Masters of Science in Public Health (M.S. P.H.) Competencies

Upon graduation, a student with an M.S.P.H. should be able to do the following:

A. Access and understanding of relevant research studies
   1. Retrieve and synthesize scientific literature relevant to the social and behavioral aspects of health.
   2. Apply basic theories, concepts and models from a range of social and behavioral disciplines to public health research.
   3. Demonstrate familiarity with existing data bases, registries, and other sources of public health information for use in research studies.

B. Design and implementation of research studies
   1. Formulate a research question.
   2. Identify a target population.
   3. Develop an appropriate design to address the research question and determine its feasibility within the target population.
   4. Describe the sources of data and the methods necessary for gathering the data.
   5. Design a data analysis plan.

C. Analysis and dissemination of research findings
   1. Use computer systems and analytic software packages.
   2. Conduct descriptive and hypotheses-testing analyses.
   3. Summarize the key findings in language appropriate for different target audiences and constituencies.

D. Community/cultural orientation
   1. Demonstrate cultural and linguistic knowledge and skills in the research process.

E. Ethical and confidentiality considerations
   2. Assess ethical considerations in research implementation, data analysis, and dissemination.
   3. Weigh risks, benefits, and unintended consequences of research.
   4. Understand the concepts of human subject protection and confidentiality.