

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MPH REQUIRED COURSES (All 3 credits)

MPH 600: Foundations of Public Health and Health Services Management (Fall/Spring)

This course is an introduction to public health and health care systems. Topics include the history of public health, critical public health issues, and public health principles, priorities, pioneers, publications, and practices. Health services management topics include the history, structure, functions, and management issues of organizations that deliver public and other forms of health care services. Through readings, discussion, research, individual and group work, students in this course will acquire basic knowledge, attitudes and skills that are essential for effective public health practice.

Prerequisites: None

MPH 610: Principles of Epidemiology (Fall/Spring)

This course introduces the distribution and determinants of health and disease in defined populations, and also emphasizes the skills necessary to research, produce, utilize and critique epidemiologic literature. Students learn how to find and interpret data, describe outbreaks and their effects on specific populations, and to assess and communicate risk. The course also addresses basic public health applications of informatics as a means of communicating data.

Prerequisites: May take concurrently with MPH 600 or Instructor's Permission

MPH 615: Principles of Biostatistics (Fall/Spring)

This course presents an introduction to the theory and methods used in biostatistics. Students will learn to apply statistics to explain the occurrence and control of disease as well as to evaluate public health programs. This course also will introduce students to the theories applied to common statistical methods and principles used in public health, such as those related to disease measurement and distribution, probability, hypothesis testing, statistical significance, sampling, and univariate, bivariate and multivariate analysis. This course is part of the core course requirement for the MPH program. While there are some formulae and computational elements to the course, the emphasis is on interpretation and concepts.

Prerequisites: May take concurrently with MPH 600, 610, or Instructor's Permission

MPH 620: Social and Behavioral Sciences in Public Health (Fall/Spring)

This course is an introduction to previously established, as well as new and emerging, social and behavioral science theories used in shaping research and practice in public health and health education. Students will analyze and compare theories, and review research that supports and/or challenges the contribution of these theories to health promotion and disease prevention at the individual, group, organizational, community, and public policy levels.

Prerequisites: May take concurrently with MPH 600 or Instructor's Permission

MPH 625: Environmental Health Issues in Public Health (Fall/Spring)

The study of biological, physical, chemical, economic, political, and social factors that cause environmental health problems, and traditional and new and emerging approaches to help prevent and manage/control these problems.

Prerequisites: None

MPH 735: Research Methods in Public Health and Health Education (Fall/Spring)

This course is an introduction to community-based research design and methods, including the logic of scientific research, research ethics, casual inference, hypothesis formation, measurement theory, survey research experimental design, qualitative methods, sampling and data analysis applications and salient funding and Institutional Review Board issues. The course emphasizes Community-Based Participatory Research best practices, including building community partnerships, cultural competence, community involvement in assessment, issue analysis, research planning, data gathering, and data sharing. Bridges and barriers to the diffusion and application of research findings to practice are explored.

Prerequisites: MPH 600, 610, and 620; may take concurrently with MPH 615

MPH 740: Program Planning, Implementation and Evaluation (Fall/Spring)

This course covers strategies, tailored to various settings and diverse populations, for assessing health promotion and disease prevention needs, the development of programs to meet those needs, and evaluation of the effectiveness of the planning, implementation, and outcomes of the programs in variety of settings. The course builds on core concepts from epidemiology, research methods, and biostatistics, and emphasizes proposal writing, budget planning, and project management skills. Students participate in a service-learning project to assist a community-based organization or public health agency in developing an evidence-based public health promotion program.

Prerequisites: MPH 620, and 735

MPH 745: Organizing and Teaching for Health (Summer/Fall)

This course examines the design, production and evaluation of education-based health promotion and disease prevention programs and services rooted in health education theory, research, and best practices. It introduces community organizing and coalition building principles and best practices as the basis for effective community work. It includes the study of traditional and emerging community/population-based health education strategies and methods.

Prerequisites: MPH 600

MPH 750: Public Health Policy, Advocacy and Leadership (Fall/Spring)

This course addresses the role of public policies in influencing the public's health, frameworks for analyzing public health policies; the role(s) and limitations of public health workers in influencing public policy for health; advocacy as a strategy for achieving social change; strategies to promote and sustain policies through legislative processes; and public health leadership principles and practices.

