

VCU MPH Program Goals and Objectives

Item	Evaluation measures	Data collection method for measure	Responsibility for review
I	Goal Statement		
	To ensure that students are ready to engage in public health learning and applied experiences, recruit an academically prepared student body.		
I.1.a	Proportion of applicants offered admission each year with grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher.	Application data from SOPHAS	MPH Assessment Committee
I.1.b	Proportion of applicants offered admission with prior academic degrees in public health/health sciences	Application data from SOPHAS	MPH Assessment Committee
I.1.c	Proportion of applicants offered admission with prior public health experience or health/basic sciences/social sciences research experience	Application data from SOPHAS	MPH Assessment Committee
I.2	Goal Statement		
	Monitor student progress throughout the Program to ensure academic success.		
I.2.a	Proportion of students assessed by faculty members teaching required courses as performing with satisfactory ability/competent in competencies applicable to the respective course, based on this scale: 0=cannot do this at all--inexperienced; 1=poor ability—struggling to do; 2=fair ability—skills need honing; 3= satisfactory ability—competent; 4=excellent ability—advanced	Rating forms for semi-annual program faculty review of student performance	MPH Assessment Committee
I.2.b	Proportion of students rated in semi-annual faculty reviews as competent or higher in the areas of: • Oral communication skills • Written communication skills • Knowledge of public health (demonstrated through course performance) • Problem-solving skills • Course performance—grades	Rating forms for semi-annual program faculty review of student performance	MPH Assessment Committee
I.2.c	Proportion of students who self-assess their performance on all Program competencies at a level of 3 or higher in their final assessment.	MPH Program student competency self-assessment instrument	MPH Assessment Committee
I.2.d	Proportion of students evaluated by internship supervisors for the Public Health Internship as performing at a level of satisfactory ability/competent (score of 3) on all applicable internship competencies	Public Health Internship Supervisor Student Assessment instrument	MPH Assessment Committee
I.2.e	Proportion of students evaluated by faculty advisor as performing at a level of satisfactory ability/competent (score of 3) on all competencies applicable to the MPH Capstone Project.	MPH Capstone Project Faculty Advisor Evaluation form	MPH Assessment Committee
I.2.f	Proportion of students earning grades of B or higher during the academic year	VCU eServices/DegreeWorks grade data	MPH Assessment Committee
I.3	Goal Statement		
	Train students to demonstrate an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate publications.		
I.3.a	Proportion of students earning a score of 6 or higher for familiarity with research literature and ability to assess and synthesize/summarize on faculty advisor Capstone Project evaluation form	MPH Capstone Project Faculty Advisor Evaluation form	MPH Assessment Committee
I.3.b	Proportion of students earning grades of B or higher in major end of semester projects in EPID 571 (research proposal) and EPID 548 (course research project/poster)	Faculty instructor response to request from MPH program administration	MPH Assessment Committee

I.4	Goal Statement Train students to demonstrate competence in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in public health practice or research, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop approaches or methods to solve these problems.		
I.4.a	Proportion of students earning grades of B or higher in the final comprehensive writing public health research or practice project assignments in EPID 548, EPID 571, HCPR 601, and SBHD 605.	Faculty instructor response to request from MPH program administration	MPH Assessment Committee
I.4.b	Proportion of students assessed as demonstrating a satisfactory or higher level of problem-solving by their Public Health Internship supervisor in end-of-semester student performance assessment (scale of exceptional, satisfactory, fair, poor)	Public Health Internship Supervisor Student Assessment instrument	MPH Assessment Committee
I.4.c	Proportion of students earning a score of 6 or higher on faculty advisor Capstone Project evaluation form—section 1, significance and rationale, and section 2, project originality	MPH Capstone Project Faculty Advisor Evaluation form	MPH Assessment Committee
I.5	Goal Statement: Ensure that students demonstrate oral communication skills necessary to convey information to diverse audiences in terms of content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids.		
I.5.a	Proportion of students earning grade of B or higher in final oral project assignments in EPID 547/548 and SBHD 605.	Faculty instructor response to request from MPH program administration	MPH Assessment Committee
I.6	Goal Statement: Monitor and assess teaching quality and efforts to improve faculty teaching effectiveness.		
I.6.a	Proportion of course evaluations with mean scores of 3.0 or higher for evaluation elements addressing teaching skills	Semester course evaluation summaries	MPH Assessment Committee; MPH Curriculum Committee
I.6.b	Proportion of course evaluations with mean scores of 3.0 or higher for evaluation of the item on an inclusive and open learning environment.	Semester course evaluation summaries	MPH Assessment Committee; MPH Curriculum Committee
I.6.c	Assessment of qualitative feedback from annual student focus groups on the issue of the program creating an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	MPH Student Focus Group summary	MPH Assessment Committee; MPH Curriculum Committee
I.6.d	Assessment of qualitative feedback from annual student focus groups on the issue of student perception of class size in terms of student learning experience	MPH Student Focus Group summary	MPH Assessment Committee; MPH Curriculum Committee
I.6.e	Proportion of MPH exit survey responses of "agree" or "strongly agree" on the item, "Faculty advisor was accessible to me"	MPH Exit Survey summary	MPH Assessment Committee; MPH Curriculum Committee
I.6.f	Assessment of qualitative feedback from annual student focus groups on the issue of faculty availability (both instructors and advisors)	MPH Student Focus Group summary	MPH Assessment Committee; MPH Curriculum Committee
I.6.g	Count and proportion of courses involving community-based practitioners as guest lecturers or panelists and number of guest lecturers/panelists per course	Course syllabi with instructor follow up (as needed) by MPH program administration	MPH Assessment Committee; MPH Curriculum Committee
I.6.h	Proportion of MPH exit survey responses of "agree" or "strongly agree" on the item, "I would highly recommend the VCU MPH program to other prospective students interested in public health.	MPH Exit Survey summary	MPH Assessment Committee; MPH Curriculum Committee
I.6.i	Proportion of program faculty attending teaching professional development sessions each year and mean of teaching development sessions attended among program faculty.	Data extracted from faculty FARES System (annual performance evaluation system)	MPH Assessment Committee; MPH Curriculum Committee
I.7	Goal statement: Incorporate learner-centered classroom experiences across the MPH curriculum.		

