

## Certification in Public Health Examination OHSU/PSU School of Public Health Student Guide

OHSU/PSU School of Public Health MPH students matriculating during or after the 2015-2016 academic year must take the Certified in Public Health (CPH) exam offered through the National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE) as part of their culminating experience.

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### SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS:

- **MPH Health Promotion** students matriculating prior to Fall 2015

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The CPH exam tests knowledge in the five core public health areas: biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental health sciences, health policy and management, and social and behavioral sciences. Seven crosscutting competencies are also covered: communication and informatics, diversity and culture, leadership, public health biology, professionalism, program planning, and systems thinking. **Students are encouraged to take the exam as soon as possible after they have completed their core coursework.**

### A. Eligibility

Students of CEPH-accredited schools and programs are eligible to register for the CPH exam as long as they have completed the graduate-level core content required for their degree (biostatistics, epidemiology, health services/policy management, environmental health, social behavioral sciences). For the OHSU/PSU School of Public Health, these courses are:

1. Biostatistics (BSTA 511, CPH 530, PHE 510, or PHPM 524)
2. Concepts of Environmental Health (CPH 539, PHE 580, or PHPM 518)
3. Epidemiology (CPH 541, PHE 530, or PHPM 512)
4. Health Systems Organization (CPH 540 or PAH 574/PHPM 519)
5. Principles of Health Behavior (CPH 537 or PHE 512/PHPM 517)

The OHSU/PSU SPH Program Office must verify that a student has completed his or her core course requirements before an individual may register for the exam through the NBPHE. To register for the CPH exam, students must send an email with the following information to the Program Office ([phpm@ohsu.edu](mailto:phpm@ohsu.edu)) **three months** before they are able to register and take the exam:

1. Name
2. University ID
3. Track
4. Expected graduation date
5. A copy of your transcript

### TRACK-SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Environmental Systems & Human Health, Health Management & Policy, Health Promotion, and Primary Health Care & Health Disparities students **matriculating Fall 2015 or later**: The CPH exam was paid via fees at the time of matriculation for students who matriculated Fall 2015 or later. Students who plan to complete the CPH exam should contact the Program Office to receive a voucher code **before** registering for the exam. If a student completes the registration process using a credit card to pay the exam fee, they will **NOT** be allowed to apply a voucher at a later time to receive the discounted fee. Students may register for the exam with the voucher provided by the Program Office [here](#).

Health Promotion students **matriculating prior to Fall 2015**: Students who plan to complete the CPH exam, new Field Experience requirements, and additional coursework (Etiology of Disease, Ethics, and Qualitative Research Design) must pay for the CPH exam when they register through AMP. The CPH

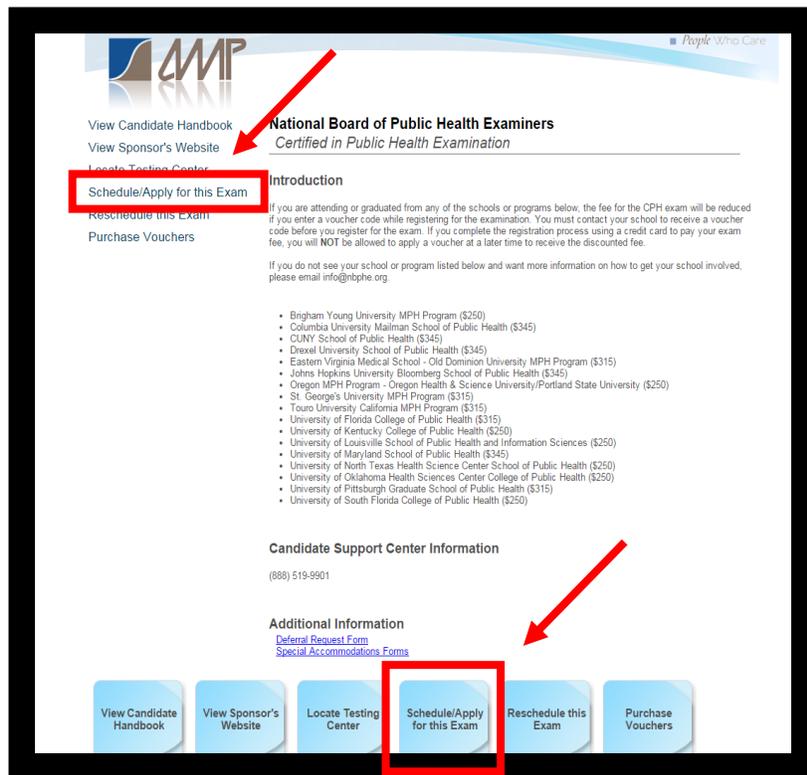
exam costs \$250, but students will be asked to pay the full price of \$385. Upon completion of the exam, the NBPHE issues the student a refund check for \$135. Students may register for the exam [here](#).

## B. Registering for the CPH Exam

The National Board of Public Health Examiners requires candidates to register for the exam through Applied Measurement Professionals, Inc. (AMP). From the NBPHE’s website, you will be directed to an [AMP website](#) (see screenshot below), and will need to select the “Schedule/Apply for this Exam” on the left side of the screen or at the bottom of the page.

**IMPORTANT:** Students must email the Program Office the day they have registered for the exam.

## C. CPH Exam Timeline



At this time, OHSU/PSU School of Public Health MPH students must register for the computer-based exam (CBE). 2016 CPH test dates are below:

February 1-29, 2016  
June 1-30, 2016  
October 1-31, 2016

## D. Receiving Test Scores

Test scores are received 45 days after the exam is completed.

Candidates who pass the exam will be provisionally certified with the CPH credential until graduation. Following confirmation of their graduation, their provisional status will be removed. The Program Office will track graduation for each track, and will update candidate status through AMP.

## E. School of Public Health CPH Pass/Fail Policy

Students who do not pass the CPH exam on their first attempt are required to take, and pay for, a second exam. Students will be provided information about content areas of weakness and will receive advising prior to taking the examination again. A student who fails the second attempt is required to complete a remediation project specified by the Track Coordinator and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Passing the exam or completion of the remediation project is a requirement for graduation.

## F. Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. How much time should I set aside to study for the exam?

There is no set time students should set aside to study for the exam. The School of Public Health recommends reviewing course materials from core courses, as well as the review materials published by the National Board of Public Health Examiners:

- a. [CPH Content Outline](#) on the CPH Exam Information page
- b. [Study Resources](#)
- c. [CPH Webinars](#)

### 2. How have past OMPH students and alumni fared on the exam?

As of Fall 2015, 26 OMPH students and alumni have taken the exam, and 24 have successfully passed. The pass rate across all public health programs and schools is published on the National Board of Public Health Examiners [website](#).

### 3. I am a student who matriculated prior to Fall 2015. Why do I need to pay for the exam, and why do students who matriculated Fall 2015 or later receive a voucher?

Students who matriculated Fall 2015 or later were charged a \$250 matriculation fee, which is held by the Program Office and is used to purchase a voucher. Students who matriculated prior to Fall 2015 were not charged a \$250 matriculation fee, and thus, need to pay for the exam when they register through AMP.

## G. Links & Additional Resources

To find out more about the exam go to: <https://www.nbphe.org/CPHexaminfo.cfm>.

The CPH Candidate Handbook, which provides a broad overview of the exam, can be found at the bottom of this NBPHE page: <https://www.nbphe.org/registerNow.cfm>.

CPH study resources through the National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE) can be found here: <https://www.nbphe.org/CPHstudyresources.cfm>.