

## 2.0 Instructional Program

**2.3 Public Health Core Knowledge. All graduate professional public health degree students must complete sufficient coursework to attain depth and breadth in the five core areas of public health knowledge.**

The areas of knowledge basic to public health include the following:

**Biostatistics** – collection, storage, retrieval, analysis and interpretation of health data; design and analysis of health-related surveys and experiments; and concepts and practice of statistical data analysis;

**Epidemiology** – distributions and determinants of disease, disabilities and death in human populations; the characteristics and dynamics of human populations; and the natural history of disease and the biologic basis of health;

**Environmental health sciences** – environmental factors including biological, physical and chemical factors that affect the health of a community;

**Health services administration** – planning, organization, administration, management, evaluation and policy analysis of health and public health programs; and

**Social and behavioral sciences** – concepts and methods of social and behavioral sciences relevant to the identification and solution of public health problems.

***Interpretation.** Concepts and competencies from these five areas must be integrated into all professional public health degree curricula, including those offered at the master's and doctoral levels. Programs may define the public health core requirements more broadly than this, depending on the mission of the program and the competencies it establishes for its graduates.*

*At a minimum, the five core areas constitute the intellectual framework through which public health professionals in all specializations approach problem solving.*

**Required Documentation.** The self-study document should include the following:

a. Identification of the means by which the program assures that all graduate professional public health degree students have fundamental competence in the areas of knowledge basic to public health. If this means is common across the program, it need be described only once. If it varies by degree or specialty area, sufficient information must be provided to assess compliance by each. See CEPH Data Template 2.3.1.

b. Assessment of the extent to which this criterion is met and an analysis of the program's strengths, weaknesses and plans relating to this criterion