I.7.a	Student assessment of appropriateness of active learning on course evaluations	Semester course evaluation summaries	MPH Assessment Committee; MPH Curriculum Committee
I.7.b	Count and proportion of courses involving active-learning techniques, including a list of techniques employed per course	Course syllabi with instructor follow up (as needed) by MPH program administratiaon	MPH Assessment Committee; MPH Curriculum Committee
I.8	Goal statement: The program will prepare students for career placement in their chosen employment or further training areas of public health.		
I.8.a	Proportion of students employed or engaged in further graduate or professional training within 6 months of graduation	MPH Exit Survey, Student communication with program, MPH Alumni Survey	MPH Assessment Committee
I.8.b	Proportion of alumni survey respondents responding "yes" and "somewhat" to the question, "Did the MPH program training adequately prepare you for your job responsibilities?"	MPH Alumni Survey	MPH Assessment Committee
II	SERVICE		
II.1	Goal statement: MPH program faculty contribute to the greater community through service to public health agencies, organizations, and community-based groups.		
II.1.a	Count and proportion of faculty participating in extramural service activities, with description of each service activity	Director of Educational Programs	MPH Assessment Committee
II.2	Goal statement: MPH program faculty encourage student involvement in community service and lead by example by incorporating extramural service examples or activities in classroom instruction.		
II.2.a	Count and description of faculty extramural service activities integrated into instruction of students	Director of Educational Programs	MPH Assessment Committee
II.2.b	List of opportunities for students to be involved in faculty extramural service with number of students participating in each service opporutunity	Director of Educational Programs	MPH Assessment Committee
II.3	Goal statement: MPH students contribute to the greater community by participating in and organizing service to public health agencies, organizations, and community-based groups.		
II.3.a	Count and description of professional and community service opportunities in which MPH students participate each year	Director of Educational Programs	MPH Assessment Committee
II.3.b	Count and description of MPH program student-sponsored community service initiatives each year	Director of Educational Programs	MPH Assessment Committee
III	RESEARCH		
III.1	Goal statement: The MPH program will provide an environment of inquiry and applied research to advance scientific knowledge in faculty members' respective areas of expertise.		
III.1.a	Count and mean number of faculty publications in peer-reviewed journals	Director of Educational Programs	MPH Assessment Committee
III.1.b	Count and mean number of faculty presentations at refereed conferences	Director of Educational Programs	MPH Assessment Committee
III.2	Goal statement: The MPH program will provide an environment encouraging student engagement and collaboration in applied research to advance scientific knowledge.		
III.2.a	Proportion of MPH students employed in part-time research or program science positions with progam faculty members or other university faculty members engaged in research relevant to public health.	Director of Educational Programs	MPH Assessment Committee
III.2.b	Proportion of MPH Capstone Projects that are research- or science-based.	Director of Educational Programs	MPH Assessment Committee
III.2.c	Count and proportion of current students and alumni who graduated in the past three years who are co-authors with program faculty on presentations at refereed conferences or publications in peer-reviewed journals.	Director of Educational Programs	MPH Assessment Committee