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WSU Dept. of Family Medicine & Public Health Sciences
Overview

- Introductions
- Course description
- Prerequisites
- Registration
- Course/Learning objectives
- Types of projects
- Identifying a project advisor
- Proposal approval process
- Compliance with program objectives and competencies
Overview (con’t.)

- Master’s Project format, technical requirements
- Evaluations/grading
- Oral presentation
- Important dates/deadlines
Introductions

- Who you are
  - Name
  - Course work completed

- Where you are in the process
  - Project idea?
  - Project advisor?
Course Description

- Culminating experience of MPH Program
- Scholarly written project
- Student will apply knowledge/skills from classroom and practicum experiences
- Final products: 1) written paper 2) oral presentation
Prerequisites

- All MPH core/required courses (not electives)
- Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) on-line training
  [http://www.citiprogram.org](http://www.citiprogram.org) and
  [http://irb.wayne.edu/mandatory-training.php](http://irb.wayne.edu/mandatory-training.php)
Registration

- Approval of academic advisor and course faculty

- MPH office provides student with permission to register

- Registration (3 credits total)
  - can be taken over 1 or more semesters
  - Y Grade is entered until the Project is complete
Course Objective

- To demonstrate MPH Program Competencies.
- Culminating experience: apply knowledge/skills gained from classroom/field experiences to a scholarly project of student’s own design and execution.
Master’s Project

- Any information-rich source with public health relevance
- May come from practicum experience
- May come from student’s current employment but *must be distinct from normal work responsibilities*
Types of Master’s Projects

- Case study of seminal public health event
- Needs assessment
- Policy analysis
- Program evaluation or PE plan
- Grant proposal
  - For program evaluation
  - For research
- Literature review
- Secondary data analysis
  - Your idea from an existing data set
- Primary research developed by you (discouraged)
Project Examples

- Contact course faculty to review past Projects

- Previous Project Examples:
  - Gap Analysis in Bioethics of Alleviating Transgender Health Disparities
  - Assessment of Environmental Health Policy Statement Use by Local Health Departments
  - Informal Social Media & Public Health: A Case Study and Survey Project on the Motivations for Creating and Following a Health Blog
  - Comparison of a Paper-Based and Electronic School Disease Reporting System in Wayne County, Michigan
Project Learning Objectives

1. Formulate project question, hypotheses, or statement of purpose
2. Conduct a literature review and synthesis
3. Detail project methods
4. Summarize or analyze data/findings
5. Interpret findings
6. Write a scholarly paper
7. Develop presentation slides
8. Give a public oral presentation
Project Advisor

- Student is responsible for identifying and recruiting a Project advisor
  - Guides the project
- May be academic advisor, practicum site staff, MPH faculty, or someone from outside WSU
  - Must have a doctoral degree
- “Letter of Understanding” may be needed if Project advisor is external to the MPH program
- **Recommendation:** start in semester before planned completion
IRB Approval

- Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval is required for all Projects that involve human subjects research
  - Consult with your project advisor and use Human Participant Research Determination Tool (on WSU IRB forms webpage) to determine if IRB approval is required
    - IRB approval requires submission of multiple forms distinct from the Project Proposal (see IRB website: http://irb.wayne.edu/)
    - Every student conducting Human Subjects research must have submit approval document from the IRB

- Indicate IRB approval # on Proposal or submit Human Participant Research Tool if IRB approval not required
Project Proposal Approval

- Submit to course faculty after approval/signature of project and academic advisors
  - Electronic signatures with WSU access id

- 1 course instructor approves/signs proposal

- Project activity begins after all approvals are in place
Program Competencies

- 4 core public health competencies (as they relate to your project)
- 2 additional public health competencies that may apply
- Concentration-specific competencies
Typical Timeline to Project Completion: Minimum of Two Semesters

- See Appendix A in Syllabus
Project Manuscript Format

- IMRAD format (adapt as needed):
  - Introduction
  - Methods
  - Results
  - And
  - Discussion
Manuscript Contents (adapt as needed)

1. Title page
2. Abstract and key words
3. Introduction/Literature review
4. Materials and Methods
5. Results
6. Discussion
7. Acknowledgements
8. References
9. Figures and Tables with legends/titles
Resource: Bordage article

- Bordage: “Considerations on preparing a paper for publication”.  
  (See resources on slide 41)
- Bordage Appendix Checklist
  - Follow this outline for Project report
  - [Not all items will apply to all projects]
Technical Requirements

