



**School of Allied Health and Life Sciences - Master of Public Health
MPH COMPREHENSIVE EXAM: GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND EVALUATION GUIDELINES**

General instructions provided to students

The MPH Comprehensive Exam is intended to assess your ability to integrate concepts, principles and theories in public health across the 5 core competency areas in the MPH program (epidemiology; environmental health; social and behavioral sciences; healthcare policy and administration, and biostatistics). You are therefore encouraged to give specific and detailed responses to the questions asked and avoid giving short answers or bulleted answers to any questions. A student cannot display knowledge, understanding, integration and synthesis of ideas in a few short paragraphs, thus it is important that you answer every question completely and broadly. It is anticipated that each question could be answered adequately in no more than 3 double-spaced pages. Your responses must demonstrate evidence of independent thinking, appropriate organization, critical analysis, and accuracy of documentation of the principles of the core domains of public health. As you complete your answer to each question, please ensure you have addressed:

- **Purpose** - Your response must address the question asked, without excessive spelling or grammar errors.
- **Subject matter knowledge** - Your supporting evidence and arguments must be appropriate and of high quality.
- **Depth and breadth of understanding** - Your response must demonstrate a high level of understanding of the topic.

General evaluation guidelines

The purpose of the MPH Comprehensive Exam is to assess a student’s critical thinking ability as a key determinant of overall mastery of the principles of public health. Each question on the Comprehensive Exam addresses a set of competencies in the MPH program. Each competency emphasized in the question is scored according to the student’s application of critical thinking skills in the response provided. Evaluation is based on characteristics in the provided response that earn proficiency level ratings of Distinguished, Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor, or Fail, as follows:

Proficiency Levels	Proficiency Ratings/Scores	Interpretation
Exceeds Expectations (highly proficient)	Distinguished 95-100	Clarity of thought is thorough and exemplary. Strong integration of concepts and information. Conclusions strongly presented and well-justified. No factual errors.
Exceeds Expectations (very proficient)	Excellent 85-94	Clarity of thought is thorough and excellent. Strong integration of concepts and information. Conclusions logical and well-justified. No or trivial factual errors.
Meets Expectations (proficient)	Good 70-84	Clarity of thought is evident. Integration of concepts and information is adequate. Conclusions evident and logical. Minor factual errors.
Below Expectations (partially proficient)	Fair 31-69	Clarity of thought is evident. Some integration of concepts and information. Conclusions weakly justified. Many factual errors
Below Expectations (marginally proficient)	Poor 0-30	Little or no clarity of thought is evident. Weak or no integration of concepts and information. Conclusions not evident or weakly justified. Many factual errors
Question not addressed (not proficient)	Fail 0	Student did not address the question asked



**School of Allied Health and Life Sciences - Master of Public Health
MPH COMPREHENSIVE EXAM: GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND EVALUATION GUIDELINES**

PROFICIENCY RANGE: Distinguished, Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor, Fail

Epidemiology Core Competencies		APPLICABLE TO QUESTION	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	BELOW EXPECTATIONS	BELOW EXPECTATIONS	DID NOT ANSWER QUESTION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DISTG 95-100	EXC 85-94	GOOD 70-84	FAIR 31-69	POOR 0-30	FAIL 0
C1	Identify key sources of data for epidemiologic purposes.							
C2	Identify the principles and limitations of public health screening programs.							
C3	Describe a public health problem in terms of magnitude, person, time and place.							
C4	Explain the importance of epidemiology for informing scientific, ethical, economic and political discussion of health issues.							
C5	Comprehend basic ethical and legal principles pertaining to the collection, maintenance, use and dissemination of epidemiologic data.							
C6	Apply the basic terminology and definitions of epidemiology.							
C7	Calculate basic epidemiology measures.							
C8	Communicate epidemiologic information to lay and professional audiences.							
C9	Draw appropriate inferences from epidemiologic data.							
C10	Evaluate the strengths and limitations of epidemiologic reports.							

_____ # Competencies applicable to this question

_____ Total Points Possible = _____ (# Competencies applicable to this question) x 100

_____ Total Points Scored = _____ (add total points scored from lines above with)

FINAL SCORING:

_____ Final Question Score = _____ (Total Points Scored) / _____ (Total Points Possible)



**School of Allied Health and Life Sciences - Master of Public Health
MPH COMPREHENSIVE EXAM: GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND EVALUATION GUIDELINES**

PROFICIENCY RANGE: Distinguished, Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor, Fail

Environmental Health Core Competencies		APPLICABLE TO QUESTION	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	BELOW EXPECTATIONS	BELOW EXPECTATIONS	DID NOT ANSWER QUESTION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DISTG 95-100	EXC 85-94	GOOD 70-84	FAIR 31-69	POOR 0-30	FAIL 0
C1	Describe the direct and indirect human, ecological and safety effects of major environmental and occupational agents.							
C2	Describe genetic, physiologic and psychosocial factors that affect susceptibility to adverse health outcomes following exposure to environmental hazards.							
C3	Describe federal and state regulatory programs, guidelines and authorities that control environmental health issues.							
C4	Specify current environmental risk assessment methods.							
C5	Specify approaches for assessing, preventing and controlling environmental hazards that pose risks to human health and safety.							
C6	Explain the general mechanisms of toxicity in eliciting a toxic response to various environmental exposures.							
C7	Discuss various risk management and risk communication approaches in relation to issues of environmental justice and equity.							
C8	Develop a testable model of environmental insult.							

