

D13. Public Health Bachelor’s Degree Cross-Cutting Concepts and Experiences

The overall undergraduate curriculum and public health major curriculum expose students to concepts and experiences necessary for success in the workplace, further education and lifelong learning. Students are exposed to concepts through any combination of learning experiences and co-curricular experiences.

- 1) Briefly describe, in the format of Template D13-1, the manner in which the curriculum and co-curricular experiences expose students to the concepts identified.

Table D13.1: Student Exposure to Concepts	
Concept	Manner in which the curriculum and co-curricular experiences expose students to the concepts
Advocacy for protection and promotion of the public’s health at all levels of society	Many of the BPH core courses offer exposure to advocacy at all levels of public health. U.S. Health Care System (HSA 3111) and Public Health Concepts (PHC 4101) are two core courses offered in the first semester of the BPH program to build the foundation of public health promotion and protection. Public Health Concepts does so by identifying public health concerns and assessing the social determinants of health across populations. U.S. Health Care System provides basic information on the barriers to access to care within the U.S., especially among underserved populations.
Community dynamics	Through classroom guest lecturers and field trips to surrounding area health establishments (local health clinic and health department), Applied Epidemiology (PHC 4024) offers students the ability to see health disparities within their community firsthand. The capstone of the BPH program, Service Learning Practicum (PHC 4943), also provides an applied community experience by requiring that students partake in a practicum in a strict, service learning capacity.
Critical thinking and creativity	Critical Issues in Public Health (PHC 3603) offers an exciting opportunity for students to think critically and cultivate innovative ideas in public health through "reasoned discourse." This activity consists of groups, or teams, of students working together to support their designated side of a public health issue. Students are encouraged to think creatively on how to provide support for their issues and how to effectively and strategically present their positions to the class.
Cultural contexts in which public health professionals work	Within the Global Public Health (PHC 3440) course, students learn and identify cultural factors that influence the perception of health threats among different populations internationally. For example, students create a PowerPoint that identifies and explores a global health ethical issue of their choice for which they must describe how culture contributes to the issue and provide steps towards a potential solution.
Ethical decision making as related to self and society	In the Environmental Health Concepts in Public Health (PHC 4320) course, students must write at least five papers regarding different debates that occur throughout the semester. The debates focus on environmental public health issues that are typically controversial. Using facts presented in the debates, students choose independently which side of the argument they support. Additionally, in Global Public Health (PHC 3440) students choose an ethical issue in their assigned low or middle income country and write a paper in which they describe the ethical issue and potential resolution.

Table D13.1: Student Exposure to Concepts

Concept	Manner in which the curriculum and co-curricular experiences expose students to the concepts
Independent work and a personal work ethic	As part of the BPH Service Learning Practicum (PHC 4943) course, students must work with a community partner and the instructor to develop a service learning project that addresses a critical need in the community. Each student works independently at different sites and performs a service that is identified by their site. Students are expected to learn professional development skills as well as exhibit an appropriate work ethic while at the site. Students must submit a time log of hours worked and site supervisors complete an evaluation of the student based on their work ethic and professional behavior.
Networking	In the semester prior to their mandatory practicum, students are required to meet with college career resource personnel. They meet in small groups to discuss interviewing styles, resume building, networking opportunities and other potential career-related professional development skills. Subsequently, students have the opportunity to meet with a career resource officer one-on-one for additional support.
Organizational dynamics	Public Health Management & Leadership (PHC 4117) introduces students to public health managerial techniques and skills within organizations. Students review key public health organizations, their characteristics, fundamentals of management and leadership, as well as human resource development and ethics.
Professionalism	Throughout the Service Learning Practicum (PHC 4943) students are evaluated on professional behavior by both the instructor and the community organization that serves as their practicum site. The service learning experience is a concrete means of developing professionally prior to graduation. While at their practicum sites, students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. This includes dependability, appropriate dress and demeanor, punctuality and appropriate response to supervision, and appropriate interactions with peers, staff, clients and/or patients. Site supervisors complete an online evaluation form detailing the student's performance.
Research methods	Research Methods and Issues in Health Science (HSC 3057) is designed to provide an overview of research design, methods, and ethics with an emphasis in the social and behavioral sciences. The overarching aims of the course are to provide students with: (1) an overview of the types of research methods available to them; (2) an opportunity to evaluate faculty research presentations; and (3) a basic understanding of how to critique a research article. A variety of instructional methods to address these aims, including online lectures, readings, lab groups, class discussion and hands-on research experiences are used.
Systems thinking	Within U.S. Health Care System (HSA 3111), students must compare health care systems, and learn how to maneuver the insurance industry at the local, state and federal levels, while working alongside policy and lawmakers with the ultimate goal of improving health outcomes among populations. A systems approach to understanding health care is emphasized with attention given to the impacts upon and by each part of the system.

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Teamwork and leadership	Within Public Health Management and Leadership (PHC 4117), students learn organizational behavior and theories to examine management topics such as management functions, activities and skills in the creation and delivery of public health programs, the organizational contexts of public health and understanding and applying management skills. All of these are instrumental when working as a team or leading a group of people. The Service Learning Practicum (PHC 4943) also captures this through weekly reports in which students must reflect on the given question or topic of the week and apply it to their site. Examples of weekly topics include interprofessional learning, teamwork among various health care professionals, empowerment and leadership.

- 2) **Provide syllabi for all required coursework for the major and/or courses that relate to the domains listed above. Syllabi should be provided as individual files in the electronic resource file and should reflect the current semester or most recent offering of the course.**

Syllabi can be found in ERF D13-2.

- 3) **If applicable, assess strengths and weaknesses related to this criterion and plans for improvement in this area.**

Strengths:

- The BPH curriculum was developed to address cross-cutting concepts through both formal coursework and experiential activities. By providing multiple exposures in different contexts, students have opportunities to both expand and deepen their understanding of the concepts.

Weaknesses and Plans:

- While the students receive strong instruction on professionalism topics and behaviors in the PHC4943 Service Learning Practicum, this course occurs in the final semester of the undergraduate program. There is a need to include more of these topics throughout the curriculum in order to proactively prepare students for their applied experiences.