- All text double-spaced and left justified
- Font size 11 or 12
- 1-inch margins (top, bottom, R, L)
- Figures and tables on separate pages following references with detailed titles that include descriptions of the sample and time/context of data collection.
Technical Requirements (2 of 4)

- Number all pages EXCEPT title page and abstract
- Use Arabic numbers from first page of text and including pages with references, figures, tables
Technical Requirements  (3 of 4)

- Length of paper: 10-15 pages (double-spaced) in following order:
  1. Title page: Standard template
  2. Abstract: 1 page (max. 250 words) with 3-4 key words that are NOT in title
  3. Introduction: 2-3 pages
  4. Methods: 3-4 pages
  5. Results: 3-4 pages
  6. Discussion: 2-4 pages
  7. Tables & Figures (< 6 total)
American Medical Association (AMA) *Manual of Style* (in MPH Office)

Example of AMA style (“punctuation-lite”):
Project Submission Process

After approval of the Project Advisor:
- Submit electronically as a single Word file
  - Title page, main text, references, tables, figures

After Independent Reader critique:
- Send final electronic copy via email to course faculty
  - Title page with e-signatures (Project Advisor; Project Course instructor)
Evaluations/Grading

Evaluations forms on website:
- Project advisor (formative evaluation)
- Independent reader (summative evaluation)
  - Appointed by course faculty
  - Content expertise
- Oral presentation
  - follow Watts paper; slide 40
- Project course faculty considerations
Project Advisor Evaluation

Grading based on how well the student utilized knowledge and competencies in execution of project

Formative Evaluation Based on Considerations of:
A. Development of Research question
B. Literature review
C. Study Design
D. Data analysis
E. Writing skills
F. Student assumed responsibility/worked independently
G. Attainment of public health competencies
Independent Reader
Summative Evaluation

AFTER review and approval of Project Report by Project Advisor:

Grading based on the report organization, content and writing, as well as scientific merit considerations

Summative Evaluation based on considerations of:
A. Title
B. Abstract
C. Introduction/Review of Literature
D. Methods
E. Results
F. Discussion
G. References
H. Attainment of public health competencies
Oral Presentation

- Scheduled after approval by Project faculty
  - Submit slides for review to project advisor and course instructor

- Master’s Project Presentation Day scheduled each semester
  - See “Important Dates” in syllabus

- Resource: Watts paper; Evaluation based on table 1 checklist
Oral Presentation

- **15-minute** presentation with slides
- 5 minutes of discussion/questions

**Include:**
- Background
- Project objectives, questions, and/or hypotheses
- Summary of methods
- Presentation of results
- Discussion/conclusions
- Statement of public health relevancy

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Powerpoint Presentation

- Evaluation based on Table 1 in Watts (2012) paper (on website)
  - Make sure text is easily visible
  - Consider colors, font size
  - “KISS” = Keep It Simple S…..

- Biomedical Communications for tips:
  https://www.med.wayne.edu/ume-biomed-design-and-digital-imaging/
Oral Presentation

- Be prompt and respect the time!
- Bring presentation on flash drive
- Stay for entire session; Attend other students’ presentations

It’s a big event!
- Invite family/friends!
- Bring refreshments 😊
Important dates/deadlines
Winter 2018

- **Friday March 23**: Final written project approved by project advisor and submitted to Course faculty

- **Wednesday April 25**: Oral presentations
Grading Scheme

- 94% - 100% = A
- 90% - 93% = A-
- 87% - 89% = B+
- 83% - 86% = B
- 80% - 82% = B-

**Grade of B (83-86%) is required to pass FPH 8990**
Register for Graduation

Deadlines for registering for graduation:

- 4th Friday of the semester
- Winter 2018: Friday February 9
Public Health Competencies

- Form completed by the student after oral presentation
- Students reflect on their **entire experience in the MPH program**
  - Core courses, electives, practicum, Master’s project
  - Level of competency achievement
- Useful to prepare for job interviews
Public Health Competency Reflection Form

Signed by:
- Student
- Project Advisor
- FPH 8990 Course Instructor
WSU Resources

- PubMed searches, EndNote
  - Shiffman Medical Library WSU
    - https://library.wayne.edu/shiffman/

- PowerPoint presentations
  - Biomedical Communications
Project Resources
(on MPH website)


Questions?