



## Undergraduate Course Syllabus

### **PHE 423: Evaluation Methods in Public Health**

Center: Online

Credits: 3

### **Course Prerequisites**

PHE 425

### **Course Description**

This course will cover contextual issues surrounding evaluation, evaluation designs and methodological issues, steps involved in conducting an evaluation, communicating the results, and ensuring that evaluation findings are used by intended users.

### **Course Outcomes**

- Develop evidence-based goals for evaluating public health programs that are designed to reach public health audiences
- Analyze specific communities through different social and behavioral lenses for informing program evaluations of public health programs
- Determine evaluation design components appropriate for evaluating the effectiveness of public health programs
- Develop valid and reliable measurement strategies to be used in evaluating public health programs in specific communities

### **Required Materials**

Using your learning resources is critical to your success in this course. Please purchase directly through the [SNHU Online Bookstore](#) rather than any other vendor. Purchasing directly from the bookstore ensures that you will obtain the correct materials and that the IT Service Desk, your advisor, and the instructor can provide you with support if you have problems.

Perrin, K. M. (2022). *Principles of planning, evaluation, and research for health care programs* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Jones & Bartlett Learning. ISBN: 978-1-284-20391-2

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). ISBN: 978-1-4338-3216-1

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2011). *Introduction to program evaluation for public health programs: A self-study guide*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/evaluation/guide/index.htm>

### **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

As indicated in our core values, SNHU is committed to “embrace diversity where we encourage and respect diverse identities, ideas, and perspectives by honoring difference, amplifying belonging, engaging civilly, and breaking down barriers to bring our mission to life.”

This may or will be reflected in SNHU’s curriculum as we embrace and practice diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) to provide the most transformative experience for our students, faculty, and staff. Because topics pertaining to DEI can be sensitive, please remember that embodying and practicing diversity, equity, and inclusion is one of our core values that you will encounter throughout the academic experience. In higher education, we are expected to think and engage critically. Use a growth mindset to embrace the diverse readings, course assignments, and experiences of your peers and faculty.

For more information about DEI at SNHU, please visit our website at the [Office of Diversity and Inclusion](#).

### **Instructor Availability and Response Time**

Your class interaction with the instructor and your classmates will take place on a regular, ongoing basis. Your instructor will be actively engaged within the course throughout the week. You will normally communicate with your instructor in the weekly discussions or the General Questions discussion topic so that your questions and the instructor’s answers benefit the entire class. You should feel free, however, to communicate with your instructor via SNHU email at any time, particularly when you want to discuss something of a personal or sensitive nature. Your instructor will generally provide a response within 24 hours. Instructors will post grades and feedback (as applicable) within seven days of an assignment’s due date, or within seven days of a late submission.

### **Grade Distribution**

| Assignment Category      | Number of Graded Items | Point Value per Item | Total Points                      |
|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Discussions              | 2                      | 25                   | 50                                |
| Small Group Discussions  | 3                      | 50                   | 150                               |
| Activity: CITI Training  | 1                      | 30                   | 30                                |
| Short Essays             | 3                      | 50                   | 150                               |
| Journal                  | 1                      | 30                   | 30                                |
| Final Project            |                        |                      |                                   |
| Milestone One            | 1                      | 145                  | 145                               |
| Milestone Two            | 1                      | 145                  | 145                               |
| Final Project Submission | 1                      | 300                  | 300                               |
|                          |                        |                      | <b>Total Course Points: 1,000</b> |

This course may also contain practice activities. The purpose of these non-graded activities is to assist you in mastering the learning outcomes in the graded activity items listed above.

#### University Grading System: Undergraduate

| Grade | Numerical Equivalent           | Points |
|-------|--------------------------------|--------|
| A     | 93–100                         | 4      |
| A-    | 90–92                          | 3.67   |
| B+    | 87–89                          | 3.33   |
| B     | 83–86                          | 3      |
| B-    | 80–82                          | 2.67   |
| C+    | 77–79                          | 2.33   |
| C     | 73–76                          | 2      |
| C-    | 70–72                          | 1.67   |
| D+    | 67–69                          | 1.33   |
| D     | 60–66                          | 1      |
| F     | 0–59                           | 0      |
| I     | Incomplete                     |        |
| IF    | Incomplete/Failure *           |        |
| IP    | In Progress (past end of term) |        |
| W     | Withdrawn                      |        |

\* Please refer to the [policy page](#) for information on the incomplete grade process.

#### Grading Guides

Specific activity directions, grading guides, posting requirements, and additional deadlines can be found in the Assignments and Rubrics section of the course.

#### Weekly Assignment Schedule

All reading and assignment information can be found within each module of the course. Assignments and discussion posts during the first week of each term are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Assignments and discussion posts for the remainder of the term are due by 11:59 p.m. of the student's local time zone.

