

**Master of Science in Community Health  
MS**

*Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose*

**Institutional Mission Reference**

The purpose of the program is to improve community health by preparing students to effectively lead organizations within the complex health care environment. This is accomplished by providing students with a rigorous foundation in community health care systems application, philosophy and theory. Graduates will be expected to make a substantive contribution to improving the health care system by either taking a leadership role within health care organizations or by consulting with health care organizations

**Institutional Goal(s) Supported**

The program in Community Health supports the University goals of (a) quality graduate academic program, (b) quality teaching, (c) discovery of relevant and current new knowledge, (d) of the concepts of lifelong learning, (e) diversity and (f) community service. The Program in Community Health also supports Strategic Initiative 2 (Excellent Graduate Programs)

*Intended Educational (Student) Outcomes, Methods for Assessment, Criteria for Success, Assessment Results, and Use of Results*

**Intended Outcome 1**

Program students will be knowledgeable in the field and prepared for the Certified Health Education Specialist Examination

**Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success:** 95% of Program graduates who elect to take the CHES examination will successfully complete it.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 1:** 100% of graduates who took the CHES examination passed it successfully.

**Intended Outcome 2**

Program students will be knowledgeable of the concepts and methods of Community Health.

**Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success:** Program students will pass the written comprehensive exam.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 2:** 100% of students taking the qualifying examinations (written/oral) passed them successfully.

**Intended Outcome 3**

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the various procedures involved in formulating, designing, carrying out, analyzing results from and interpreting research efforts in the area of community health.

**Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success:** Program students will prepare poster presentations for review by faculty and peers as part of research class in Community Health. 10% of Program students' research posters will be accepted for presentation at state, or national symposia/conferences.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 3:** More than 10% of the students presented either a research project or poster project at a local or national professional meeting during the past academic year. ASAHP, APHA. etc.

**Intended Outcome 4**

Students will demonstrate knowledge of the theory, principles and application of methodologies in community health.

**Method for Assessing Outcome 4 and Criterion for Success:** Students during their final semester will successfully complete an eight week internship in a community health care setting. Employer, faculty and student exit conference will be initiated at the completion of the eight week internship. Additionally, student surveys will be collected every three years to assess Intended Outcome 4.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 4:** All students successfully completed their internship practicums. Exit interviews were conducted with the students and practicum co-ordinators. Additionally, students presented a summary of their experience to students enrolled in the program.

**Intended Outcome 5**

Program graduates will be successful in finding positions of employment in Community Health.

**Method for Assessing Outcome 5 and Criterion for Success:** Program graduates who seek employment will obtain employment within six months of completing their degree as determined by survey results.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 5:** Direct contact by the chair was made with each student who completed the program. All graduates of the program were employed within one month of graduating.

**Intended Outcome 6**

Program students will demonstrate social responsibility and advocacy, including participation in community and human services organizations and activities.

**Method for Assessing Outcome 6 and Criterion for Success:** 100% of Program students will participate in district, state, or national meetings, community or services organizations events such as Health Fairs; local voluntary and non-voluntary health agency public information activities; teaching in local school communities, and other pro bono health promotion activities in the community. Students will provide student portfolios in CHP Principles of Community Health .CHP 650

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 6:** All students in the program fulfilled the requirement of participating in some community service activity. By way of example a Health Fair was conducted as part of a City/Sentara/ODU grant initiative with Lambert's Point. (A low income/medically underserved community in Norfolk) Students were involved in planning and direct service support of this project. Others provided lectures at local hospitals and did inservice education projects at their work facilities.