

**2.11 Academic Degrees. If the school also offers curricula for academic degrees, students pursuing them shall obtain a broad introduction to public health, as well as an understanding about how their discipline-based specialization contributes to achieving the goals of public health.**

### **Required Documentation**

**2.11.a Identification of all academic degree programs, by degree and area of specialization. The instructional matrix in Criterion 2.1.a may be referenced for this purpose.**

The academic degree programs, listed in the Instructional Matrix, Table 2.1.a.1, are the Master of Science (MS) in Biostatistics, MS in Epidemiology and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees in Biostatistics, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Epidemiology, Health Services Research, Psychology, Public Health (with concentrations in Environmental and Global Health, One Health, and Social and Behavioral Sciences), and Rehabilitation Science.

**2.11.b Identification of the means by which the school assures that students in academic curricula acquire a public health orientation. If this means is common across the school, it need be described only once. If it varies by degree or program area, sufficient information must be provided to assess compliance by each.**

There are two approaches the College uses to assure a public health orientation among students in academic programs:

1. Completion of the five MPH core courses or
2. Completion of Principles of Epidemiology and Introduction to Public Health.

The three concentrations of the PhD in Public Health require all students to take the five core MPH courses.

The remaining MS and PhD programs in the College require PHC 6001 Principles of Epidemiology, which is the MPH core course in Epidemiology, and PHC 6937 Introduction to Public Health. Introduction to Public Health is a three-credit course designed for students in other professional and academic (MS and PhD) programs in the College of Public Health and Health Professions who do not have prior public health training. The purpose of the course is to provide a broad introduction to public health as well as an understanding about how each student's specialization contributes to achieving the goals of public health. The course is provided entirely online using voice-over PowerPoint presentations in a self-paced format. The course requires 48 contact hours and may be taken at any time during a student's program of study. Course content, depth and level of difficulty are equivalent to three graduate credits at the University of Florida. Students may choose to take the course for academic credit (three credits) or as a non-credit requirement. Access to the course, enrollment and completion data are maintained by the Public Health Programs office in the Dean's Office. The course syllabus is in the Resource File.

**2.11.c Identification of the culminating experience required for each academic degree program. If this means is common across the school, it need be described only once. If it varies by degree or program area, sufficient information must be provided to assess compliance by each.**

The MS in Biostatistics requires a master's report, based on a significant and independent analysis, as the culminating experience for the program. The culminating experience of the MS in Epidemiology is a thesis that demonstrates independence and a high level of skill in epidemiological research. For PhD programs, the culminating experience is a written dissertation with an oral defense. The Psychology PhD also requires a one-year internship after completion of the dissertation.

**2.11.d Assessment of the extent to which this criterion is met and an analysis of the school's strengths, weaknesses and plans relating to this criterion.**

This criterion is met.

**Strengths:**

1. All academic degree programs in the College have curricular requirements in public health.
2. Public Health PhD students take the five MPH core courses.
3. All other MS and PhD students are required to take PHC 6001 Principles of Epidemiology and PHC 6937 Introduction to Public Health.
4. All academic programs require a culminating experience that demonstrates integration of research knowledge and skill.

**Weaknesses:**

1. None identified

**Plans:**

1. Continue to require PHC 6001 Principles of Epidemiology and PHC 6937 Introduction to Public Health of students in academic programs, except the Public Health PhD students who take all five MPH core courses.
2. Continue to offer these courses in easily accessible modes of delivery.