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Board Member
Moderator*

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Credentialing Public Health Professionals in a Changing World

**TAKE THE EXAM!
GET CERTIFIED IN
PUBLIC HEALTH (CPH)**

Sponsored by the Council of Accredited MPH Programs
www.mphprograms.org

December 2007

Purpose of the exam

To ensure that students and graduates from schools and programs of public health accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) have mastered the knowledge and skills relevant to contemporary public health practice.

Past Efforts

- Both ASPH and APHA established task forces on the credentialing of public health workers in the late 1980's stimulated, in part, by the call from the U. S. Surgeon General for such an effort
- In 1999, APHA and ASPH formed a Task Force on Public Health Workforce Credentialing

Recent Efforts

- January 2002, ASPH's Executive Committee approved moving forward to develop an independent Board of Public Health to issue examinations and provide those that pass the exam with a public health credential
- National Board of Public Health Examiners incorporated in September 2005
- December 2005, inaugural meeting of the board held in Philadelphia, PA

Governance

- **NBPHE is an independent organization with a volunteer Board**
- **Staff:**
 - **Interim President Dr. Charles Mahan, a nationally recognized leader in academic-practice linkages**
 - **Interim Administrator Cynthia Godes**
 - **Supported by ASPH senior staff**



Collaborating Organizations

According to the by-laws, board members include representatives from:

- APHA (2)
- ASTHO (1)
- NACCHO (1)
- APTR (2)
- ASPH (6*)
- Up to 12 at-large members



** Two of the ASPH-nominated individuals must represent private sector employers*

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Liaisons

- Each CEPH-accredited school and program has designated a liaison to NBPHE.
- NBPHE staff provide the liaisons with the most up-to-date information about the NBPHE credentialing exam,
- Liaisons have the opportunity for feedback into the exam development process.
- The liaisons are asked to keep the board informed of any concerns or questions from students, grads, faculty and staff.
- The liaison program is just one step in a series of mechanisms to involve the general public health community. The NBPHE welcomes participation from all of the public health community.

Timeline to the First Exam

Exam development began	Summer 2006
Candidates register for the exam	August, 2007- April, 2008
Candidates select testing center	Spring 2008
Exam administered	August 11-30, 2008
Scores reported	Fall 2008

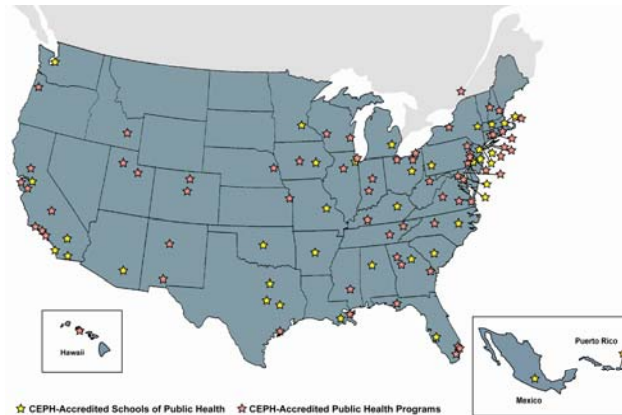
Why Should I Certify? Benefits of Certification

- *Sets a standard for educational competence in the field of public health*
- *Encourages continuing education among public health professionals*
- *Fosters environment of a professional community*
- *Demonstrates personal competence and assurance of professional currency*
- *Brings added credibility amongst one's peers and with colleagues in other fields*
- *Opens doors for participation in workshops, conferences and other professional activities*
- *Is an investment in one's career, livelihood, and future*

Eligibility for the Exam

- Eligible examinees are masters and doctoral graduates of CEPH-accredited schools and programs of public health
 - A list is maintained on the CEPH website at <http://www.ceph.org>

Locations of CEPH-Accredited Schools and Programs



What will the exam cover?

Five discipline-specific domains

- Biostatistics
- Environmental Health Sciences
- Epidemiology
- Health Policy and Management
- Social and Behavioral Sciences

Seven cross-cutting/interdisciplinary domains

- Communication and Informatics
- Diversity and Culture
- Leadership
- Professionalism
- Program Planning
- Public Health Biology
- Systems Thinking

A copy of the core competencies can be found on ASPH's website at <http://www.asph.org/document.cfm?page=851>

Exam Development

- NBPHE has contracted with the National Board of Medical Examiners to develop the exam, including:
 - Workshop to train test-item writers (held September, 2006)
 - Workshop to review and validate initial pool of 700 questions (held September 2007)
 - Editing of items to assure high quality
 - Various approaches to develop metrics that permit a valid and fair examination

The Exam

- Multiple-choice questions, some following cases or vignettes
- Approximately 4½ hours to complete
- Computer-based exam to be offered at testing centers in hundreds of locations nationally
- Cost in the range of \$300-400



Item Writers

- Selection process
 - Solicited nominations from representative organizations
 - Received over 400 nominations
- Characteristics of the 28 item writers
 - Gender: Female (15), Male (13)
 - Race/Ethnicity: Asian (1); Indian (1); Hispanic (2); Black (3), White (21)
 - Practice Experience (14)
 - Geographically diverse: Region 1 (2); 2 (2); 3 (3); 4 (10); 5 (1); 6 (3); 7 (3); 8 (0); 9 (2); 10 (2)

Registration Timeline and Fees

- ***\$350 until December 31, 2007***
- ***\$400 January 1 – April 30, 2008***

www.publichealthexam.org

Preparing for the Exam

Multiple organizations are considering producing study guides, including ASPH (scheduled to be published January 2008)

Check www.publichealthexam.org for updates

Issues Under Consideration

- Are the standards for public health practice being raised, and the professional development of public health practitioners being improved?
- Is the test relevant to current public health practice? If it is not relevant, is the problem with the examination or what is being taught?
- How will the exam serve as a tool for continuing education? What will recertification entail?
- Will employers of public health graduates value the credential?
- How will the examination be graded?

Contact Us

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**Get information and Register for the
Examination**

at

<http://www.nbphe.org/>

Discussion

Questions

Comments