FA14 & SP15 SPH B698: MPH Culminating Experience

Behavioral, Social and Community Health Concentration

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Office Hours by appointment. Please use CANVAS to make an appointment.

Culminating Experience Faculty by Concentration
Biostatistics – Dr. Zhongxue Chen
Behavioral, Social and Community Health – Dr. Susan Middlestadt
Environmental Health – Dr. Barbara Hocevar
Epidemiology – Dr. M. Aaron Sayegh (Culminating Experience Coordinator)
Family Health – Dr. Jonathon Beckmeyer
Physical Activity – Dr. Jeanne Johnston
Professional Health Education – Dr. Nancy Ellis
Public Health Administration – Dr. Michael Hendryx

Prerequisite Courses
Students must be in their final years of the MPH program to enroll in the FA14 698 courses. Specifically, students must complete all core and required courses for the MPH degree by the end of the FA14 semester of the 2014-2015 academic year to register for the 698 courses. Enrollment in the Spring 698 course requires successful completion (passing grade) of the FA14 698 course. During their final years of the MPH program, students must enroll in the appropriate section of 698 for 1 credit for the FA14 semester and enroll in the appropriate section of 698 for 1 credit for the SP15 semester.

Course Description
The Culminating Experience (B698) requires that students to synthesize and to integrate knowledge acquired in coursework and other learning experiences; and to apply theory and principles to situations that approximate aspects of Public Health professional practice.

Methods of Instruction, Teaching, and Learning
The Culminating Experience relies on a variety of instructional methods, including lectures, discussions, small-group work, peer-feedback, and self-reflection. The faculty members of the 698 courses will provide students with coaching and teaching in regards to the 698 assignments. Students should consult with any and/or all 698 faculty members throughout their participation in Culminating Experience courses. The Culminating Experience Coordinator (FA14 and SP15 698) and/or concentration-specific faculty member will post readings and review materials on the 698 workspace in CANVAS and/or on the specific 698-section CANVAS website.
Recommended Texts
We recommend that students refer to and use the textbooks and materials used throughout the MPH program to complete the Culminating Experience. The books and materials used in the core courses can help with your competency portfolio and those used in the concentration courses can complete the Synthesis Project. As a general writing reference, students might want to consult Greene, L. (2010). Writing in the Life Sciences: A Critical Thinking Approach. Oxford University Press: New York. ISBN978-0-19-517046-7.

Learning Objectives
Students demonstrate their mastery of the body of knowledge acquired from MPH program coursework and demonstrate proficiency in the required Public Health core competencies through the application of theory and principles to situations that approximate the “real world” of Public Health practice. The assignments required of the Culminating Experience contribute to competency demonstration. By the end of the 698 courses, students should be able to demonstrate the attainment of the PH core and concentration-specific competencies through the development of concentration-specific synthesis projects and core competency portfolios.

Learning Assessment
The evaluation of student performance for the Culminating Experience course relies on three assignments:
1. Synthesis Project – for concentration specific competencies
2. Poster Presentation of Synthesis Project – for concentration-specific competencies
3. MPH Competency Portfolio – for MPH Core competencies

Required Course Meetings
Students meet as the full MPH cohort and as concentration-specific cohorts during the FA14 semester of the Culminating Experience course. During the SP15 semester, students meet two times as the full MPH cohort. The full MPH cohort meetings will convene on specified Fridays (below) in 347 Ballantine Hall, 11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. The dates of the full MPH cohort meetings are:

Fall 2014
- Friday, August 29, 2014 – Introduction and Overview
- Friday, September 19, 2014 – MPH Portfolio
- Friday, November 14, 2014 – Portfolio Revisions and Resubmits

Spring 2015
- Spring webinar session- Friday, March 27, 2015: 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. EST
- Synthesis Project Poster Session- Friday, April 24, 2015: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (location TBD)

Behavioral, social and community health concentration-specific meetings will be set by Dr. Middlestadt, as the concentration-specific faculty. Fall, 2014 these meeting will be held on the Fridays listed below at the dates and times below. The meetings will be held in 104 Woodburn Hall and will primarily focus on the synthesis project.

Fall 2014
- 11:45 to 1:45, Friday, September 05, 2014
- 11:45 to 1:45, Friday, October 03, 2014
- 11:45 OR 12:15 to 1:45, Friday, October 17, 2014 (Start time to be determined later)
- 11:45 OR 12:15 to 1:45, Friday, November 21, 2014 (Start time to be determined later)

CANVAS for Communication about the Course
We will be using CANVAS to communicate about the course. All students are required to log into CANVAS at least once day to check for messages and announcements about the course.

