Mission / Purpose
The Institute of Public Health has the mission of advancing health through leadership, scholarship, research, and service to better the human condition and promote the common good. The most significant application of that mission is to prepare students through the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree program to apply multi-disciplinary skills in public health practice and research and to assume leadership roles to address contemporary public health problems. The mission of the Institute of Public Health complements the stated mission of its administrative college home, the College of Health and Human Sciences, which is “to engage in teaching, scholarly endeavors, and service activities that improve health and well-being and address social justice issues within a multi-cultural society.” With a focus on scholarship and research in urban health and health disparities, the Institute supports the mission of Georgia State University “to achieve a front-rank position among the nation’s premier state-supported universities located in an urban setting.” The Institute’s mission is strengthened by the objective of the University System of Georgia, through its Strategic Plan for Public Health Education, Research and Service, “to ensure that the System becomes one of the national leaders in public health education, research and service.”

Note: The Master of Public Health program began in the Fall of 2004 and currently has 120 graduate students enrolled. The first students graduated in Spring 2006.

Goals
G 1: IPH Program Goal
The goal of the GSU IPH is to uphold the overarching goal of the Council on Education for Public Health [CEPH], which is to 'enhance health in human populations through organized community effort'. The IPH focus is to prepare students to enter the public health workforce so that health problems of local communities, and the world, can be identified, addressed, and/or prevented.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives
SLO 1: Understand Core Public Health Concepts (M: 1)
Understand Core Public Health Concepts Articulate and utilize an understanding of core public health concepts from the five divisions of public health: biostatistics, epidemiology, social and behavioral sciences, health services administration, and environmental health.

Relevant Associations: Council on Education for Public Health [CEPH]

SLO 2: Demonstrate Planning, Implementation, Evaluation (M: 1)
Demonstrate the ability to plan, implement and evaluate programs and services designed to address public health conditions of a population(s).
SLO 3: Understand an Ecological Approach to Public Health (M: 1)
Understand and employ an 'ecological approach' to public health, with emphasis on linkages and relationships among the multiple determinants of health, to assure conditions that protect and promote the health of populations.

SLO 4: Demonstrate Communication and Research Skills (M: 1)
Demonstrate Communication and Research skills consonant with the academic and professional field of Public Health.

SLO 5: Apply Critical Thinking Skills (M: 1)
Apply critical thinking skills within the context of public health practice and research.

Measures, Targets, and Findings

M 1: Final Thesis or Special Capstone Project (O: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
Each MPH Student has the option of completing either a thesis or special capstone research project. Both culminating experiences are designed to test the student's competency in core public health knowledge, skills and abilities and to ensure proficiency in the student's area of specialization. Students must present their thesis or capstone project in writing and defend it orally, to a faculty committee. Evaluation of the thesis/capstone was conducted through a pilot evaluation program that included a 4 point, 5 item rubric that links to IPH SLOs. The rubric is attached as a connected document to this Measure.

Source of Evidence: Senior thesis or culminating major project

Target for O1: Understand Core Public Health Concepts
75% of student sample will score a 3 or higher (4 point scale) on the following Thesis/Capstone Assessment rubric item: "Writing shows understanding of Core Public Health Concepts relevant to chosen topic of thesis/capstone." Student sample will consist of at least 50% of students who have completed either a Thesis or Capstone project at the end of the academic year (Spring Semester).

Findings 2012-2013 - Target: Met
19 out of 20 students (95%) received a 3 or higher on this rubric item. The average score for this item is 3.30.

Target for O2: Demonstrate Planning, Implementation, Evaluation
75% of student sample will score a 3 or higher (4 point scale) on the following Thesis/Capstone Assessment rubric item: "The thesis/capstone demonstrates planning, implementation, and evaluation of a program(s) designed to address public health conditions of a population(s)." Student sample will consist of at least 50% of students who have completed either a Thesis or Capstone project at the end of the academic year (Spring Semester).

Findings 2012-2013 - Target: Met
19 out of 20 students (95%) received a 3 or higher on this rubric item. The average score for this item is 3.35.
Target for O3: Understand an Ecological Approach to Public Health
75% of student sample will score a 3 or higher (4 point scale) on the following Thesis/Capstone Assessment rubric item: "The thesis/capstone shows understanding of an Ecological Approach to Public Health, emphasizing linkages and relationships among multiple determinants of health." Student sample will consist of at least 50% of students who have completed either a Thesis or Capstone project at the end of the academic year (Spring Semester).

Findings 2012-2013 - Target: Met
18 out of 20 students (90%) received a 3 or higher on this rubric item. The average score for this item is 3.45.

Target for O4: Demonstrate Communication and Research Skills
75% of student sample will score a 3 or higher (4 point scale) on the following Thesis/Capstone Assessment rubric item: "Writing demonstrates Communication and Research skills consonant with the academic and professional field of Public Health." Student sample will consist of at least 50% of students who have completed either a Thesis or Capstone project at the end of the academic year (Spring Semester).

Findings 2012-2013 - Target: Met
19 out of 20 students (95%) received a 3 or higher on this rubric item. The average score for this item is 3.05.

Target for O5: Apply Critical Thinking Skills
75% of student sample will score a 3 or higher (4 point scale) on the following Thesis/Capstone Assessment rubric item: "Writing demonstrates application of critical thinking skills to problems relevant to Public Health." Student sample will consist of at least 50% of students who have completed either a Thesis or Capstone project at the end of the academic year (Spring Semester).

Findings 2012-2013 - Target: Met
15 out of 20 students (75%) received a 3 or higher on this rubric item. The average score for this item is 3.10.

Details of Action Plans for This Cycle (by Established cycle, then alpha)

Complete Doctoral Program Application
We are developing a proposal to initiate a PhD program within the IPH. We will continue to seek support and approval throughout the upcoming years.

Established in Cycle: 2008-2009
Implementation Status: Planned
Priority: Medium
Implementation Description: Ongoing

Enhancing Alumni Communications
Due to the APR Self-Study, we were able to enhance our alumni response rate to the alumni survey this academic year. We want to maintain our exposure and contact with this very important stakeholder group as we move forward.

**Established in Cycle:** 2008-2009  
**Implementation Status:** In-Progress  
**Priority:** Medium  
**Implementation Description:** Ongoing

### Revise Monitoring Measures

The IPH faculty and staff will collectively review and revise measures currently in place so that we can become more efficient in capturing our productivity, effectiveness, and quality.

**Established in Cycle:** 2008-2009  
**Implementation Status:** Planned  
**Priority:** High  
**Projected Completion Date:** 09/2010