Specific Learning Objectives

Relevant to Public & Community Health Education Doctoral Qualifying Examination

a. Problem statement:
   - Describe a disparity in health between subpopulations
   - Review the problem and rationale for focus on the problem showing a command of the literature
   - Describe morbidity, mortality, prevalence, incidence and other rates
   - Describe contributing behaviors, and determinants of the behaviors (e.g. predisposing, enabling, reinforcing factors)
   - Describe risk and prevention
   - Demonstrate writing proficiency: grants and scientific papers
   - Discuss primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention
   - Describe rationale for selection of target groups

b. Theory:
   - Describe learning, behavior, and social change theories
   - Provide rationale for the theory selection based on what is known about the problem
   - Describe theories appropriately and thoroughly
   - Describe a conceptual model
   - Describe how to test theories
   - Describe how theory addresses the problem
   - Describe social, organizational, and professional systems related to health

c. Intervention:
   - Describe theory application for intervention development
   - Develop measurable objectives
   - Demonstrate cultural competency
   - Develop health messages and communicate them effectively
   - Develop strategies for information dissemination
   - Describe how health economics and policy affects health
   - Use state-of-the-art teaching technologies
   - Conduct a needs assessment
   - Pretest educational and research materials

d. Study Design:
   i. Study Design
      - Develop an evaluation plan for an intervention
      - Choose a study design and describe its feasibility strengths and limitations in a given situation
• Describe the internal and external validity of study designs

ii. Quantitative and Qualitative Methods:
• Describe levels of outcome (process, Impact, Outcome evaluation)
• Describe quantitative data collection methods
• Describe qualitative data collection methods
• Describe the purposes of evaluation
• Describe why the chosen methods are appropriate
• Develop hypotheses
• Use triangulation in evaluation
• Critically appraise reports of research and evaluation

iii. Measurement Issues:
• Appropriately use single and multi-item variables
• Appropriately develop and interpret scales
• Describe how to test the reliability and validity of the variables
• Describe the reliability and validity of data collection methods
• Describe the sensitivity and specificity of measures

iv. Analysis Plan:
• Describe the outcome and other key variables
• Describe confounding and effect modification, causality
• Describe relative risks and odds ratios
• Describe the type of variable: nominal, ordinal, interval, ratio
• Describe a statistics hypothesis
• Describe the type of statistic appropriate for the type of variables and hypothesis
• Describe statistical power
• Describe and use multivariate statistics
• Describe and use repeated measures, longitudinal study statistics

e. Professional Behavior and Socialization
i. Ethical Issues:
• Describe ethical issues regarding the theory and intervention used (e.g., ignores individual or environmental influences, paternalistic, victim blaming, coercive)
• Code of ethics and ethical standards
• Describe ethical issues regarding research and evaluation (e.g., confidentiality, randomization, placebo, etc.)
• Describe principles of ethical decision-making (autonomy, non-maleficence, etc.)

Revised Fall 2007