

UA Zuckerman College of Public Health

MPH Competencies

MPH COMPETENCY
To what extent do you believe that you have achieved the following competencies:
ANALYTICAL SKILLS:
Defining a problem
Determining appropriate uses and limitations of data
Selecting and defining variables relevant to defined public health problems
Evaluating the integrity and comparability of data and identifying gaps in data sources
Understanding how the data illuminates ethical, political, scientific, economic, and overall public health issues
Understanding basic research designs used in public health
Making relevant inferences from data
COMMUNICATION SKILLS:
Communicating effectively both in writing and orally (unless a handicap precludes one of those forms of communication)
Interpreting and presenting accurately and effectively demographic, statistical, and scientific information for professional and lay audiences, adapting and translating public health concepts to individuals and communities
Soliciting input from individuals and organizations
Advocating and marketing for public health programs and resources, including political lobbying, grant writing, collaboration building, and networking
Leading and participating in groups to address specific issues, including ability to work in teams, span organizational boundaries, and cross systems
Using all types of media to communicate important public health information
Demonstrating cultural competency in all of the above and community development
POLICY DEVELOPMENT/PROGRAM PLANNING SKILLS:
Assessing and interpreting information to develop relevant policy options
Writing clear and concise policy statements
Articulating the health, fiscal, administrative, legal, social, political, and ethical implications of each policy option
Deciding on the appropriate course of action and writing a clear and concise policy statement and implementation plan
Translating policy into organizational plans, structures, and programs
Identifying public health laws, regulations, and policies related to specific programs
Developing mechanisms to monitor and evaluate programs for their effectiveness and quality
CULTURAL SKILLS:
Understanding the current forces contributing to cultural diversity in the Southwest
Interacting competently, respectfully, and professionally with persons from diverse backgrounds
Identifying and examining the role of cultural, social, ethnic, religious, spiritual, and behavioral factors in determining disease prevention health promoting behavior, and health service organizational and delivery
Developing and adapting approaches to public health problems that take into account cultural differences
Determining health related consequences of social structure
Understanding the dynamic forces contributing to cultural diversity

BASIC PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCE SKILLS:
Defining, assessing, and understanding the health status of populations, determinants of health and illness, factors contributing to health promotion and disease prevention, and factors influencing the use of health services
Understanding research methods in all basic public health sciences
Applying the basic public health sciences including behavioral and social sciences, biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental public health, and prevention of chronic and infectious diseases and injuries
Understanding of the historical development and structure of state, local, and federal public health agencies
FINANCIAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT SKILLS:
Developing and presenting a budget
Managing programs within budgetary constraints
Developing strategies for determining priorities
Monitoring program
Preparing proposals for funding from internal and external sources
Applying basic human relations skills to the management of organizations and the resolution of conflicts
Managing personnel
Understanding the theory of organizational structure and its relation to professional practice
Conducting cost-effectiveness, cost benefit, and cost utility analyses
Negotiating and developing contracts and other documents for the provision of population-based services