

**Common Course Outline**  
**PAST 212**  
**Public Health and Preventive Medicine**  
**2 Credits**

**The Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

**Public Health and Preventive Medicine**

Presents the dynamics of health and disease in human populations and introduces services and facilities for the maintenance of health and prevention of illness. Explores concepts of demography, epidemiology, environmental health, provision of medical services, preventive medicine and infectious disease; addresses basic principles of health policy making.

**Overall Course Objectives**

At the conclusion of the course the student will be able to:

- A. Define clinical epidemiology and explain its applications;
- B. Evaluate validity and clinical applicability of published research;
- C. Explain the importance of research in formulating health policy;
- D. Explain the public health importance of health screening, immunization programs and other health promotion and disease prevention strategies as they relate to PA practice in Maryland;
- E. Conduct a medical literature search; and
- F. Develop a patient education plan for a major public health problem.

**Major Topics**

- A. Overview of Clinical Epidemiology
- B. Basic Diagnostic Tools in Community Medicine
  - 1. Basic Statistical Measures
    - a. Describing the Population
    - b. Indices of central tendency
    - c. Indices of Variation
    - d. Rates and Ratios
      - (1) Measures of Mortality
      - (2) Incidence and Prevalence
    - e. Risk Factors
  - 2. Evaluation of clinical research
    - a. Bias - measurement, selection, chance
    - b. Validity
- C. Disease Control
  - 1. Vaccination and Screening Programs
  - 2. Disease reportability and practical epidemiology
  - 3. Disease Control Organizations
    - a. Centers for Disease Control
    - b. National Institutes for Health
    - c. State and local health departments
- D. Public Health Perspectives for Pas
  - 1. Community medicine

- a. Diagnostic tools
- b. Treatment
  - (1) "Micro" level
  - (2) Community level
  - (3) "Macro" level
- 2. A holistic view of disease
  - a. Environment
  - b. Lifestyle
- 3. Human Biology
- 4. Health Care Reform
  - a. Access to Care
  - b. Quality Assurance
  - c. Cost Containment

### **Course Requirements**

Methods of Evaluation:

- A. Written examination
- B. Papers

### **Other Course Information**

Methods of Instruction:

- A. Lecture