

2.0 Instructional Program

2.8 Bachelor's Degrees in Public Health. If the program offers baccalaureate public health degrees, they shall include the following elements:

Required Coursework in Public Health Core Knowledge: students must complete courses that provide a basic understanding of the five core public health knowledge areas defined in Criterion 2.1, including one course that focuses on epidemiology. Collectively, this coursework should be at least the equivalent of 12 semester-credit hours.

Elective Public Health Coursework: in addition to the required public health core knowledge courses, students must complete additional public health-related courses. Public health-related courses may include those addressing social, economic, quantitative, geographic, educational and other issues that impact the health of populations and health disparities within and across populations.

Capstone Experience: students must complete an experience that provides opportunities to apply public health principles outside of a typical classroom setting and builds on public health coursework. This experience should be at least equivalent to three semester-credit hours or sufficient to satisfy the typical capstone requirement for a bachelor's degree at the parent university. The experience may be tailored to students' expected post-baccalaureate goals (e.g., graduate and/or professional school, entry-level employment), and a variety of experiences that meet university requirements may be appropriate. Acceptable capstone experiences might include one or more of the following: internship, service-learning project, senior seminar, portfolio project, research paper or honors thesis.

The required public health core coursework and capstone experience must be taught (in the case of coursework) and supervised (in the case of capstone experiences) by faculty documented in Criteria 4.1.a and 4.1.b.

***Interpretation.** A program shall have sufficient faculty expertise to support the development and implementation of public health bachelor's degree programs. This criterion does not define a minimum number of total credit hours that are required for the baccalaureate degree, but the number and structure of credit hours must be congruent with other baccalaureate degree programs in the institution. Programs should recognize that delivering public health bachelor's degree programs may require additional or specialized resources in areas such as advising and career counseling, as compared to graduate professional public health degrees.*

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

- a. Identification of all bachelor's-level majors offered by the program. The instructional matrix in Criterion 2.1.a. may be referenced for this purpose.
- b. Description of specific support and resources available in the program for the bachelor's degree programs.
- c. Identification of required and elective public health courses for the bachelor's degree(s).
Note: The program must demonstrate in Criterion 2.6.c that courses are connected to identified competencies (ie, required and elective public health courses must be listed in the competency matrix in Criterion 2.6.d).
- d. A description of program policies and procedures regarding the capstone experience.
- e. 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.