



SCHOOL of PUBLIC HEALTH



Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences

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MPH in Community Health Academic Year 2009-2010

The community health concentration prepares professionals from a variety of backgrounds (nursing, medicine, dentistry, allied health, social work, health education, nutrition, psychology, anthropology, sociology) for public health careers. This concentration uses a multidisciplinary approach to identify community, family, social, and behavioral factors in both the onset of and solution to public health problems through disease prevention, health promotion, or health care. Community health contributes to the development, implementation, and evaluation of programs and policies that promote healthy environments and healthy lives for individuals and populations. Students will learn social and behavioral theories and methodologies that are used to plan, implement, and evaluate health promotion and disease prevention programs and interventions. Students will also be prepared to perform community-based research, communicate findings to the public and policymakers, and advocate for evidence-based programs and policies. This concentration also prepares students to take the Certified Health Education Specialists (CHES) exam. Traditionally, program graduates have assumed positions in public health departments, health and human service agencies, and other health care settings. By the conclusion of the M.P.H. program, a student in the community health concentration will be able to:

1. Identify theories, concepts models, and methodologies from a range of social and behavioral disciplines that are used in the solution of public health problems affecting the health of populations and individuals.
2. Identify needs and assets for social and behavioral science interventions.
3. Analyze social and behavioral factors contributing to disparities in population health.
4. Describe the steps and procedures for planning, implementation, and evaluation of community health programs, policies, and interventions.
5. Specify multiple targets and levels of intervention for community health programs and policies.
6. Apply evidence-based approaches in the development, implementation, and evaluation of community health promotion interventions to improve health and reduce disparities.
7. Implement and coordinate programs, research, and interventions in a public health setting.
8. Interact sensitively, effectively, and professionally with persons from diverse cultural, socioeconomic, educational, and professional backgrounds and with persons of all ages.
9. Develop community health promotion programs and use strategies responsive to the diverse cultural values and traditions of the communities being served.
10. Apply social justice and human rights principles and values when addressing community needs and use collaborative methods to achieve organizational and community health and organizational goals.
11. Apply ethical principles to address potential dilemmas in public health interventions.

Community Health Curriculum (48 Semester Credit Hours)

CORE COURSES: 15 SCH

BIOS	5300	Biostatistics for Public Health 1	3 SCH
EOHS	5300	Environmental Health	3 SCH
EPID	5300	Principles of Epidemiology	3 SCH

HMAP	5300	Introduction to Health Management and Policy	3 SCH
SABS	5300	Theoretical Foundations of Individual & Community Health	3 SCH

REQUIRED COURSES: 12 SCH

SABS	5310	Community Assessment	3 SCH
SABS	5312	Community Program Planning	3 SCH
SABS	5314	Social and Behavioral Methods and Evaluation	3 SCH
SABS	5316	Public Health Interventions	3 SCH

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE: 3 SCH

SABS	5397	Public Health Practice Experience	3 SCH
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ELECTIVE COURSES: 18 SCH

BIOS	5310	Biostatistics for Public Health 2	3 SCH
BIOS	5314	Introduction to Statistical Packages	3 SCH
EOHS	5334	Occupational Diseases and Health Practice	3 SCH
EOHS	5355	Work, Surveillance, Safety, Law	3 SCH
EPID	5318	Chronic Disease Epidemiology	3 SCH
EPID	5320	Infectious Disease Epidemiology	3 SCH
HMAP	5312	Health Politic and Policy	3 SCH
HMAP	5320	Health Services Management	3 SCH
HMAP	5324	Strategic Management and Marketing	3 SCH
HMAP	5328	Human Resource Management	3 SCH
HMAP	5340	Public Health Law	3 SCH
HMAP	5350	Health Economics	3 SCH
SABS	5320	Texas-Mexico Border Health Issues	3 SCH
SABS	5322	Social Justice, Ethics and Human Rights in Public Health	3 SCH
SABS	5324	Introduction to Health Disparities	3 SCH
SABS	5325	Maternal and Child Health	3 SCH
SABS	5328	Introduction to Global Health	3 SCH
SABS	5330	Health Communication Strategies in Public Health	3 SCH
SABS	5332	Stress and Coping	3 SCH
SABS	5334	Social and Cultural Determinants of Population Health	3 SCH

- Students may substitute an elective course not on this list only with prior written approval of their advisor.
- Courses not approved as substitutes will not be applied toward the degree plan.
- For the Texas - Mexico Border Health Issues course EOHS 5320, all students must have a Passport prior to taking this course, and international students must also have a US multi-entry Visa and purchase a travel visa for Mexico prior to taking this course.

CULMINATING EXPERIENCE:

Comprehensive Exam

- Upon approval by the student's advisor and the department chair, students may elect to complete a Thesis for the culminating experience. In this case, students will take 12 SCH of "ELECTIVE" coursework and 6 SCH of Thesis.