

Global Health and Epidemiology

Primary Career Cluster:	Health Science
Consultant:	Sloan Hudson, (615) 532-2839, sloan.hudson@tn.gov
Course Code:	6132
Prerequisite(s):	<i>Behavioral and Community Health</i> (6130)
Credit:	1
Grade Level:	11-12
Graduation Requirements:	This course satisfies one of three credits required for an elective focus when taken in conjunction with other Health Science courses.
Programs of Study and Sequence:	This is the fourth and final course in the <i>Public Health</i> program of study.
Aligned Student Organization(s):	HOSA: http://www.tennesseehosa.org Pamela Grega, (615) 532-6270, Pamela.Grega@tn.gov
Coordinating Work-Based Learning:	Teachers are encouraged to use embedded WBL activities such as informational interviewing, job shadowing, and career mentoring. For information, visit https://tn.gov/education/topic/work-based-learning .
Available Student Industry Certifications:	None
Dual Credit or Dual Enrollment Opportunities:	There are no known dual credit/dual enrollment opportunities for this course. If interested in developing, reach out to a local postsecondary institution to establish an articulation agreement.
Teacher Endorsement(s):	577, 720, 722
Required Teacher Certifications/Training:	None
Teacher Resources:	https://tn.gov/education/article/cte-cluster-health-science

Course Description

Global Health and Epidemiology is a comprehensive applied course in the *Public Health* program of study that places students at the intersection of health science and health policy. This course investigates the patterns, causes, and effects of diseases in a variety of populations, and how the provision of healthcare has changed in response to global needs. Successful international strategies and programs will be examined. Upon completion of this course, proficient students will be able to interpret and communicate statistical information relating to the distribution of disease and mortality/morbidity in the United States and globally, determine national and international health disparities, analyze national and international health policies, and evaluate outcomes from a range of health interventions.

Program of Study Application

This is the fourth and final course in the *Public Health* program of study. For more information on the benefits and requirements of implementing this program in full, please visit the Health Science website at <https://tn.gov/education/article/cte-cluster-health-science>.

Course Standards

Introduction to Global Health and Epidemiology

- 1) Define global health and epidemiology, discussing in detail why these fields should be studied, the principles and goals of each, and the concept of health citizenship in the context of disease prevention and health management. Determine the differences between field, clinical, and chronic epidemiology.
- 2) Research the various agencies and organizations, including transnational and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), involved in the study of global health and epidemiology.** Examine their roles as they relate to policymaking, research, program implementation, and/or monitoring and evaluation work. Organize the information into a visual, oral, and/or written presentation, citing examples of these actors' impact on global health initiatives drawn from reports, legislation, press releases, or other public documents.
- 3) Investigate careers within the fields of epidemiology and global health. Outline the educational requirements for each career as well as state and national guidelines governing practicing professionals (such as licensing, certifications, training, and compliance). Create and maintain a document detailing potential training programs, schools, and examinations suitable for obtaining required credentials for a specific occupation.
- 4) Research and summarize the range of skills, competencies, and professional traits required for careers in the epidemiology and global health fields. Compare findings to current individual strengths and identify opportunities for personal development. Translate real-time and projected labor market data into narratives to identify local and national employment opportunities and determine areas of growth within epidemiology and global health fields.
- 5) Gather relevant information from professional journals, news media, and trade magazines (in both print and digital formats) concerning the history of global health and epidemiology. Develop a visual, oral, and/or written presentation describing notable historical figures and pioneers who have made significant contributions in disease recognition, treatment, and prevention.
- 6) Define the terms endemic, epidemic, and pandemic. Analyze the factors involved in the spread of disease, such as the increase in world travel among socially mobile populations. Research global initiatives currently in place to prevent the spread of diseases/disorders such as influenza, Pertussis, or HIV/AIDS.

Biostatistics

- 7) Public health surveillance is a mechanism that public health agencies use to monitor the health of communities. Describe the types of data commonly collected by global health organizations and government agencies, including the key parameters (i.e., fertility, life expectancy, infant mortality rates) most often reported in the analysis of public health. Demonstrate the ability to interpret and communicate results from public health surveillance analyses, applying basic statistical concepts such as measurements of central tendency (mean, median, mode), measurements of spread (range, variance, standard deviation), and changes over time.
- 8) Relate how biostatistical data is used to identify global health priorities, disparities, and epidemiological transitions, and discuss how advances in public health surveillance have changed the delivery of key healthcare services (such as the need for family planning, vaccinations, or disease treatment). Furnish examples of data-driven policy changes informed by the collection and analysis of health surveillance data. For example, examine a case study of how the World Health Organization responded to the global SARS outbreak of 2004.
- 9) Compare and contrast the average cost of healthcare in the United States with that of other countries, according to indices compiled by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Drawing on a range of public health surveillance data, examine the correlations between average cost and key parameters such as government involvement, availability of insurance, per capita spending, hospital admission rates for chronic diseases, and mortality rates for cervical and colorectal cancer, for example.
- 10) Citing research, news media, and scholarly commentary, discuss the factors that may contribute to the relationship between the cost of care and health of communities.
- 11) Differentiate between descriptive epidemiology and analytical epidemiology research designs, and demonstrate the ability to recognize different methodological approaches as applied to a range of public health studies/reports. Explain the information gathered in each type of study and how that information is important when planning changes in healthcare.

