GETTING AND STAYING AHEAD WITH THE CERTIFIED IN PUBLIC HEALTH (CPH) CREDENTIAL:

Becoming CPH: Why, Where, When and How
About the NBPHE

• Incorporated in 2005 as independent non-profit organization
• First credential issued 2008
• Board of Directors includes representatives from a broad range of partner organizations
Current Eligibility Criteria

• Eligibility open to:
  – All graduates of CEPH-accredited SPH and programs
  – Students who:
    • Students who have completed 21 credit hours towards their public health degree by the time the exam is administered. The 21 hours must include completion of or concurrent enrollment in applicable core courses. These students become certified once they graduate.

All public health degrees, not just MPH.
CPH process draws from professional competencies

• 5 Core Domains

and...

• 7 Cross-Cutting Domains
Preparing for the CPH Exam
The CPH Examination

- Proctored testing centers
- 200 items
- Approximately 4 hours to complete
- No calculators or scratch paper allowed
- Receive white board & markers
- Pass rate is 80-85%
- Often described as “Hard but Fair”
The CPH Examination

• 2 testing cycles per year: February and October
• Offered in locations in USA and globally.
• Campus-based testing added in Feb. 2013
• Appointments for locations and time are on a first-come, first-served basis.
Exam Coverage

5 Core areas
• Biostatistics
• Epidemiology
• Environmental Health Sciences
• Health Policy & Management
• Social and Behavioral Sciences
  (150 items)

Cross Cutting areas
• Communication & Informatics
• Diversity & Culture
• Leadership
• Professionalism
• Program Planning
• Public Health Biology
• Systems thinking
  (50 items)
200 Exam Questions

All questions are
• multiple choice.
• single-best answer.

Some questions are
• matching items.
• part of a series of questions related to a common vignette.
• based on associated pictorials or charts.
Study Resources

Get Certified in Public Health (CPH)!

Resources Related to Exam Content
The CPH exam's content is based on the core Masters of Public Health (MPH) competencies developed by the Association of Schools of Public Health Education Committee, which is available here. This complimentary resource outlines the 119 competencies that provide the basis and scope of the CPH exam.

Sample Exam Questions
Eighteen questions, closely modeled after the CPH exam, are available for your review. Click here to view in PDF version.

Preparing for the Exam’s Format
The exam consists of 200 questions and is timed (the standard form is 4 hours). All questions on the exam are multiple choice and single-best answer. Some questions are: matching items; part of a series of questions related to a common vignette; and have associated pictorials or charts.

Study Resources by Third Parties
The following materials are produced independently of the NBPHE and the resources are listed here as a courtesy to examinees. NBPHE was not involved in the development of these products and has not shared the contents of the examination with any organization. Please contact the individual producers with questions about accessing these products.

- ASPH CPH Study Guide
- Jones & Bartlett Study Guide
- CPH Study Session on October 27 in San Francisco
ASPH CPH Study Guide

- Overview of each competency area
- Suggested readings
- Definitions and terminology
- Sample questions in each section
- 100 question practice test
- Two 50 question practice tests
- Study tips

- Review of each of the core competencies
- Vignettes that illustrate the application of the concepts
- Figures, tables, and references
- 200 practice-test questions
- Interactive flashcards
- Interactive glossary
- Web links
CPH study tips & strategies

- Public health - diverse workforce
- Academic experience vs practice based experience.
- Years of experience.
How long should I study???

It’s a continuum… know your own study style!

“Studied casually 1-2 months, and then more intensely the last week”

“A month of serious study, 1-2 hr a night, more on the weekend”

“Crammed the last week”
Advice from CPH professionals...do I need to study??

“I didn't study for the test, but if a person has the time, I would recommend it. I used my experience to answer the questions.”

“Your Public Health degree has already provided you with all the core competencies covered in the exam questions. Refresh your memory and you'll be ready to go!”

“Unless you are a recent graduate, you absolutely do need to study!”
Advice from CPH professionals...what should I study???

