

PUBH 103
Social Determinants of Health
3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County
Common Course Outline

Description

PUBH 103 – Social Determinants of Health: introduces the social determinants of health which are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age; and how they affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. Theories and evidence supporting multiple underlying determinants of health in populations, including access to healthcare and education, are presented. The relationships between the non-medical factors that influence the health of populations and sub-groups are explored. Students develop an understanding of key determinants of health that contribute to health inequalities and explore innovative ways to reduce disparities in health when the goal is to achieve health equity. The role of public policy in shaping outcomes for communities is also examined.

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. identify the five key areas of the determinants of health;
2. explain the significance of social determinants in shaping health outcomes;
3. analyze the impact of social determinants on health disparities within and between populations;
4. evaluate the role of public policy and community initiatives in addressing social determinants of health;
5. explore non-medical factors that affect health outcomes, including the conditions in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age;
6. explain how health inequities affect the ability to achieve optimal health;
7. identify ways to advance health equities;
8. illustrate how education access and quality can impact personal health literacy;
9. discuss how stable employment and work conditions can lead to improved health;
10. discuss how people's relationships with family, friends, co-workers, and community members can have a major impact on their health and well-being;
11. analyze how the quality of one's environment can affect health outcomes;
12. identify social factors that serve as fundamental causes of disease; and
13. explore the impact of social determinants on population health.

Major Topics

- I. Five key areas of the determinants of health
 - a. economic stability/systems
 - b. social structures
 - c. health services

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For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

- d. physical environments
 - e. social environments
- II. Health disparities between populations
- III. Role of public policy and community initiatives
- IV. Population health
- V. Health inequities
 - a. poverty
 - b. discrimination
- VI. Education
 - a. access to quality education
 - b. health literacy
- VII. Employment
 - a. stable vs unstable employment
 - b. work conditions
- VIII. Social and Community Context
 - a. relationships
 - b. support networks
- IX. Environment
 - a. quality of housing
 - b. access to transportation, clean air and water, and healthy foods
 - c. impact of crime and violence
- X. Health Behaviors

Course Requirements

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- Two exams
- One oral or written presentation
- One research project

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

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