In addition to the textbook readings that are listed, there may be additional required resources within each module.

| Module | Topics and Assignments   |
|--------|--|
| 1      | Program Evaluation in Public Health<br><i>Principles of Evaluation and Research for Health Care Programs</i> , Chapters 1, 2, and 4<br>1-1 CITI Training: Begin Work<br>1-2 Discussion: The Importance of Ethical Considerations in Program Evaluation<br>1-3 Short Essay: Describing the Program and Community Setting for the Evaluation |
| 2      | Considering the Target Population<br><i>Principles of Evaluation and Research for Health Care Programs</i> , Chapters 5 and 6<br>2-1 Final Project Milestone One: The Program and Community Setting for the Evaluation   |
| 3      | Evaluation Designs: Part One<br><i>Principles of Evaluation and Research for Health Care Programs</i> , Chapter 10<br>3-1 Small Group Discussion: Mixed-Method Evaluation Designs<br>3-2 Short Essay: Determining the Focus of the Evaluation<br>3-3 CITI Training: Continue Work  |
| 4      | Evaluation Designs: Part Two<br><i>Principles of Evaluation and Research for Health Care Programs</i> , Chapter 8<br>4-1 Final Project Milestone Two: Program Evaluation Design  |
| 5      | Gathering Credible Evidence: Developing Indicators: Reliability and Validity<br><i>Principles of Evaluation and Research for Health Care Programs</i> , Chapters 7 and 11<br>5-1 Small Group Discussion: Measurement Tools<br>5-2 Short Essay: Program Evaluation Measurement Method<br>5-3 CITI Training: Continue Work                   |
| 6      | Justifying Conclusions and Communicating Findings<br><i>Principles of Evaluation and Research for Health Care Programs</i> , Chapter 12<br>6-1 Small Group Discussion: Communicating Your Results<br>6-2 Continue Work: Final Project  |
| 7      | The Evaluation Plan<br><i>Principles of Evaluation and Research for Health Care Programs</i> , Chapters 9 and 13<br>7-1 Final Project Submission: Mock Program Evaluation Plan<br>7-2 CITI Training: Submit Certificate  |
| 8      | Budgeting and Cost Analysis<br><i>Principles of Evaluation and Research for Health Care Programs</i> , Chapter 3<br>8-1 Journal: Reflection and Looking Ahead<br>8-2 Discussion: The Question of Federal Funding<br>8-3 ePortfolio: Uploading Your Final Project to Your ePortfolio  |

### Course Participation

Course participation is required within the first week of the term for all online courses. *Participation* in this context is defined as completing one graded assignment during the first week of the course. Otherwise, students will be administratively removed for nonparticipation. Students who do not participate during the first week may forfeit their rights to be reinstated into the course. Students who stop attending a course after the first week and who do not officially withdraw will receive a grade calculated based on all submitted and missed graded assignments for

the course. Missed assignments will earn a grade of zero. See the [course withdrawal policy](#) and the [full attendance policy](#) for further information.

### **Late Assignments**

Students who need extra time may submit assignments (excluding discussion board postings) up to one week after the assignment due date. Discussion board submissions will not be accepted for credit after the deadline except in extenuating circumstances.

- A penalty of 10 percent of the total value of the assignment will be applied to the grade achieved on the late assignment regardless of the day of the week on which the work is submitted.
- Students who submit assignments more than one week late will receive a grade of zero on the assignment unless they have made prior arrangements with the instructor.

Students must submit all assignments no later than 11:59 p.m. (in their own time zone) on the last day of the term. No assignments are accepted after the last day of the term unless an incomplete has been submitted. See the [incomplete grades policy](#).

There may be times an instructor makes an exception to the late assignment policy. Instructors may accept late work, including discussion board posts, with or without prior arrangement.

- Exceptions to the late policy on these grounds are left to the instructor's discretion, including whether the late penalty is applied or waived. Students should not assume that they will be allowed to submit assignments after the due dates.
- If an instructor finds that they are unable to determine whether an exception to the late policy would be appropriate without documentation, the collection and review of student documentation should be handled through the Dispute Resolution team in order to protect the student's privacy. In these cases, students should file a [Student Concern Dispute form](#) to have the circumstances reviewed.

If a student is experiencing (or knows they will experience) a circumstance, including pregnancy, that is protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act or Title IX, they are encouraged to contact the [Online Accessibility Center \(OAC\)](#) as soon as possible to explore what academic accommodations might be offered. Instructors must honor all deadlines established through the OAC.

### **Student Handbook**

Review the [student handbook](#).

### **ADA/504 Compliance Statement**

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is dedicated to providing equal access to individuals with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, as amended by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008.

SNHU prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of disability and takes action to prevent such discrimination by providing reasonable accommodations to eligible individuals with disabilities. The university has adopted the

[ADA/504 Grievances Policy](#) (version 1.2 effective October 16, 2017), providing for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints regarding any action prohibited by Section 504 or the ADA.

For further information on accessibility support and services, visit the [Disability and Accessibility Services](#) webpage.

### **Academic Integrity Policy**

Southern New Hampshire University requires all students to adhere to high standards of integrity in their academic work. Activities such as plagiarism and cheating are not condoned by the university. Review the [full academic integrity policy](#).

### **Copyright Policy**

Southern New Hampshire University abides by the provisions of United States Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). Any person who infringes the copyright law is liable. Review the [full copyright policy](#).

### **Withdrawal Policy**

Review the [full withdrawal policy](#).

### **Southern New Hampshire University Policies**

More information about SNHU policies can be found on the [policy page](#).