I will set up appointments for my office hours over CANVAS. Please get acquainted with CANVAS so you are comfortable with communicating with me and with submitting assignments.
Required Course Assignments
**Late assignments will NOT be accepted**

Fall Semester 2014:
• Synthesis Project Plan (Friday, September 26, 2014)
• MPH Competency Portfolio (Friday, October 31, 2014)
• MPH Competency Portfolio: Revisions and Resubmits (Friday, November 21, 2014)
• Synthesis Project Introduction and Initial Sections (Friday, December 05, 2014)

Spring Semester 2015:
• Final Synthesis Project (Friday, April 3, 2015)
• Synthesis Poster Presentation Session (Friday, April 24, 2015)

Description of Assignments/Learning Assessments

Synthesis Project
Each student will develop an intervention design project to serve as focal point for the synthesis of their concentration-specific competencies. The student choses the topic of the Synthesis Project choice in consultation with the concentration-specific faculty member, here, Dr. Middlestadt in her capacity as the Behavioral, Social, and Community Health concentration faculty member. Portions of the synthesis are due throughout the academic year in order to help students plan for and remain focused on the final Synthesis Project. The Synthesis Project is a demonstration of a student’s mastery of his/her concentration-specific competencies, here, MPH competencies for Behavioral, Social and Community Health. To complete the MPH program, BSCH students must synthesize their understandings of the BSCH competencies and apply what they have learned to public health issues. Dr. Middlestadt in her capacity of instructor for B698 must approve Synthesis Project proposals.

Behavioral, Social and Community Health Synthesis Project
A complete description of the Synthesis Project along with detail on the steps in completing the project and the rubrics for grading the project will be distributed in class. Briefly, the student will be expected to synthesize and integrate competencies attained during their MPH program by outlining a community health scenario (Part One – Scenario) and describing how an intervention might be designed for this scenario (Part Two – Design Process). The project will be completed with four steps. The steps will be run through TurnitIn and be uploaded to Canvas.

Synthesis Topic(complete/incomplete with comments)
Students will submit a statement of their proposed topic for their Synthesis Project. The synthesis project can be seen as a proposal for how an intervention would be designed to address a health issue in a selected community by the student in their role in an agency in that community. This statement will outline: the chosen community; the chosen agency and role; the selected health issue; the proposed priority group to be the focus of the intervention; and the proposed behavior to be addressed by the intervention.

Synthesis Project Detailed Plan (complete/incomplete with comments)
Students will submit detailed plans for the completion of the Synthesis Project. The detailed plans should consist of two documents set up following the format and specifications for the final project. At a minimum, the plan must contain:

Document 1(Main Text)
• Title page
• Draft version of Part One (Scenario) with beginning statements for each of seven points: community, setting and context; agency and role in agency; scope and importance of health issue; selected priority group; selected behavior; evidence on determinants of behavior; and evidence on existing interventions;
• Beginning of Part Two (Design Process) with a preliminary description of the proposed intervention to be designed and an outline with how the 11 questions or competencies will be addressed during the design process;
• Draft reference list with references from the text and evidence table

Document 2 (Appendix)
• Drafts of five evidence tables with at least one article in each of the tables: each table will summarize research that supports the decisions in Part One for health issue, priority group, behavior, determinants, and existing intervention
Synthesis Project Introduction and Initial Sections (graded)
By the end of the FA14 semester, students will submit the initial sections of their Synthesis Projects for evaluation by concentration-specific faculty. These initial sections demonstrate student progress on the Synthesis Projects and their readiness to continue as part of the B698 cohort for the SP15 semester. We hope that the student will have made sufficient process during the Fall semester so that he or she can complete the rest of the project on their own and at a distance. Students who do NOT pass this assignment will get an Incomplete in B698 for the Fall and be expected to submit a revised version early in the Spring semester. At this step, the synthesis project will follow the specifications for the final project and will consist of:

Document 1
- Title page
- Almost final version of Part One (Scenario)
- Revised description of Intervention at the beginning of Part Two (Design Process)
- Solid draft of the reference list in APA style
- Complete outline of the 11 questions/competences for Part Two
- Drafts of three sections from these 11 competencies
- Almost final reference list

Document 2
- Almost final evidence tables
- Drafts of additional material

Synthesis Project (Due Friday, April 3, 2015 and graded)
The complete final synthesis project will be submitted. It will consist of two documents: a text document with 10 single-spaced pages of Times New Roman 12 font with 1” margins all around (title page and reference list not included in 10 page limit) and an appendix document in Times New Roman smaller font and smaller margins as needed for the evidence tables and other additional documents. Documents that do not follow this format will NOT be accepted.

Poster Presentation Session of Synthesis Project (Due Friday, April 24, 2015)
Students will present posters summarizing their Synthesis Projects for review by MPH faculty and students on the morning of Friday, April 24, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., in Location TBA. We will discuss the preparation of the posters and their evaluations during the SP15 semester.

Presentations should include project description with outcomes, competencies addressed and evidence of synthesis across concentration competencies. It is recommended that the poster consist of four sections: scenario; proposed intervention; design process with sample competencies addressed; and graphic or visuals of some sort. Evaluation criteria of the poster include the following: Evidence of concentration competency; Mastery of public health skills and knowledge; Presentation quality

Poster Competition: Students will also have the opportunity to submit their posters for award consideration. Students must submit their posters for the awards competition to Dr. Susan E. Middlestadt via Canvas on Monday April 20, 2015 by 12:00 PM (Noon). Details about the poster competition will be available via Canvas as the poster presentation session approaches.

