

# Public Health 101

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# PUBLIC HEALTH 101

AN UNDERSTANDING OF PUBLIC  
HEALTH IS NECESSARY FOR AN  
EDUCATED CITIZENRY AND A  
HEALTHY SOCIETY

# PUBLIC HEALTH HAS ENORMOUS INTELLECTUAL VALUE IN THAT

- The study of public health involves critical thinking and decision making
- It gives students a methodology for understanding populations
- Population-scale thinking relies on multiple disciplines, thus exposing students to ongoing health care and policy matters while gaining an appreciation of the depth and breadth of public health

RECENTLY, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES HAVE DEVELOPED COURSES IN PUBLIC HEALTH TO EXPOSE STUDENTS TO CORE TOPICS (E.G. BIostatistics, EPIDEMIOLOGY, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH, ETHICS, ETC.)

Not every survey course covers all topics, but it does give students an overview of public health and puts public health within a context of population-based concerns.

THE GOAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH 101 IS TO  
HAVE STUDENTS LEARN THE VOCABULARY  
OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND GAIN AN  
APPRECIATION OF THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH  
BY FOCUSING ON THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY  
AND ECOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH.

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## RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH 101 WORKING GROUP

Public Health 101 is best taught as a survey course. It should be expansive. Goal is to:

- Introduce topics in P.H., not study in depth
- Excite students about the field
- Be team taught or taught with guest speakers
- Give Lead teacher a critical role in teaching and coordination and linking P.H. to everyday life

Multiple Methods can be used to teach P.H. 101 to increase core knowledge and vocabulary of P.H. and address LEAP Outcomes through:

- Case Studies
- Novels, plays, and biographies
- Films
- Current events
- Field trips
- Debates and press conferences

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In colleges and universities that do not have schools or programs in P.H., the content of the course will depend on the structure in which it is housed.



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The course should have a population perspective and provide ecologic understanding of disease causation and prevention and include the following:

- An historical perspective on the contributions and roles of public health
- An introduction to epidemiologic and biostatistics principles
- A discussion of determinants of health from a global perspective
- An introduction to selected tools of disease control and health promotion
- Questions of health care delivery addressed from a population perspective

# PUBLIC HEALTH 101

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

- P.H. 101 might fulfill general education requirements (social science)
- Taken in parallel with Epidemiology 101 the course will give students a broad-based knowledge of public health

## LEARNING OUTCOMES (Cont'd)

- P.H. 101 students should be able to:
  - Identify eras in the historical development of P.H.
  - Illustrate the interdisciplinary, cross-cutting character of P.H.
  - Explain how P.H. assesses the options for intervention to improve health
  - Explain the basic principles of epidemiology

## LEARNING OUTCOMES (Cont'd)

- Explain how P.H. can utilize health information and health communication
- Discuss how P.H. can utilize social and behavioral interventions
- Discuss how P.H. can utilize health policy and law to improve health of populations
- Discuss the impact of environmental and communicable diseases on the health of populations

## LEARNING OUTCOMES (Cont'd)

- Discuss the burden of chronic diseases on morbidity and mortality and approaches to prevention and early detection
- Describe the basic organization of health care and public health systems and contributions of health professionals
- Identify the basic payment mechanisms for providing health services

# LEARNING OUTCOMES (Cont'd)

- Describe criteria for evaluating health systems
- Discuss the roles of P.H. in addressing needs of vulnerable populations and health disparities
- Discuss the roles of P.H. in disaster prevention and management

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## WORK GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

- CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK MAY VARY
- AN INTERNET SITE SHOULD BE SET UP TO PROVIDE INSTITUTIONS AND INSTRUCTORS WITH MATERIAL TO ASSIST THEM IN DESIGNING P.H. 101

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BE CREATIVE!!!!!!