

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.)