



### SPH 600-601 Integrated MPH Core Curriculum

Dr. Steve Becker, *Environmental Health Sciences*, Dr. Susan Davies, *Health Behavior*,  
Dr. Mary Hovinga, *Epidemiology*, Dr. Mary Ann Pass, *Maternal and Child Health*,  
Dr. Grier Page, *Biostatistics*, Dr. Donna Petersen, *Health Care Organization and Policy*

- Fall Semester: 9 credit hours Monday 9-11, Wednesday 9-12, Friday 9-11
- Module Topics: History of Public Health, Hanta virus, Tobacco, Polio
- Spring Semester: 6 credit hours Monday 9-11, Wednesday 9-12
- Module Topics: Lead, Breast Cancer, STD's/HIV, Injury Control, Food Safety, Disasters
- Monthly Public Health Grand Rounds featuring leading public health practitioners
- Weekly Skills-Building Lab Sessions led by graduate teaching assistants
- Weekly "Help" Session led by a PhD prepared

Instructor/Teaching Assistant

The integrated core curriculum covers all of the discipline-specific content that would be covered in separate courses in biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental health, the behavioral sciences, and health administration but does so in a way that demonstrates the application and integration of these disciplines in the analysis and resolution of public health problems in the community.

#### Skills Objectives:

Data analysis and interpretation  
Policy analysis and interpretation  
Ethical decision-making  
Risk assessment and risk communication  
Oral and written communication  
Program planning and administration  
Strategic planning

Students are assessed via four computerized quizzes (30% of the total grade), weekly lab sessions (30% of the total grade) and an in-class final exam (40% of the total grade) in each of the two semesters. Faculty and course content are assessed via computerized module evaluations (four per semester) and a written final evaluation of the course, in each of the two semesters.

The six faculty meet weekly to discuss course content, student performance, student evaluations of the modules, lab exercises, homeworks and testing; adjustments are made as necessary and appropriate. The lead instructor meets weekly with the 10 teaching assistants to debrief the previous week's lab, prepare for the current week's lab, and review any ideas, issues or concerns.

#### Benefits:

Higher quality instruction  
Coordination of material  
Elimination of redundancy  
Content learned in its application  
Greater respect for the disciplines

#### Challenges:

Opportunity costs (time) for faculty  
Loss of independence for individual faculty  
Potential loss of continuity within disciplines  
Heavy studying load for students  
Heavy investment in teaching assistants