

HBHE Capstone

The purpose of the Capstone Paper is to provide the MPH student in HBHE with the opportunity to systematically reflect upon their experiences in the classroom, field placement, and other relevant work and research experience. The Capstone Paper represents both the analysis and synthesis of the Department's curriculum in keeping with student's individual plan of study. HBEHED 699: Health Behavior and Health Education Capstone serves as the vehicle for the fulfillment of the Capstone Requirement. Students participate in this specialized course under the supervision of their departmental faculty advisor in their final term of study. HBEHED 699 provides a formal structure for the completion of the Capstone Requirement.

There are two options (Option A and Option B) for completing the Capstone Paper requirement (attached). Option A is the original Capstone Paper format, while Option B reflects a revision in the substantive focus of the Capstone Paper. Please review these materials and, in consultation with your faculty advisor, choose the option you will complete for fulfillment of this requirement.

Please note that the deadline for completion of the Capstone Paper is **Tuesday, April 21**.

OPTION A

Procedures for Completion of Health Behavior and Health Education Capstone

Preface

The Health Behavior and Health Education Capstone provides the MPH student the opportunity to reflect systematically upon their experiences in the classroom, their field placement, and other relevant work and research experiences. The Capstone Paper is the major project for this course. The Capstone Paper is intended to engage the student in a reflective process whereby each student, in conjunction with their Faculty Advisor, describes, analyzes, and synthesizes the manner in which these activities have contributed to their educational development and professional and career directions.

The format for the Capstone Paper is provided below. Students should address each of the five sections of the Capstone Paper. The overall length of the Capstone Paper should be 10 to 12 pages, plus citations. The paper should be double-spaced and use a standard 12 point font. The HBHE Capstone must be taken for a letter grade. The final version of the Capstone Paper is due on the last day of classes **Tuesday, April 21**. A list of materials to be used in the development of the Paper is provided below.

I. Introduction

The Introduction should provide an overview of the key components that comprise the Capstone Paper, as indicated below.

II. Coursework and the Field Placement

Describe and analyze the extent to which the coursework you have taken throughout the program informs your assessment of the field placement experience. Further, how did the field placement inform your selection of future courses and the intellectual direction of your program?

III. Departmental Exit Competencies

Describe how your course work and the field placement experience relate to and fulfill specific exit competencies for the MPH program in Health Behavior and Health Education.

Reflecting on course work, the field placement experience, and additional research and work experiences, identify how you have fulfilled at least three (3) departmental competencies during the program.

IV. Career Goals and Objectives

Describe how your course work and the field placement experience relate to your specific career goals and objectives. This analysis should encompass your career goals/objectives that were initially articulated upon admission to the program (Statement of Purpose), as well as the career goals you envision for the next 5-10 years.

V. Theories, Concepts and Skill Areas and Future Professional Roles

Identify at least four courses that you have completed that have been pivotal in your development as a health professional. Considering these courses, identify specific theories, models, concepts or skill areas that are viewed as central to your future professional role(s), describe how they will be applied to your professional work, and discuss why they are germane to your future career.

Materials to be referenced for Capstone Paper:

Statement of Purpose
Field Placement Report
List of courses elected for the MPH degree
Competency Statements for Master of Public Health Students

OPTION B – Revised 2/4/00

The format for the Capstone Paper is provided below. Using this information, describe and discuss how you would approach the problem presented. The overall length of the Capstone Paper is 10-12 pages, plus citations. The paper should be double-spaced and use a standard 12 point font. The HBHE Capstone must be taken for a letter grade. The final version of the Capstone Paper is due on the last day of classes, **Tuesday, April 21.**

THE SETTING

You are a member of a multidisciplinary planning team operating within a public health or health care agency (e.g., local health department, managed care organization, non-profit organization). Your team has been charged with the task of developing and implementing a disease prevention, health promotion, or chronic illness self-management program. This agency currently has no such program. The team is comprised of professionals with training in medicine, health management and policy, epidemiology, nursing, environmental health, social work, and biostatistics. You are the only health educator on the team.

THE TASK

You have been asked to prepare a memo to the multidisciplinary planning team that argues for the development of the disease prevention/health promotion/self-management program. The public health or health care agency has identified the following three areas as important priorities: 1) individual behavior change, 2) family change, and 3) community and social change. Although the agency recognizes each of these areas as important, it has limited funds and therefore must **select only one** of these areas for development.

With this area in mind, your memo should address the items below:

1. Briefly describe the agency you selected and the context in which the program will be developed. For example, you might discuss the population, geographic setting, and the specific health issue that you will focus on.
2. Describe and discuss the goals and theoretical framework of the disease prevention, health promotion, or self-management program you plan to develop.
3. Provide a rationale for the selection of the particular priority area (i.e., individual behavior change, family change, or community and social change) for your program.
4. Address issues from at least two of the following perspectives, as they are pertinent to the development of your program (i.e., epidemiology, environmental health, health management and policy). Justify your selection of the two perspectives.

You should incorporate experiences and discussion from your field placement, work experience, and coursework as is relevant to your response.