

UCONN Graduate Programs in Public Health

Integrative Learning Experience - Thesis (Plan A) Approval Form

Date _____ Student Name _____ Empl.ID _____

Major Advisor _____ Secondary Advisor _____

External Reader _____

Degree sought ___ MPH ___ MD/MPH ___ DMD/MPH ___ JD/MPH
 ___ MSW/MPH ___ MSN/MPH ___ PharmD/MPH

The mission of the UConn Master of Public Health (MPH) program is to offer an exemplary academic environment that prepares interprofessional learners to achieve high standards of public health practice. UConn MPH students are expected, through their coursework, experiential and culminating activities to demonstrate mastery of skills, practices and perspectives that contribute to our program's vision of making Connecticut residents among the healthiest, most productive and satisfied of Americans. Individuals preparing to complete a Thesis (Plan A) as their final graduation requirement must document (a) their knowledge of public health's core disciplines and (b) their mastery of foundational and concentration-specific competencies reflective of our program's vision, mission and goals.

Integrative Learning Experience – Thesis (Plan A) Approval

The MPH thesis is intended to demonstrate your mastery of public health as a scholarly discipline. The work you complete is expected to contribute to the discovery of knowledge about population health and practices. As such, you are expected to produce findings relevant and important to our field. Your thesis, representing the culmination of your plan of study, is an official document of the University. Approval by the Graduate School requires:

1. A signed Plan of Study for the Master's Degree
(See: <https://registrar.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1604/2017/10/Plan-of-Study-Masters.pdf>).
2. A signed Report of Final Exam Form
(See: <https://registrar.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1604/2017/08/Report-on-Final-Exam-Masters.pdf>).

It is your responsibility to make adequate progress and produce quality work. Your MPH thesis should not exceed 10,000 words (approximately 30 pages), exclusive of footnotes/endnotes/references/bibliography.* Manuscripts exceeding that length may be considered non-responsive and referred back for revision. The necessary components of a thesis should include:

1. A cover page (See: <https://grad.uconn.edu/enrollment-services/masters-degree-program/plan-b/>).
2. Acknowledgements.
3. Scientific abstract (150 words) that summarizes your project's background, methods, results and conclusion of your work.
4. Table of contents, tables and figures that designate appropriate pages.
5. Introduction (1C 2 pages) that describes your selected topic and its significance to public health.
6. Specific aims (1 page) that identify the hypothesis guiding your work.
7. Background (5C 8 pages) of most pertinent material to the rationale for undertaking this project.
8. Methods and materials (3C 5 pages) describing procedures to collect, analyze and report data.
9. Results (5C 8 pages) that present findings directly relevant to what was accomplished.
10. Discussion (5 pages) assessing how this work is relevant (i.e., its strengths and limitations) to the public health sciences.
11. Conclusion (2C 3 pages) that summarizes what was done and recommended 'next steps'.

*Footnotes/endnotes should not exceed 20% of the document and **NOT** include material that would normally be appropriate for the main text (i.e. discursive content within footnotes is **not permitted**).

Your thesis will be evaluated by your advisory committee according to the following rubric. The finished product must be considered a thesis of 'satisfactory quality' to meet our MPH program requirement. **Attach the Competency Checklist to this document for review and approval.**

This thesis	Possible points	Points assigned by advisors		
		Advisor #1	Advisor #2	Reader #1
1. Reflects knowledge of core public health disciplines	10	_____	_____	_____
2. Addresses a relevant and timely public health question	10	_____	_____	_____
3. Demonstrates appropriate use of analytic methodologies, models and/or theories	20	_____	_____	_____
4. Presents findings generalizable to other settings	20	_____	_____	_____
5. Appropriately presents text, tables, figures and related materials	10	_____	_____	_____
6. Acknowledges relevance of the work to interprofessional public health practice	10	_____	_____	_____
7. Exemplifies professional conduct interacting with mentors, advisors and the public	10	_____	_____	_____
8. Embodies self-reliance/direction of student through timely completion of activities	10	_____	_____	_____
Total	100	_____	_____	_____

Approval: On the basis of our assessment, the advisory committee judges this thesis to be
 HIGHEST quality (receiving 100 possible points) HIGH quality (receiving 90-99 possible points)
 SATISFACTORY quality (receiving 80-89 possible points)