MPH Competency Portfolio (Due Friday, October 31, 2014)
Throughout the MPH program, students will gather and document evidences of attainment of core MPH competencies. During the Culminating Experience, every student will submit an MPH Competency Portfolio that provides evidence of core MPH competency attainment. Details about the MPH Portfolio are the topic of discussion during the full MPH cohort meeting on Friday, September 19, 2014, and with subsequent discussion in the concentration-specific cohort meetings. Evaluation of the MPH Portfolio relies on the student’s ability to articulate the meaning of the competency, the selection, provide a “real-world” example, and describe the evidences of attainment. See Canvas for MPH Core Competencies.
Required elements include:
1. MPH Core Competencies Summary
   ○ Format: 1 page single spaced text uploads through Canvas for each MPH Core Competency
Course Grading
Evidence of attainment of core and concentration-specific competencies will earn students passing marks for the class. Students who have not sufficiently demonstrated mastery of core and/or concentration-specific competencies will receive incompletes (i.e. “I”). Students receiving incompletes must respond to the concentration-specific faculty member with a negotiated time to assure completion of course requirements. Per university policy, those students who do not complete the requirements within the negotiated time will fail (i.e. receive “F’s”) for the FA14 semester of the 698 course, and therefore will not be able to register/enroll in the SP15 698 course. Failure to complete the SP15 698 course precludes the graduation from the MPH program.

Abbreviated Calendar

Fall, 2014
August 29  Full cohort meeting
September 5  Concentration-specific meeting (Bring topic)
September 19  Full cohort meeting (discuss competency portfolio)
September 26  Synthesis Project Plan due
October 3  Concentration-specific meeting
October 17  Concentration-specific meeting
October 31  MPH Competency Portfolio due
November 14  Full cohort meeting
November 21  Concentration-specific meeting
November 21 Revised MPH Competency Portfolio due
December 5  Synthesis Project Introduction and Initial Sections due

Spring, 2015
March 27  Poster webinar
April 3  Final Synthesis Project due
April 20  Submission of poster for poster competition
April 24  Poster presentation session

Academic Integrity
We are part of an academic community that values both personal and academic integrity. The Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct defines academic and personal misconduct by students and specifies the procedures to deal with such situations (see http://www.iu.edu/~code/code/index.shtm). Additional information about academic integrity will be available on the course website for review. All students should review and understand the Indiana University policy and strive toward academic integrity throughout their studies. The IU SPH-Bloomington has no tolerance for violations and no warnings because, at this stage of the graduate program, students should know how to write with academic integrity. Papers submitted with evidence of plagiarism will receive a failing mark of “0” points, and Dr. Sayegh and related faculty members will proceed with the appropriate communications at university level. Students must submit all written assignments via TurnitIn for originality confirmation.

Proper Citation and Referencing
Students should document ALL assignments are expected to be properly with references from the professional literature (e.g., books, journal articles, web-based documents, etc.) using the concentration approved reference style (e.g. AMA or APA). Any papers submitted without proper documentation and referencing will automatically receive an F mark of “0” points. All papers must contain proper citations within the texts as well as a properly formatted reference lists. Students must submit the assignments via the CANVAS drop boxes.

Course Evaluation
The policy of the IU School of Public Health- Bloomington is to evaluate all its courses. We will conduct final student course evaluations in a manner that maintains the integrity of the process and the anonymity of evaluators. Evaluation of the Culminating Experience relies on a form developed specifically developed to capture the unique structure of the course.

Students with Special Needs
Any student with a special need (e.g. vision impairment, hearing impairment, dyslexia, etc.) should discuss this privately with Dr. Sayegh and the concentration-specific faculty member during the first weeks of the FA14 and SP15 semesters in SPH B698 MPH Culminating Experience Fall 2014-Spring 2015
order to ensure reasonable accommodations. The Office of Disability Student Services is an excellent resource. The following is the contact information for this office:

Disability Services for Students,
Franklin Hall Room 006,
601 East Kirkwood Ave.
(812) 855-7578
www.dsa.indiana.edu

**Religious Observation**
In accordance with the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs, any student who wishes to receive an excused absence from class must submit an Accommodation Request form available from the Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs for each religious observation. The student must present this form to Dr. Sayegh and the concentration-specific faculty member by the end of the second weeks of the FA14 and SP15 semesters. Dr. Sayegh and/or the concentration-specific faculty member professor must sign the form, make a copy of the form, and return the original to the student. Students may find more information about the policy on religious observation and the request form at the following website: [http://www.indiana.edu/~vpfaa/holidays.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~vpfaa/holidays.shtml).

**Official Calendar- Bloomington Campus**
For information regarding the official Bloomington campus calendar, go to the following URL: [http://registrar.indiana.edu/offcalen.shtml](http://registrar.indiana.edu/offcalen.shtml).