UCI Program in Public Health

Comprehensive Examination, Parts I & II

Program in Public Health
Eligibility to take the Comprehensive Examination

In order to be eligible to take the Comprehensive exam, students must meet the following requirements:

1. Have completed the program’s six (6) core competency courses with a B or higher
2. Have completed four (4) units of Graduate Seminar Series, and received a Satisfactory grade

Please note that MD/MPH students who are on a year track may take the exam if he or she is has completed all core competency courses except for PH 222 as well as a Graduate Seminar as long as they are taking the course in the quarter when the exam will be taken.

Comprehensive Examination Part I: Synthesis and Depth of Knowledge

The first part of the UC Irvine MPH Comprehensive Examination is a written synthesis of contemporary topics within the chosen emphasis. Students are expected to demonstrate the level of analytical reasoning, methodological competence, and critical thinking expected of professionals about ready to confront major projects in population health and disease prevention. Thus, The resulting manuscript reflects the depth of knowledge on the topic(s) through inclusion of a comprehensive critical review of the literature, analysis of data, or policy assessment.

Students will be presented with a set of public health scenarios or case studies to address from which they are expected to develop a comprehensive synthesis report.

Using a problem-based learning approach, the synthesis paper should describe strategies for confronting the scenarios or solving the problems identified in the case study. It should be clear from the assessment that the student has a good understanding of the perspective of a public health professional specializing in the emphasis subject area.

Please note that this is not a group project. Students will be assessed individually on the basis of their understanding of the main public health issues, and synthesis of how various topics are integrated to solve public health challenges. Working on this as a group effort does constitute as Academic Dishonesty. For more information regarding Academic Dishonesty, please visit the following site:

Exam Instructions

Students will select four case studies. Two will be from “Major Case Studies,” and the other two from the “Minor Case Studies”.
The case studies that are chosen need to reflect the student’s area of emphasis. Thus, read through all of the case studies carefully before making selections.

The submitted report must include a paragraph justifying the selection of cases. In addition, students should include a critical review of current literature on the contemporary status of the burden of disease associated with the disease, condition, or process covered by the case studies selected. The critical reviews should be 1,000 words each and need to include the appropriate references cited.

Case studies are provided electronically, and students have two (2) weeks to complete the assignment. A DropBox will be established through EEE for the submission, which are due by 5pm on the announced date, which will be one (1) week prior to Part II of the Comprehensive Exam.

**Comprehensive Examination Part II: Breath of Knowledge**

Part II of the examination consists of the Certified Public Health exam, which is written and administered by the National Board of Public Health Examiners.

This CPH exam covers the core areas of knowledge offered in accredited schools relevant to public health, and was designed to test a person’s knowledge of the competencies. The exam will take four (4) hours to complete, and made up of 200 multiple choice questions that include matching, a series of questions, and pictorial charts.

The exam will be administered during the Fall quarter, during a specified day and time. All MPH eligible students will be required to take the exam on the designated date and time. A Registration Exam Agreement must be completed before a student is able to register for the exam.

For those students needing an alternative date based on ineligibility during Fall, arrangements will be made on a case-by-case basis.

For more information on the CPH Exam, visit: [https://www.nbphe.org/CPHexaminfo.cfm](https://www.nbphe.org/CPHexaminfo.cfm)

**Registration Instructions:**

1. You will receive information from Student Affairs regarding

2. Before you are able to enroll, you must submit the following back to Student Affairs. Please note that both of these items will be e-mailed to you before the start of the Fall quarter.
   1) Registration Agreement form
   2) Survey indicating your attendance and Graduate Practicum plans
3. Once you have been approved to register, and been given a payment voucher, please follow the steps below:

- Go online to:
  http://online.goamp.com/CandidateHome/CandidateInformation.aspx

- Select: “Schedule/Apply for an Exam.” > follow the registration process
  
  o Page 1:
    - Select “Healthcare” for section number 1
    - Select “National Board of Public Health Examiners” for section number 2
    - Select “Certified in Public Health Examination” for section number 3

  o Once redirected to Page 2:
    - Select “Register for this Exam” at the bottom of the page
    - Please indicate “New User,” and follow the steps to create a new AMP account.

- AMP account verification will need to be processed by Student Affairs before exam registration. Please complete this step one week before the deadline to register for the exam.

- Once AMP account has been verified, and you are in the process of registering for the indicated exam, enter the voucher number issued to you by Student Affairs for exam payment.