

ALHS 3360 – Principles of Community and Public Health

Summer Semester 2026

Instructor Information

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Course Information

Course Title: ALHS 3360 – Principles of Community and Public Health

Course Dates: June 1, 2026 – July 4, 2026

Course Delivery: Fully Online

Required Text

Seabert DM, McKenzie JF, Pinger RR. *An Introduction to Community Health*. Jones & Bartlett Publishers. 10th edition (© 2022).

Catalog Description

Study of the basic components of community and public health services and education. This course is fundamental preparation for the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) examination.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Summarize major developments in the history of public health activities from the earliest times to the present.
2. Define key concepts and principles related to community and public health practice.

3. Discuss ethical principles and tensions between individual rights and public health priorities.
 4. Describe the relationship between culture and health and define cultural competence.
 5. Identify local, state, and national resources that provide health data and apply these data to identify health problems.
 6. Identify organizations that provide community health services.
 7. Describe the process of developing health programs from assessment through planning, implementation, and evaluation.
 8. Compare and contrast health programs and intervention strategies.
 9. Define Community-Based Participatory Programming.
 10. Discuss current public health issues, including disparities, access to care, and health policy.
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CHES Areas of Responsibility

This course supports student preparation in the following CHES competency areas:

- Assessment of Needs and Capacity
 - Planning Health Education Strategies, Interventions, and Programs
 - Implementation
 - Evaluation and Research
 - Advocacy
 - Communication
 - Leadership and Management
 - Ethics and Professionalism
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Course Format and Expectations

Because this is an accelerated summer online course, students are expected to engage consistently with weekly course materials and assignments.

Students should:

- Log into Canvas multiple times each week.
- Complete assigned readings prior to quizzes and discussions.
- Participate meaningfully in weekly discussion activities.
- Submit assignments by posted deadlines.
- Manage time carefully due to the compressed summer schedule.

The accelerated format requires students to remain actively engaged throughout the five-week session.

Grading Plan and Evaluation Methods

Assignment Category	Weight
Weekly Quizzes (4)	30%
Weekly Discussion Boards (5)	30%
Community Health Issue Briefs (2)	15%
Final Examination	25%
Total	100%

Grading Scale

Percentage	Letter Grade
90–100	A
80–89	B
70–79	C
60–69	D
Below 60	F

Assessment Descriptions

Weekly Quizzes (30%)

Four weekly quizzes will assess student understanding of foundational concepts, terminology, and principles related to community and public health. Quizzes may include multiple-choice, true/false, short-answer, and applied questions. Quizzes are administered through Canvas and must be completed within the assigned availability window.

Quiz content aligns with CHES competencies related to assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation.

No quiz will be administered during the final week of the course due to the cumulative final examination.

Weekly Discussion Boards (30%)

Weekly discussion boards are designed to promote application of public health concepts, analysis of current issues, and professional communication.

Students are expected to:

- Submit one original discussion response.
- Respond substantively to at least one classmate.
- Demonstrate thoughtful engagement with course topics.

Discussion topics may include:

- Health disparities
 - Ethics and public health policy
 - Social determinants of health
 - Access to care
 - Community-based interventions
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Community Health Issue Briefs (15%)

Students will complete two brief applied assignments focused on current community or public health issues.

For each issue brief, students will:

- Identify a public health problem.
- Describe contributing factors.
- Analyze available health data.
- Propose a potential intervention or strategy.

Issue Brief 1 will be due during Week 2, and Issue Brief 2 will be due during Week 4.

Additional assignment guidelines and grading criteria will be provided in Canvas.

Final Examination (25%)

The final examination is cumulative and evaluates students' ability to synthesize and apply concepts covered throughout the course.

The examination may include objective questions, short-answer responses, and applied public health scenarios.

Weekly Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Topics	Assignments
Week 1	June 1 – June 7	Introduction to Public Health, History of Public Health, Ethics, Core Concepts	Quiz 1, Discussion 1
Week 2	June 8 – June 14	Culture and Health, Social Determinants of Health, Health Disparities	Quiz 2, Discussion 2, Issue Brief 1 Due
Week 3	June 15 – June 21	Community Health Data, Epidemiology, Community Assessment	Quiz 3, Discussion 3
Week 4	June 22 – June 28	Program Planning, Community-Based Participatory Programming, Health Promotion	Quiz 4, Discussion 4, Issue Brief 2 Due
Week 5	June 29 – July 4	Access to Care, Public Health Policy, Program Evaluation, Course Review	Discussion 5, Final Exam

Online Course Policies

Late Work

Assignments submitted after the posted deadline may be subject to a grade reduction unless prior arrangements have been approved by the instructor.

Communication

Students should regularly monitor their university email and Canvas announcements for course updates.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. All submitted work must represent the student's own original work.

Technology Requirements

Students are responsible for maintaining reliable internet access and the ability to access Canvas and course materials throughout the semester.

Student Success Recommendations

To succeed in this accelerated summer course, students are encouraged to:

- Read assigned textbook chapters before completing discussions and quizzes.
- Set aside dedicated weekly study time.
- Begin assignments early.
- Engage actively with course materials and discussions.
- Review feedback promptly.

The accelerated nature of the course requires consistent engagement and time management.

University Policies

Students are responsible for reviewing and complying with all current university policies related to academic integrity, disability accommodations, student conduct, and Title IX requirements.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

Students may use AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Grammarly, Copilot) for studying, brainstorming, and revision support. However, all submitted work must reflect the student's own understanding and original effort. AI-generated content may not be submitted as the student's own work or used during quizzes and exams. Misuse of AI tools may constitute academic dishonesty.