• Finish emphasis area required and elective courses (9 hrs)
• MPH 818 – Social and Behavioral Bases of Public Health (3 hrs)	• Finish up plans for MPH 840 and turn in signed form
• Emphasis area course (3 hrs)	Year 2, Summer Semester – 3 or 6 credits
• Select Committee and prepare Program of Study (POS)	• Enroll in MPH 840 for 6 hrs for summer graduation or if graduating a different semester, enroll in only 3 hrs
Year 1, Summer Semester – 3 or 6 credits	Semester you plan to graduate you must be enrolled
• Any MPH core course (if available and needed)	• Enroll in MPH 840 for 3 hrs
• Emphasis area course if desired (3 hrs)	

*suggested

At the completion of all degree requirements, MPH students will be expected to meet the following:

- **Integration.** Students will have demonstrate their ability to integrate knowledge and skills to solve problems and to produce scholarly work in a culminating experience in the form of a thesis and/or high quality written document with a community-based field project.