**Course Objective:** This course is designed for MPH students to complete their Culminating Experience (CE) for integrative learning. The goal of the Capstone is to demonstrate your ability to synthesize and integrate your knowledge of the MPH foundational core and concentration competencies. Students in consultation with faculty will select foundational core and concentration-specific competencies appropriate to your educational and professional goals. The Capstone integrative learning experience may take many forms, such as a practice-based or research-based project.

**Final Product:** Regardless of form, students are required to produce a high-quality written product that is appropriate for your educational and professional objectives. Written products may include the following: research paper/manuscript, program evaluation report, grant proposal, training manual, policy statement, legislative testimony with accompanying supporting research, etc. Ideally, the written product is developed and delivered in a manner that is useful to external stakeholders.

**Course Registration:** Students are eligible to register for the Capstone CE course after (a) completing 50% (21 credit hours) of MPH coursework, (b) completing 20 hours of approved public health-related volunteer service, (c) attend every MPH seminar each semester, and (d) attend the final presentation seminar of their fellow peers’ practicum, capstone, and thesis projects at the end of each semester.

Students completing a Capstone will demonstrate their ability to understand a problem, articulate solutions, think critically about public health issues, and demonstrate learning in both written form and oral presentation.

**Key steps to complete your Capstone:**

1. **Ensure Fulfillment of All Prerequisites** – Verify that you have completed all requirements for practicum registration. Fulfillment of all prerequisites will be confirmed based on MPH records of attendance. Failure to meet any prerequisite will prevent capstone registration.

2. **Capstone Project** – Meet with MPH faculty or other researchers/practitioners to discuss your plans and identify a Capstone project.

3. **Capstone Committee** – Identify and contact faculty to serve on your Capstone Committee as a chair or a member(s).

4. **Capstone Registration** – Turn in the permission to register for PH8096/8097 or PH9020 form to Professor Doarn, which details your capstone project, objectives, deliverables as well as your members of your committee. Identification of CE readers, committee chair, and primary advisor is required. Meet with Professor Doarn if you need further clarification of capstone requirements.

5. **Capstone Form & Proposal** – Submit capstone form & proposal to Blackboard by the designated due date, indicate if any changes have been made to your capstone project.

6. **Capstone Presentation** – Present on your Capstone at the end of the semester and submit your PowerPoint slides to Blackboard.

7. **Capstone Paper** – Submit your Capstone paper to Blackboard and a hard copy to the MPH Program Director’s office library at the end of the semester. If the course will be completed over 2 semesters, then students must submit an interim report.

8. **Capstone Committee Evaluation** – Submit your Capstone Committee’s Evaluation of your Capstone paper to Blackboard at the end of the semester.
**Capstone Committee:**

Students completing a Capstone will form a committee with at least 2 members to guide the preparation, conduct, and completion of their project. The committee should consist of:

- **One Committee Chair**, must be faculty from the MPH Program in your concentration
- **At least one Committee Member**, may be faculty from UC, an affiliate, or a community partner
- Additional Committee Members are not required but allowed as appropriate (e.g., local agency partner, health department employees, in-country partner, etc.)

*Primary Advisor* - Among the Committee Members, one must serve as the student’s *Primary Advisor*. This may be the Committee Chair or a Member more directly overseeing the student’s Capstone project. The Primary Advisor is will work closely with the student to complete the project.

*Evaluation* – All students will be evaluated by two committee members (CE Reader #1 and #2). The **Committee Chair** (CE Reader #1) and the **Primary Advisor** (CE Reader #2) will evaluate the Capstone paper and student performance using a standardized rubric to determine the final course grade. If the Committee Chair and the Primary Advisor are the same person, the second Committee Member will complete the evaluation.

