



DEFINITION of “COMPETENCY”

The knowledge, skills, and abilities demonstrated by organization or system members needed to perform specific functions within organizations or professional practices.

(Birkhead GS et al., Public Health Reports, 2008)



C R I T E R I A for CORE COMPETENCIES of EPIDEMIOLOGISTS

Why criteria?

- ❖ To ensure that we select relevant competencies that are characteristic for the work of epidemiologists
(and to define a unique selling proposition as economists would say)
- ❖ The criteria should help us to decide which competencies are to be considered of core relevance
- ❖ They should offer general guidance for discussions, but there is also room for competencies that do not fit into the scheme
- ❖ We have discussed and decided on the following four criteria:

ESSENTIAL

UNIQUE

PERVASIVE

TIMELESS



ESSENTIAL

Without this competency, Epidemiologists could not fulfill their job

Example:

Ability to anticipate the risk of major bias types in studies is essential.

Ability to name ALL specific biases is NOT.

UNIQUE

This competency is characteristic for epidemiologists

Example:

Ability to assess causality is unique.

Ability to interpret p-values is NOT.



PERVASIVE

This competency is commonly used by many epidemiologists.

Example:

Ability to interpret epidemiologic disease frequency measures is pervasive.

Ability to interpret results from genetic heritability studies is NOT.

TIMELESS

This competency should not be specific for a particular time period.

Example:

Ability to work with large databases is timeless.

Ability to work with database system X (name your favorite) is NOT.