

# Public & Community Health

## Doctoral Qualifying Examination

### Part 2: TAKE-HOME

**SAMPLE      SAMPLE      SAMPLE      SAMPLE      SAMPLE      SAMPLE**

*This is an open–book, take–home examination to be completed in two weeks. You may use any non–human resource in preparing your answers. Please limit your response to no more than 25 double–spaced pages plus references.*

In response to heightened concerns about the spread of sexually transmitted diseases (including AIDS), a consortium of Mid–Atlantic universities is interested in finding ways to promote safer sex practices among their students. The universities have employed a variety of approaches, including the distribution of educational pamphlets, lectures by experts, health–educator–run skills training sessions, peer–run educational groups, and the distribution of condoms. You are asked to design, implement, and evaluate a field experiment that will test the efficacy for changing behavior using two of the above methods, both jointly and separately. How would you propose to do the study? In your discussion, address at a minimum, the following:

- A. A statement of the problem (approx. 3 pages)
- B. The theoretical basis and conceptual model for the intervention (approx. 5–7 pages)
- C. The intervention design, which should at least include (approx. 10–14 pages):
  - 1. the kind of experimental design and how it relates to the internal and external validity of the results;
  - 2. the number of cases and their selection;
  - 3. the operational definitions of the key independent and dependent variables;
  - 4. the design of the intervention strategies (e.g., frequency of application, training of facilitators, methods of implementation);
  - 5. data collection methods;
  - 6. an appropriate data analysis plan for the kind of design you propose, including the rationale for its selection.
- D. Discuss the significance of the findings (assuming significance) in the context of study limitations (e.g., generalizability) and implications for policy and practice. (approx. 3–4 pp.)