Disease Causation and Control

- 12) Choose a communicable or non-communicable disease or disorder prevalent in the United States. Using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Vital and Health Statistics report, describe the occurrence or frequency of the disease across various demographic categories such as sex, age, race/ethnicity, educational attainment, family income, poverty level, health insurance coverage, marital status, and place of residence. Compare findings with data from a country with a similar prevalence of the disease. For example, examine the prevalence of heart disease in the United States as compared to Ireland. Compile the information into an electronic presentation. Support the interpretation of findings with graphical depictions of the data gathered.

- 13) An important aspect of the study of epidemiology is to identify factors that place certain populations at a higher risk for developing diseases and disorders. Compare and contrast the two primary models of disease causation: the epidemiologic triad and Rothman's causal pies. Debate the pros and cons of each in a written, oral, or electronic format.
- 14) Assess the impact that environmental factors, such as natural and unnatural disasters, can have on a range of global health issues. Discuss the implications for disease prevention, containment, and control when environmental conditions are considered.
- 15) Examine the epidemiology, mortality, morbidity, genetic, and/or biological basis of at least one of the diseases or disorders in each of the areas listed below. Compare the prevalence of the disease/disorder across a variety of populations and countries. Drawing on skills learned in biostatistical analysis, determine the factors that contribute to higher or lower prevalence in a given population or country.
 - a. Infectious Diseases
 - b. HIV/AIDS
 - c. Neurodevelopment disabilities
 - d. Cancer
 - e. Cardiovascular Disease
 - f. Diabetes
 - g. Dementia
- 16) Compare and contrast the health challenges characteristic of urban and rural settings. Analyze factors such as disease management, social and behavioral interventions, nutrition, service disparities, and availability of preventive measures like screenings. Debate the key challenges to the provision of services across a variety of global settings.
- 17) Investigate the causes of child/infant mortality within the first five years of life worldwide. Identify effective interventions for prevention of infant and childhood disorders, supporting recommendations with evidence-based medical or public health practice standards retrieved from the kinds of sources described in this course.
- 18) Explain the 10 steps of an outbreak investigation. As part of a group project, analyze a mock scenario in which the CDC has been called to investigate the outbreak of a foodborne, airborne, windborne, or waterborne disease in the United States or abroad. Determine the scope of the outbreak, identify the specific populations affected or endangered by it, and assign roles and responsibilities to contain and/or eradicate the disease. Drawing on resources used in this course, make recommendations based on hypothetical findings, protocols, and policies.***

Health Policy

- 19) Research and summarize current policies related to global health in the areas of disease prevention, treatment and control, and educational campaigns. For each of these areas, examine the involvement of relevant national and transnational actors identified in standard 2. Construct an informational or explanatory essay that describes major historical events

associated with current policies, evaluates the roles of the actors involved, and interprets public opinion and industry commentary on the impact of the policies to date.

- 20) Synthesize the standards of practice concerning health and human rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Constitution of the World Health Organization. Compare and contrast the documents for principles related to health, human rights, and humanitarian aid. Examine case studies where human rights and public health are intertwined, such as the refugee crisis caused by the civil war in Syria dating from 2011.
- 21) Research advocacy strategies used to support global health initiatives. Identify the major decision-makers and stakeholders involved in the promotion and implementation of health policies, ranging from the provision of maternal care in under-resourced areas to the administration of humanitarian aid in regions of armed conflict. Discuss the political and transnational process around implementing quality health policies for populations in need.
- 22) Drawing on material learned in this course, conduct a needs assessment for a target population affected by a health issue such as diabetes, cancer, HIV/AIDS, or other disease/disorder. Retrieve relevant health surveillance data related to the prevalence of the disease/disorder and the environmental and genetic factors that contribute to the problem. Synthesize research on existing policies, programs, and initiatives currently or formerly in place to alleviate the problem, and compile the results of the needs assessment into a written report supported by graphical and statistical aids.
- 23) Building off the needs assessment conducted in standard 21, create a plan to address the needs of the target population. Consider a range of potential policy solutions, weighing the costs and benefits of each, including the obstacles to implementation. Then advance a recommendation for one of the solutions, outlining a strategy to engage the appropriate agencies, decision-makers, and other stakeholders.

Standards Alignment Notes

*References to other standards include:

- P21: Partnership for 21st Century Skills [Framework for 21st Century Learning](#)
 - Note: While not all standards are specifically aligned, teachers will find the framework helpful for setting expectations for student behavior in their classroom and practicing specific career readiness skills.

Additional Notes

**Major agencies and organizations include, but are not limited to: the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

***Resources suggested for the mock outbreak project include:

- CDC Outbreak Investigation Overview for Vessel Sanitation Program: <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/vsp/surv/investigationoverview.htm>
- CDC Current Outbreak List: <http://www.cdc.gov/outbreaks/>
- Epidemiological Investigation of Outbreaks: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/investigation.pdf>