**Timeline:**

*Due dates for required documents and assignments will be posted on Blackboard.*

**MPH required dates for Capstone Submission:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Instructions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Step 1</td>
<td>Beginning of semester</td>
<td>Submit Capstone form and proposal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 2</td>
<td>4 weeks before classes end</td>
<td>Student must submit first draft to Committee for review.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Step 3</td>
<td>2 weeks before classes end</td>
<td>Committee returns to student for final revisions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 4</td>
<td>1 week before classes end</td>
<td>Student must submit final documents and grading rubric to Primary Advisor and Committee Chair for final evaluation and grading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 5</td>
<td>Oral Presentation**</td>
<td>Student must <strong>attend</strong> the seminar, give a Capstone presentation and <strong>submit</strong> an e-copy of slides, final Capstone paper, and completed grading rubric with signature to Blackboard. The signed Capstone rubric indicates to the Program that all requirements have been met.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 6</td>
<td>Last day of semester</td>
<td>Student must submit a hard copy of Capstone with signature page to the Capstone Director, Professor Doarn).</td>
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</table>

**always on last day of classes prior to exam week**
REQUIRED DOCUMENTS and ASSIGNMENTS

Capstone Proposal Form:
At the beginning of the semester, students should meet with their committee to discuss and create a proposal and timeline for the Capstone project and final document. Students must enter the details of their Capstone project including their project title, Committee members, and MPH competencies in the proposal form. This form must be uploaded to Blackboard with the REQUIRED signature of the primary advisor. We additionally require that you fill out the online submission of the capstone proposal via the link provided on Blackboard.

Capstone Interim Report:
If the student plans to complete the Capstone over two semesters, an interim report needs to be submitted using the template on Blackboard.

- The report should be typed using 1.5-2.0 spacing and left margin justification, be a minimum of 5 pages (excluding cover page, table of contents, graphs, figures, tables, and references), and include a minimum of 5 references.
- Report should be reviewed and approved by the committee at the end of the first semester.
- Students will submit the report to Blackboard (Committee signatures are not required).
- See TEMPLATE on Blackboard.

Capstone Paper:
The final product of the Capstone is the final high-quality written document that is appropriate for your educational and professional objectives. The final product must contain a Conclusion that includes an assessment of how the student integrated at least 3 MPH core competencies and 5 concentration competencies.

Written products may include the following: research paper/manuscript, program evaluation report, grant proposal, training manual, policy statement, legislative testimony with accompanying supporting research, etc. Ideally, the written product should be developed and delivered in a manner that is useful to your Capstone Committee and external stakeholders.

ALL Capstone (Non-Research) Papers should contain the following:
(1) Title page with project title, committee names, student’s name, and paper submission date,
(2) Acknowledgement section (optional),
(3) Table of contents,
(4) Abstract/Summary,
(5) Introduction with literature review and/or background,
(6) Main body – other sections as determined by the Capstone Committee,
(7) Discussion and public health implications,
(8) Conclusion including assessment of MPH competencies,
(9) References.

A Capstone Research Paper should contain the following:
(1) Title page with project title, committee names, student’s name, and paper submission date,
(2) Acknowledgement section,
(3) Table of contents,
(4) Abstract,
(5) Introduction with literature review and background,
(6) Materials and methods including the analytical plan,
(7) Results,
(8) Discussion and public health implications,
(9) Conclusion including assessment of MPH competencies,
(10) References.
**A Capstone Grant Proposal Paper should contain the following:**
Submission of the grant proposal is NOT required. Students are advised to follow the PHS398 grant template and instructions (see Blackboard). In particular, students must follow Sections of 5.5.2 and 5.5.3 in preparing the grant proposal. The proposal must contain:

1. Title page with project title, committee names, student’s name, and paper submission date,
2. Acknowledgement section,
3. Table of contents,
4. Grant application face page,
5. Abstract/project summary,
6. Key personnel page,
7. Budget page,
8. Resource page,
9. Specific aims,
10. Justification of the significance of the proposal (intro, literature review, project significance),
11. Justification of innovation of the proposal,
12. Detailed approach including plans for study design, methods and analysis,
13. References,
14. NIH biosketch of the PI (student),
15. Conclusion including assessment of MPH competencies.

