

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary**

Course Prefix and Number: HLT 228 **Credits:** 3

Course Title: Introduction to Public Health

Course Description:

Provides an overview of public health systems in the United States and globally with an emphasis on core functions, essential services and health determinants. Explores the history, core areas and current trends within public health as well as how public health affects individuals and populations. The assignments in the course require college-level reading fluency and coherent communication through documented written reports.

General Course Purpose:

HLT 228 introduces basic public health concepts and the public health systems framework in the United States and globally. This course covers core skills and knowledge needed for entry level employment in public health organizations.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

None.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to

- Describe the purpose of public health
- Identify key public health organizations
- Identify the social determinants of health
- Discuss the role of public health in shaping health behaviors
- Define health education and health promotion
- Describe the public health surveillance process
- Describe basic terminology and concepts of epidemiology
- Distinguish between communicable and non-communicable diseases
- Explain the relationship between environment and public health
- Identify the 10 threats to global health established by the World Health Organization (WHO)
- Identify different ethical and legal issues embedded in public health law and policy
- Identify future trends in public health

Major Topics to Be Included:

- Introduction to Public Health
- Public Health Systems and Framework
- Social and Behavioral Sciences and Public Health
- Health Education and Promotion
- Public Health Surveillance
- Epidemiology
- Communicable and Non-communicable Disease

- Environmental Health
- Global Approaches to Public Health
- Public Health Law, Policy, and Ethics
- The Future of Public Health

Effective Date/Updated: November 15, 2023