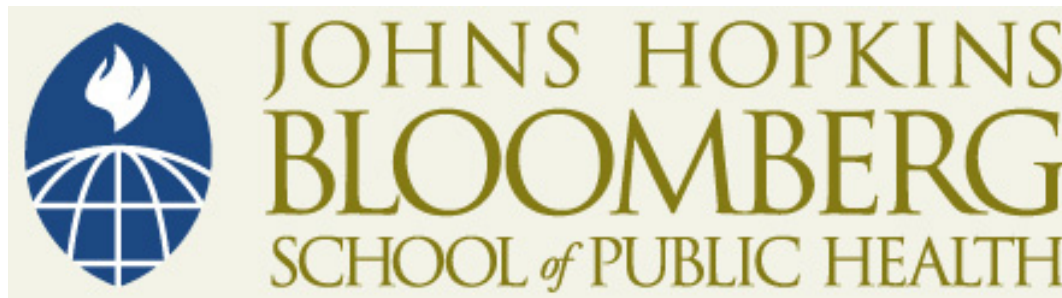


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Introduction to Public Health Practice

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Underlying Themes

- Use the past as a beacon for the future.
- What is Public Health anyway?
- What careers exist in Public Health?
- What skills are needed to do Public Health?
- How can you incorporate Public Health into clinical practice?

What is Public Health Practice

- It is more than the challenges you face in practicing public health!
- It is about people performing the essential services of public health and the core functions in their own unique situation

Postulates For This Course

- Improving the practice of public health requires changes in both our strategy and the execution of our work
- Improvement is both planning and operations; strategy and tactics
- At least 80% of expenditures go into personnel
- Considerable inefficiency comes from poor alignment of work and responsibilities with worker capabilities and resources
- Public health workers basically have an attitude of service and “civic professionalism” (Theory “Y” rather than Theory “X”)

Scholarly Work & Professional Practice – Learn By Doing

- Act your way to a different way of thinking, rather than think your way to a different way of acting
- Knowledge is generated from the complexity and demands of practice applications.
- Experience is the source of learning and understanding.
- The wisdom of practice needs to inform and enrich theory.
- Theory and practice need to be mutually interactive, each building on the other.
- Efficient practice precedes the theory of it”

What Is Public Health Anyway?

- Not a single product or service provided by one type of health professional in one place
- Not a single specialty but *trans*-disciplinary
- A web of relationships among many different people and organizations about a wide variety of topics – a dynamic system!
- **Public health is about each of us taking responsibility for advancing the health of the public, our community's health!**