

**Draft Competencies and skills, Gillings MPH Core**  
**Gillings MPH Core Planning Committee**  
**Summer 2015**

**A. Behavioral/Social/Environmental Determinants (skills b,c,e,f,m,l,x)**

1. Understand the factors that affect the health of groups of people.
2. Describe biological, environmental, socio-economic, structural, behavioral, and cultural factors that affect susceptibility to adverse health outcomes and contribute to health disparities in domestic and global settings.
3. Understand culture and socio-demographic status as determinants of health for populations and individuals.
4. Develop approaches to design, implement and communicate public health interventions that reflect understanding of these social determinants, while practicing competent individual and community engagement.
5. Understand and apply life course approach and critical periods of development in addressing public health problems.

**B. Methods 1 (skills a-e, l)**

6. Understand and apply the concepts, methods, and tools of public health study design, data collection, analysis and interpretation to robustly answer a research question or evaluate a policy, project, program or intervention.
7. Understand and apply evidence-based reasoning, system thinking and informatics approaches to address a public health issue.
8. Critically evaluate data, including scholarly literature, to draw appropriate inferences about population health.
9. Identify and use appropriate sources of data to describe and evaluate a population health issue.

**C. Methods 2 (skills b, m-r)**

10. Design and implement surveillance and monitoring with the appropriate community organizations and agencies to anticipate emerging public health issues, and to prepare for and respond to natural and man-made disasters.
11. Specify approaches for assessing, preventing and controlling environmental or behavioral factors that pose risks to human health and well-being, using data and evidence where available.
12. Understand how to develop a budget and secure and manage funding for a public health project, program, intervention or grant.
13. Apply project management skills needed to plan, implement and evaluate a population-based project, program or intervention.

**D. Policy (skills b-d, j,k,u-w)**

14. Understand the key legal, ethical, economic and regulatory dimensions of U.S. health care and public health policy.
15. Understand public health policy-making process, and evaluate policies and practices in a manner consistent with the philosophy and core values of public health.
16. Analyze the effects of political, social and economic policies on population health at the local, state, national and international levels (adapted from ASPPH).
17. Evaluate public health policies and analyze their intentional and unintentional consequences on populations.
18. Understand how to advocate for public health policies by working effectively with key stakeholders.

### **E. History and Public Health Systems (skills s,t, u,x)**

19. Understand how the history and core values of public health, including commitment to community-oriented practice, evidence-based practice, and advancement of social justice, informs the development, implementation, and evaluation of public health practices and policies.
20. Understand the structure, financing and organization of the U.S. health care and public health system.
21. Identify key attributes of health and public health systems from different global settings and how they compare along the dimensions of cost, quality and access.
22. Understand the major public health threats and opportunities presented by the processes of globalization.
23. Understand the connection between public health and sustainable development
24. Evaluate the impact of global trends and interdependencies on population health related problems and systems (from ASPPH).

### **F. Professionalism (ethics and responsible conduct of research) (skills f-k)**

25. Perform effectively as members of interdisciplinary and interprofessional teams to solve real world public health problems.
26. Articulate the role of public health leaders and professionals while respectfully engaging with individuals and groups to improve public health policy, practice and outcomes.
27. Communicate effectively through various formats including oral presentations, writing and social media regarding public health issues.
28. Effectively communicate to various audiences including funders, peers, stakeholders and general public.

## CEPH (Draft)

### C.1. MPH<sup>1</sup> Foundational Skills (See CEPH's [Proposed Curriculum Criteria Revisions](#) for full context)

#### Data and Analysis

- a. Implement data collection strategies, from the planning phase through data collection
- b. Identify appropriate data sources and sets for the purpose of describing a public health problem
- c. Analyze public health data sets
- d. Apply evidence-based reasoning to address a public health issue
- e. Evaluate a scholarly article, including data sources and methodology

#### Communication

- f. Identify strategies for communicating a public health issue to various audiences, including stakeholders at all levels
- g. Communicate public health content to the general public through various means, including social media
- h. Write technical or professional papers on public health issues
- i. Deliver oral presentations on public health issues to various audiences, including stakeholders at all levels

#### Professionalism

- j. Explain the role of a public health professional to various audiences, stakeholders and other professionals
- k. Perform effectively on teams and in different team roles in a variety of settings

#### Systems Thinking

- l. Apply systems thinking tools such as concept mapping, outcome mapping and social network analysis to a public health issue

#### Program Planning, Management and Evaluation

- m. Plan a population-based project, program or intervention, including defining populations and assessing and prioritizing their needs
- n. Develop a grant proposal for a public health project, program or intervention, including developing a budget
- o. Implement a population-based project, program or intervention, including addressing management and human resource concerns
- p. Manage grant funding, including required reporting
- q. Evaluate the success of a population-based project, program or intervention
- r. Use continuous quality improvement principles

#### Health Systems

- s. Explain the US health care<sup>2</sup> and public health systems, including access issues, financial issues and the systems interactions that affect population health
- t. Compare health care and public health systems from different global settings

#### Policy and Advocacy

- u. Explain the public health policy-making process, including the role of stakeholders and public and private entities
- v. Evaluate public health policies and their intentional and unintentional effects on populations
- w. Advocate for public health policies, including identifying, collaborating and negotiating with individual stakeholders and public and private entities

#### Cultural Competency

- x. Engage respectfully with people of various cultures and socioeconomic strata

<sup>1</sup> Throughout this document, the term "MPH degree" also includes any other master's degrees for which the program intends to prepare public health practitioners (previously referred to as "equivalent professional degrees").

<sup>2</sup> For institutions located outside the US, the program may substitute its home nation or region depending on the goals and population served of the program