Prerequisites: MPH 600

MPH 755: Health Communications Issues and Strategies (Fall/Spring)

This course introduces students to health communication theory, research and best practices. It provides students with a framework for designing, producing, and evaluating mass media health promotion and disease prevention campaigns. Health communication strategies to be studied include print materials (i.e., brochures, flyers, posters, billboards, newspapers, newsletters, reports), internet-based communication media (i.e., websites, blogs, webcasts, podcasts, iTunes, YouTube, virtual worlds/reality programs), social media platforms, television, radio, film and e-mobile

interventions. Emphasizes the benefits of and techniques for coordinating multiple, well-integrated, and well-coordinated interventions.

Prerequisites: MPH 620 and 735

MPH 798: Public Health Capstone Seminar: Promoting Health Equity (Fall/Spring)

Capstone is a culminating academic experience in which students demonstrate their command of the MPH coursework by assessing and analysing past and present public health challenges and how they were or are being handled. Students are expected to synthesize, integrate, and apply skills and competencies acquired through their program of study to a public health problem that approximates a professional practice experience. The project requires both a written and oral assignment. It is typically completed in the last term of the program, usually in conjunction with the completion of a fieldwork practicum experience.

Prerequisites: MPH core and elective courses; taken concurrently with MPH 799 and may be taken concurrently with MPH 740 or 755

MPH 799: Public Health Field Practicum (Fall/Spring)

A 200-hour field practicum/placement at a local health organization that includes the performance of health education, advocacy, and communication function, and the collection and analysis of data as appropriate, under the supervision of a qualified health professional to address an actual public health challenge. A practicum report will be completed and presented in the form of an oral presentation and scientific poster.

Prerequisites: MPH core and elective courses; taken concurrently with MPH 798 and may be taken concurrently with MPH 740 or 755

ELECTIVES (2 elective courses are required)

MPH 540: Current Issues in Public Health I (On occasion)

This course exposes students to up to three current critical public health challenges. Students will learn about the epidemiology of selected contemporary issues; the interdisciplinary workforce involved; key research findings; efforts to integrate research findings into practice; current, new, and emerging interventions; and they will meet public health and health promotion leaders in these arenas and learn about their challenges and achievements.

Prerequisites: None

MPH 545: Current Issues in Public Health II (On occasion)

Same as MPH 540; different issues

Prerequisites: none

MPH 575: Developing Strong Public Health Grant Proposals (On demand)

This course will engage students in project-based learning focused on the competencies that public health professionals need to develop for effective public health grant proposals. Students will become familiar with the key components of a competitive grant proposal for foundations and government funders and learn best practices for developing a well-organized budget and a targeted list of foundation and government funding prospects.

Prerequisites: MPH 735 and MPH 740

MPH 650: Study Abroad (Summer I)

This research course focuses on exposing students to the culture, public health services and primary healthcare organizations in the Balkans and United States. Students will be exposed to the social, cultural, economic, environmental, and political factors that impact population health across two global regions. Students will have the opportunity to collect and analyze data about the health status in the Balkans and United States. Through a combination of data collection, field excursions to cultural and historical monuments and monasteries, visits to health care institutions and interactive sessions with the regional public health experts, students will also develop an appreciation for both cultural and institutional peculiarities of the public health systems, policies, and current strategies in facing regional and global health challenges

Prerequisites: none

COURSE SEQUENCE

*When planning courses for each semester, remember that **all requirements for the MPH degree must be completed within six years from the date of initial enrollment.** You may attend either full-time (9 credits/semester) or part-time (6 credits/semester). **As you plan your schedule, consider other demands on your time, including employment and family needs.** Rushing through the program is not a good idea. Plan carefully, thoughtfully, and strategically, taking every aspect of your life into consideration. The course sequence options outlined on the next page are provided to help you plan your program of study. Tailored course sequences may be developed in collaboration with your academic advisor. Yearly master schedules may change without notice; however, the following can serve as a guide for helping you plan your course sequences and shows when core and elective courses are usually offered.*

Provided suggestion is for full-time students:

First Semester

MPH 600 Foundations of Public Health and Health Services Management
MPH 610 Principles of Epidemiology
MPH 615 Principles of Applied Biostatistics

Second Semester

MPH 620 Social & Behavioral Sciences in Public Health
MPH 625 Environmental Health Issues in Public Health
MPH 735 Research and Evaluation Methods

Summer Semester

MPH 650 Elective – Study Abroad
MPH 745 Organizing and Educating for Health

Third Semester

MPH 740 Program Planning, Implementation and Evaluation
MPH 750 Public Health Policy, Advocacy and Leadership

MPH 755 *Health Communications Issues and Strategies*

Fourth Semester

MPH 530 Global Public Health Challenges/ or MPH 575

MPH 798 *Public Health Capstone Seminar*

MPH 799 *Public Health Field Practicum*