“The test doesn’t cover the detailed intricacies of quantitative analysis. It covers the information you should know anyway: the core competencies.”

“The CPH Reference Book was very helpful... flash cards and terminology glossary.”
After You Pass the CPH Exam
Bi-Annual Recertification Process (CEs)

- Bi-annual recertification process requiring CPH to earn 50 recertification credits (CEs)
- Reporting via an online recertification portal
- CPH renewal fee is $95.00 every two years
Welcome to the CPH Recertification & Reporting System

The CPH recertification process fosters life-long learning, professional development, and promotion of the public health profession. CPH professionals must earn 50 recertification credits every two years to maintain their CPH status.

Log in under "CPH Log In" to search for opportunities to earn CPH recertification credits, track your progress towards recertification, report recertification activity, and pay a $95.00 recertification application fee.

To view recertification requirements, click here.

Search for credit offerings from pre-approved providers.
Why maintain your CPH?

• Allows for continued recognition in your profession
• Meets benchmarks set in other health professions
• Assures the communities that you serve of your currency
The CPH provides evidence that public health professional staff are committed to lifelong learning. As public health undergoes rapid change, we can assure our community that staff with the CPH are familiar with the latest developments and challenges in public health.

~ Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH
Health Officer, Clark County, WA
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CPH Log In

Email: (example@example.com)
Password: 
Forgot your password? Submit
Need to activate account? Click here

Find Credits & Providers

Search for credit offerings from pre-approved providers.
Find Approved Activities

1. Location
   - In person  OR  Distance Learning
   - Country: All

2. Select Offering Format(s) (Use CTRL key+Click to select multiple choices)
   - Conference Participation
   - Coursework at CEPH Institution
   - Leadership Institute Participation
   - Other
   - Podcasts
   - Reading of Literature (pre-approved only)

3. Select Program Domain(s) (Use CTRL key+Click to select multiple choices)
   - Biostatistics
   - Communication and Informatics
   - Diversity and Culture
   - Environmental Health Sciences
   - Epidemiology
   - Health Policy and Management

4. Credit(s)
   - At Least  OR  Exactly
   - 0 Credit(s)

5. Sort By
   - Provider

National Board of Public Health Examiners
Uptake and Benefits of CPH
Initial Benefits

• Distinguishes yourself from other job applicants
• Demonstrates commitment to public health beyond your academic training
• Investment in your career and future
Continued Benefits

• Certify your commitment to public health
• Stay abreast of new advancements
• Tells employers and the public of your constant level of preparedness
• Assures the community that you serve/protect that you maintain a national, professional standard
Benefits to our Profession

• Shows public health expertise by evidencing mastery of the core sciences of public health
• Raises the bar in public health by increasing professionalism
• Creates more awareness about the importance of a quality public health workforce
CPH and Your Career

The CPH shows potential employers...

• You are committed to the public health profession.
• You will excel in the field through your work and actions.
• You take every opportunity to further your education and grasp of current issues in the field.
They all want CPH employees!
Registration Steps

• Register online at www.nbphe.org to take the exam at testing centers in the U.S. or at a site overseas.

• When you reach the payment page, STOP! Do not enter any payment information. You will be contacted with further instructions once your eligibility to sit for the exam has been confirmed.

• In order to be eligible to sit for the CPH exam, all candidates must have a graduate level degree (master’s or doctoral) or be enrolled at a CEPH-accredited school or program. Students enrolled at a CEPH-accredited school or program must have completed 21 credit hours towards their public health degree by their exam date. The 21 hours must include completion of or concurrent enrollment in applicable core courses in biostatistics, environmental health sciences, epidemiology, health services/policy management, and social and behavioral sciences.
Who Should Take the Exam?

• We recommend waiting until your second year to sit for the exam.

• Most students will not be eligible for the CPH exam until this time, and it is an ideal culminating event.

• For any questions, please contact Emily Slomin at es3152@columbia.edu
Thank you!