

**National Board of Public Health Examiners
Certified in Public Health (CPH) Facts**



Board Facts:

The National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE) was established in September 2005 to ensure that students and graduates from schools and programs of public health accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) have mastered the knowledge and skills relevant to contemporary public health. It does this by administering a certification exam and overseeing a maintenance of certification program. All students at and graduates from CEPH-accredited schools and programs are eligible to apply for the credential. The NBPHE contracts with the National Board of Medical Examiners® (NBME®) for exam design, preparation, administration, scoring and reporting. The NBPHE includes designated representatives from APHA (2), APTR (2), ASPH (6), ASTHO (1), and NACCHO (1), and at-large members. A full list of the NBPHE board of directors and member organizations is available at www.publichealthexam.org/about.cfm

Eligibility criteria for the 2012 CPH exam:

1. Public health alumni from a school or program accredited by CEPH (completed all requirements for graduation by December 31, 2011)
2. Public health students at a school or program accredited by CEPH (completed or be concurrently enrolled in 21 academic hours, including applicable core courses in Biostatistics, Environmental Health Sciences, Epidemiology, Health Services/Policy Management, and Social and Behavioral Sciences, by December 31, 2011)

The NBPHE automatically verifies the eligibility of all candidates. Deferrals and retakes are allowed.

Registration deadlines and fees:

Registration for all candidates must be completed online at www.publichealthexam.org. The registration system automatically calculates the appropriate registration fee.

Automatic self-registration online is not complete until full payment is made. The registration system accepts payment by check, money order, or credit card. All individual payments must be received by the NBPHE by midnight, EST on 11/30/11.

For candidates registering from an institution participating in the bulk discount for 2012, individual refund checks will be issued after registration closes on Nov 30, 2011. The refunded amount will be the difference between the rate at time of registration and the discount rate.

Registration Deadline	Student Fee	Alumni Fee
November 15, 2011	\$425 USD	\$475 USD
November 30, 2011	\$450 USD	\$550 USD

2012 Exam Administration:

- The exam is offered over a three-week period in February 2012 at Prometric testing sites across the U.S. and around the world.
- Registrants choose their preferred test date and site after completing registration and upon notice that their Scheduling Permit is available.
- Candidates may take the CPH exam any day between February 3 – 27, 2012, based on test site availability.
- The February 2012 exam is the only CPH exam scheduled for 2012.

Score data and official award of CPH:

- Score reports will be available at the earliest in mid-April 2012.
- Student examinees will receive a provisional score report comparing their performance with the NBPHE passing standard for certification. Successful student examinees will not be officially recognized as CPH until the NBPHE has verified that all requirements for graduation have been met.
- Alumni examinees will receive a score report with the NBPHE certification decision.
- All Deans and Directors will receive an individual score report for each student and an aggregate score report for 10+ students.
- All Deans and Directors will receive an aggregate score report for 10+ alumni who complete the 2012 exam; the report contains information on their graduates' relative scores in the discipline and core competency areas.

CPH Exam Successes to-Date

To-date, more than 3,500 people have registered to become CPH.

The exam consists of 200 multiple choice questions covering the core domains of public health (biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental health, the social and behavioral sciences, and health policy and management) and the cross-cutting competency domains articulated by the ASPH Masters of Public Health competencies (public health biology, leadership, communications, diversity and culture, professionalism, program planning and systems thinking). The NBPHE collaborates with the NBME to train item writers from diverse public health disciplines and backgrounds and to administer the exam. The item bank is refreshed annually.

CPH professionals commit to their life-long learning and ongoing currency in public health by maintaining their CPH status. Maintenance of CPH Certification requires 50 hours of CPH continuing education to be reported every 2 years. The NBPHE is soliciting pre-providers to offer CPH continuing education. A possible re-assessment experience is still being discussed.

CPH Examination Summary Statistics

	Item Deletions	Mean Item Difficulty (P Value)	Mean Item Discrimination Index	Reliability Coefficient KR ₂₀	Overall Pass Rate
2008	19	.68	.31	.91	84%
2009	15	.66	.34	.93	74%
2010	9	.67	.30	.90	88%
2011	12	.65	.29	.90	86%

Motivations for CPH:

Individuals are motivated to earn the CPH as it is proof of their willingness to stay ahead of new developments and their readiness as a member of the public health workforce. Through a two-part process (the initial CPH exam and maintenance of certification program), the certification acknowledges not only an individual's current understanding of public health knowledge, but also his or her commitment to staying current on the science and ever-changing advancements in the field of public health. Since the certification requires a person to continuously earn continuing education credits throughout his or her career, it picks up where school leaves off.

Support for CPH:

The CPH is an invaluable tool for public health employers as it assesses an employee's baseline knowledge of public health and assures the applicant will continue to be on the cutting edge. In addition to recognizing the CPH credential in new hires, employers can easily incorporate the CPH into their training programs or educational benefits. The CPH is an essential asset to public health employers. It ensures employees' readiness to respond to an ever-changing public health environment. The NBPHE has worked closely with partner organizations including APHA, APTR, ASPH, ASTHO and NACCHO to develop the CPH process so it reflects the public health workforce and the needs of employers.

In order to give their students an edge in the job market, deans and program directors actively promote the exam among their graduates and alumni.

Registration is easy, simply go to www.publichealthexam.org and follow the directions. Also on this site is information about the NBPHE, frequently asked questions, and other useful links.