

# M.Ed. in Community Health

## 2006 NCA Progress Report #9

---

**Introduction/Context:** This program provides a multidisciplinary approach for professionals interested in careers in community health education or in the private health care sector. A variety of undergraduate majors (e.g., nursing, gerontology, health education, sociology, psychology, allied health, physical education) may prepare students for employment opportunities in this professional field. A background in anatomy, physiology, and general health is required.

**Goals:** The program's six primary goals are as follows:

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the relationships of specific content areas in health education to the needs of community/public health services and programs.
2. Students will demonstrate understanding of the principles, functions, and services of community and public health.
3. Students will be able to identify the variables – economic, political, and social – which influence community health planning, implementation, and evaluation.
4. Students will be able to discuss the duties and roles of community/public health education in the prevention of disease and the improvement of the nation's health status.
5. Students will demonstrate skills and knowledge in an area of emphasis selected to meet personal and/or professional background and needs.
6. Students will gain experience in a community health agency in the greater Cleveland area.

Program faculty who reflected on what was considered to be “best practice” developed these goals. Departmental faculty were consulted and provided input, where necessary. Goals have been constant since this program commenced.

**Outcomes:** As they relate to the six goals listed above, the program's intended outcomes are tabled in the accompanying Status Report #9. These outcomes along with the previously mentioned goals were developed concurrently. Program and departmental faculties performed similar functions as indicated above. Outcomes have not been revised since initially developed.

**Research:** Evidence from the selected course (HED 551), comprehensive examinations, and practicum evaluations (which include the assessment of professional standards as contained in the Graduate Practicum Guidelines) is used to determine if goals and outcomes are being met. Although these evaluation tools have not been revised as they provide sufficient information for oversight, students also maintain a standards-based professional portfolio that is formally assessed as part of the practicum experience.

**Findings:** Data analysis has consisted primarily of frequency counts and percentages that were then aggregated and treated in a manner that reflect overall program outcomes. The sample size (N column) varies according to the number of course (HED 551), practicum, and comprehensive exam students across the three semesters covered by this review.

**Review:** Program faculty is polled once or twice a year depending on the circumstances.

**Actions:** Overall, data-based decision-making has reinforced the department's primary focus and initial direction as it relates to student learning. No actions have been deemed necessary given the general success of students in this program relative to performance on comprehensive examinations and in practicum.

# NORTH CENTRAL ASSOCIATION STUDENT ASSESSMENT PLAN

## 2006 College of Education and Human Services Status Report #9

**Program: M.Ed. in Community Health  
2005**

**Summer 2004 / Fall 2004 / Spring**

PROGRAM OUTCOME	ASSESSMENT OUTCOME	N	RESULTS	ACTIONS TAKEN TOWARD PROGRAM/STUDENTS
(1) Graduates will demonstrate knowledge of the relationships of specific content areas in health education to the needs of community/public health services and programs.	(1a) 80% or more will have a rating of at least 3 out of 4 on item 3 of practicum evaluation instrument.	9	100% met criterion (mean = 3.78)	No action required.
	(1b) 90% or more will average 1.5 out of 3 or greater on "community health" and "health content" questions of comprehensive exam.	15	80% (12 of 15) met criterion (mean = 1.60)	Questions were analyzed and revised for clarification and content by a team of three health education faculty.
(2) Graduates will demonstrate understanding of the principles, functions, and services of community and public health.	(2a) 80% or more will have an average rating of at least 3 out of 4 on items 3 and 4 of practicum evaluation instrument.	9	100% met criterion (mean = 3.44)	No action required.
(3) Graduates will be able to identify the variables – economic, political, and social – which influence community health planning, implementation, and evaluation.	(3a) 90% or more will score 1.5 out of 3 or greater on "community health" question of comprehensive examination.	15	93% (14 of 15) met criterion (mean = 1.67)	No action required.
(4) Graduates will be able to discuss the duties and roles of community/public health education in the prevention of disease and the improvement of the nation's health status.	(4a) 80% or more will score 80% or better on relevant portions of the final examination in HED 551 – Community Health.	19	100% met criterion	No action required.
(5) Graduates will demonstrate skills and knowledge in an area of emphasis selected to meet personal and/or professional background and needs.	(5a) 80% or more will have an average rating of at least 3 out of 4 on items 3 and 4 of practicum evaluation instrument.	9	100% met criterion (mean = 3.44)	No action required.
	(5b) 90% or more will average 1.5 out of 3 or greater on Part II questions of comprehensive examination.	15	73% (11 of 15) met criterion (mean = 1.55)	Part II questions (specialty health content) were analyzed and revised for clarification and content by a team of three health education faculty.
(6) Graduates will gain experience in a community health agency in the greater Cleveland area.	(6a) 80% or more will have an average rating of at least 3 out of 4 on all items of practicum evaluation instrument.	9	100% met criterion (mean = 3.56)	No action required.