

III. Statement of Course Need

- A. Introduction to Public Health is an essential course within a health sciences curriculum because it provides students with the foundational knowledge required to understand the systems, policies, and population-level factors that shape health outcomes. As healthcare increasingly emphasizes prevention, interdisciplinary collaboration, and evidence-based practice, students preparing for careers in clinical and non-clinical roles must develop a broad understanding of how health is influenced not only by individual behaviors but also by environmental, social, and structural determinants. All nurses applying for a NJ School Nurse Certificate through the NJ Department of Education must have a minimum of 30 semester-hour credits including training in “Public health, including such areas as public health nursing, community health problems and communicable disease control” (New Jersey Statute: Chapter 153). Similarly, Introduction to Public Health or Community Health is frequently a required course for the BSN. This course supports the department’s mission to prepare graduates who are informed, adaptable, and capable of contributing to healthier communities through a systems-oriented understanding of health and well-being.
- B. There is no Lab component
- C. This course generally transfers, dependent on the transfer institution, as an elective in health science.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course does not serve as a General Education course.
- C. This course meets a program requirement for the A.S. Degree in Health Science.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. Public Health: Science, Politics, and Prevention
- B. Government Influence and Responsibilities
- C. Regulations that Impact Health
- D. Drivers of Public Health
- E. Public Health Research Methods
- F. Statistics and Data in Public Health
- G. Science and Principles of Epidemiology
- H. Infectious Diseases
- I. Genetic and Chronic Diseases
- J. Health Across the Lifespan

- K. Behavioral Contributors to Disease Risk
- L. Public Health Approaches to Mental Health
- M. A Clean Environment
- N. Climate Change
- O. COVID
- P. The U.S. Medical System as a Public Health Problem
- Q. The Future of Public Health

VI. A. Course Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Effectively discuss public health topics in both speech and writing. (GE-1)
2. Apply appropriate epidemiological and statistical concepts and operations to interpret public health data. (GE-2, 3*)
3. Explain the way biological, environmental, and social/cultural factors interact in disease production and understand how these influences can impact prevention strategies. (GE-5)
4. Describe the role of law and government in promoting and protecting the health of the public and identify specific functions and roles of governmental public health agencies in assuring population health. (GE-5, ER)
5. Describe the basic organization of health care and public health systems and the contributions of health professionals.
6. Identify, measure, and assess the components of the public health infrastructure. (GE-1, 2, 5*)
7. Identify the roles of public health in addressing the needs of vulnerable populations and health disparities

* Embedded critical thinking

B. Assessment Instruments

1. Exams/quizzes
2. Writing Assignments & Research Paper
3. Discussion Forums (including reflection)

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. Written Exams
- B. Written Assignments & Research Paper
- C. Discussion Forums

Given the goals and outcomes described above, LIST the primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. Guided Inquiry (content provided via Canvas)
- B. Student Collaboration and Discussion Forums

VIII. Texts and Materials

- A. Textbooks: Schneider's Introduction to Public Health, Kruger, Jones & Bartlett Learning, 7th Edition, 2025, ISBN 9781284291803
- B. PowerPoint Presentation
- C. Handouts provided via Canvas

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

IX. Resources

- A. RVCC Library
- B. Computer with internet access

X. Check One: Honors Course N/A