The Capstone committee may suggest a modified format in order to fit the specific needs of the research project and presentation. Students are advised to review sample Capstone/Thesis papers that are available in the MPH director’s office.

**Capstone Paper Formatting:**
- Final paper should be typed using 1.5-2.0 spacing and left margin justification.
- Page numbers must be added in bottom right.
- Final paper should be a **minimum 15 pages** (excluding cover page, table of contents, graphs, figures, tables, and references). Exact length to be approved by Committee Chair.
- **References** should follow the APA style. Reference list should be typed using single spacing. Include only references cited in your paper. Include at least 10 references, but the exact number is to be approved by the Committee Chair.

**Submission:**
The Capstone paper must be submitted after approval of the committee. **Students must submit 2 copies:** 1 copy as a PDF file to Blackboard and 1 copy as a bound hard copy for the MPH Library (MPH Program Office suite). Traditionally, students may have multiple hard copies printed to give to the committee chair, members and family members.

**Culminating Experience Committee Evaluation:**
Two Capstone Committee Members must evaluate students’ final documents (Interim Report or Capstone Paper) using the Culminating Experience Committee Evaluation Form during each semester that they are registered for the Capstone course. Students are required to submit a PDF of their Committee’s Evaluation on Blackboard.

*It is the responsibility of the student to ensure completion, return and submission of the Culminating Experience Committee Evaluation Form. FAILURE TO SUBMIT THIS FORM WILL RESULT IN AN INCOMPLETE FINAL GRADE.*

Students are required to provide their Committee with a copy of the MPH Concentration Competencies for their selected MPH Concentration to complete the Culminating Experience Committee Evaluation Form. A list of MPH Concentration Competencies for all concentrations can be found on Blackboard.
**PowerPoint Presentation:**

Students are required to summarize their Capstone experience in a PowerPoint presentation at the end of the semester. If the student plans to complete the Capstone in two semesters, then a presentation will be required in each semester.

*Content* - Students should send their presentation materials to their committee at least one week before the presentation to review and approve. Students should invite their committee members to attend the presentation seminar and inform them of the date, time, and location of the seminar. It is up to the committee chair and member(s) to decide if they will attend the presentation.

*Delivery* - Students should practice their presentation to optimize their delivery, communication, and performance. Students should NOT read from their slides or directly from note cards (though note cards are permitted if desired as a prop). See presentation grading rubric for more information. *Students should bring PowerPoint files to the seminar loaded on a flash drive.*

*The presentation slides should contain the following key information:*

- Presentations should be **15 minutes** long and no longer to allow time for Q&A
- Title of the Capstone
- Brief background on the public health issue addressed in the Capstone
- Overview of projects/studies/activities that the student was involved in through the Capstone
- Results of student’s contributions in Capstone projects/studies/activities
- Public health implications of the Capstone projects/studies/activities
- *Evidence-based justification* of how projects/studies/activities helped develop, integrate and synthesize MPH competencies*
- One acknowledgement slide to thank the Capstone committee

*See examples on Blackboard. It is not sufficient to simply list competencies. We want to know specific activities/roles/contributions in which you applied the competencies in the context of your project.*

**Capstone Grade:**

A letter grade (A-F) will be provided for the Capstone course. The exact breakdown of the grade distribution may be found in the syllabus for the semester. Your grade will be determined by:

1. Recommendation of the Capstone Committee Chair/Primary Advisor.
2. Submission of the Capstone Committee’s Evaluation Form on Blackboard.
5. Presentation and submission of presentation slides on Blackboard.

*It is the responsibility of the student to ensure return and submission of the Culminating Experience Committee Evaluation via Blackboard. Students are held to the UC Code of Student Conduct in submitting the Culminating Experience Committee Evaluation without alteration of the Committee’s final evaluation.*