_____ # Competencies applicable to this question

_____ Total Points Possible = _____ (# Competencies applicable to this question) x 100

_____ Total Points Scored = _____ (add total points scored from lines above with)

FINAL SCORING:

_____ Final Question Score = _____ (Total Points Scored) / _____ (Total Points Possible)



**School of Allied Health and Life Sciences - Master of Public Health
MPH COMPREHENSIVE EXAM: GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND EVALUATION GUIDELINES**

PROFICIENCY RANGE: Distinguished, Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor, Fail

Social and Behavioral Sciences Core Competencies		APPLICABLE TO QUESTION	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	BELOW EXPECTATIONS	BELOW EXPECTATIONS	DID NOT ANSWER QUESTION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DISTG 95-100	EXC 85-94	GOOD 70-84	FAIR 31-69	POOR 0-30	FAIL 0
C1	Identify basic theories, concepts and models from a range of social and behavioral disciplines that are used in public health research and practice.							
C2	Identify the causes of social and behavioral factors that affect health of individuals and populations.							
C3	Identify individual, organizational and community concerns, assets, resources and deficits for social and behavioral science interventions.							
C4	Identify critical stakeholders for the planning, implementation and evaluation of public health programs, policies and interventions.							
C5	Describe steps and procedures for the planning, implementation and evaluation of public health programs, policies and interventions.							
C6	Describe the role of social and community factors in both the onset and solution of public health problems.							
C7	Describe the merits of social and behavioral science interventions and policies.							
C8	Apply evidence-based approaches in the development and evaluation of social and behavioral science interventions.							
C9	Apply ethical principles to public health program planning, implementation and evaluation.							
C10	Specify multiple targets and levels of intervention for social and behavioral science programs and/or policies.							

_____ # Competencies applicable to this question []

_____ Total Points Possible = _____ (# Competencies applicable to this question) x 100

_____ Total Points Scored = _____ (add total points scored from lines above with)

FINAL SCORING:

_____ Final Question Score = _____ (Total Points Scored) / _____ (Total Points Possible)



**School of Allied Health and Life Sciences - Master of Public Health
MPH COMPREHENSIVE EXAM: GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND EVALUATION GUIDELINES**

PROFICIENCY RANGE: Distinguished, Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor, Fail

<div style="background-color: #0000FF; color: #FFFF00; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Healthcare Policy and Administration Core Competencies </div>		APPLICABLE TO QUESTION	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	BELOW EXPECTATIONS	BELOW EXPECTATIONS	DID NOT ANSWER QUESTION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DISTG 95-100	EXC 85-94	GOOD 70-84	FAIR 31-69	POOR 0-30	FAIL 0
C1	Identify the main components and issues of the organization, financing and delivery of health services and public health systems in the US.							
C2	Describe the legal and ethical bases for public health and health services.							
C3	Explain methods of ensuring community health safety and preparedness.							
C4	Discuss the policy process for improving the health status of populations.							
C5	Apply the principles of program planning, development, budgeting, management and evaluation in organizational and community initiatives.							
C6	Apply principles of strategic planning and marketing to public health.							
C7	Apply quality and performance improvement concepts to address organizational performance issues.							
C8	Apply "systems thinking" for resolving organizational problems.							
C9	Communicate health policy and management issues using appropriate channels and technologies.							
C10	Demonstrate leadership skills for building partnerships.							

_____ # Competencies applicable to this question

_____ Total Points Possible = _____ (# Competencies applicable to this question) x 100

_____ Total Points Scored = _____ (add total points scored from lines above with)

FINAL SCORING:

_____ Final Question Score = _____ (Total Points Scored) / _____ (Total Points Possible)



**School of Allied Health and Life Sciences - Master of Public Health
MPH COMPREHENSIVE EXAM: GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND EVALUATION GUIDELINES**

PROFICIENCY RANGE: Distinguished, Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor, Fail

Biostatistics Core Competencies		APPLICABLE TO QUESTION	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	BELOW EXPECTATIONS	BELOW EXPECTATIONS	DID NOT ANSWER QUESTION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DISTG 95-100	EXC 85-94	GOOD 70-84	FAIR 31-69	POOR 0-30	FAIL 0
C1	Describe the roles biostatistics serves in the discipline of public health.							
C2	Describe basic concepts of probability, random variation and commonly used statistical probability distributions.							
C3	Describe preferred methodological alternatives to commonly used statistical methods when assumptions are not met.							
C4	Distinguish among the different measurement scales and the implications for selection of statistical methods to be used based on these distinctions.							
C5	Apply descriptive techniques commonly used to summarize public health data.							
C6	Apply common statistical methods for inference.							
C7	Apply descriptive and inferential methodologies according to the type of study design for answering a particular research question.							
C8	Apply basic informatics techniques with vital statistics and public health records in the description of public health characteristics and in public health research and evaluation.							
C9	Interpret results of statistical analyses found in public health studies.							
C10	Develop written and oral presentations based on statistical analyses for both public health professionals and educated lay audiences.							

_____ # Competencies applicable to this question

_____ Total Points Possible = _____ (# Competencies applicable to this question) x 100

_____ Total Points Scored = _____ (add total points scored from lines above with)

FINAL SCORING:

_____ Final Question Score = _____ (Total Points Scored) / _____ (Total Points Possible)