



## **DrPH.-Social and Behavioral Sciences**

The concentration in social and behavioral sciences in public health is designed for social and health professionals that want to prepare themselves in research, teaching and public health practice, and other leadership positions involving the design, development and evaluation of public health programs, as well as application of social and behavioral sciences to the development of intervention strategies for health promotion and disease prevention. The first part of the coursework training is focused on the core knowledge of public health, development of leadership skills, and the study of ethical and economic issues in public health. The concentration courses include quantitative and qualitative research methods as applied to social and behavioral sciences in public health. The program also relies on theoretical perspectives in sociology and psychology. Students may also further develop their training in medical anthropology, health education, latino health, community health, social marketing and health communication by taking further elective coursework and research. One research paper and a dissertation will provide the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills gained during coursework and a residency practice. Graduates will be able to develop their careers in state or federal government health programs, academia, or health care provider organizations.

### **Prerequisite Courses: 18 SCH\***

BIOS 5210	Biostatistics for Public Health I	3 SCH
BIOS 5215	Biostatistics for Public Health II	3 SCH
ENVR 5300	Environmental Health	3 SCH
EPID 5100	Principles of Epidemiology	3 SCH
HMAP 5210	Introduction to Health Management and Policy	3 SCH
SCBS 5110	Behavioral and Social Aspects of Public Health	3 SCH

### **Curriculum**

#### **Core Curriculum Requirements: 22SCH\***

BIOS 6100	Applied Statistical Methods for Data Analysis	3 SCH
ENVR 6100	Environmental Health Determinants	3 SCH
EPID 6110	Intermediate Epidemiology for Non-Majors <sup>1</sup>	3 SCH
HMAP 6100	Health Care Systems	3 SCH
SCBS 6100	Social and Behavioral Theories and Health Applications	3 SCH
SPH 6161	Ethics I	1 SCH

SPH	6162	Ethics II	1 SCH
SPH	6163	Leadership I	1 SCH
SPH	6164	Leadership II	1 SCH
SPH	6900	Doctoral Capstone	

\* A student may petition to waive a core course or prerequisite course requirement based on comparable course work. Such a petition must be approved by the student's advisor and the department chair and course instructor associated with the course.

### **Dr.P.H. Core Curriculum Learning Objectives**

After the completion of the Dr.P.H. core curriculum, the student will be able to:

1. Identify and promote the relationships between public health and social agencies whose actions affect the health of people.
2. Analyze issues and problems in public health using critical evaluation, applied research methodology, and statistical methods.
3. Participate in effecting change in public health policies and practices through the study of how programs are implemented in institutions and society, and to those subjects that support decision-making in public health such as organizational behavior and theory, financial management, strategy, information systems, and ethics.
4. Plan and evaluate public health programs.
5. Develop a vision and philosophy for professional leadership in public health.
6. Acquire the skills to mobilize resources and the organizational and community capacity necessary to address public health challenges to achieve the national health objectives.
7. Participate in the decision making process where professional leadership in public health is conducted.
8. Analyze quantitative research data in public health using appropriate techniques.
9. Communicate findings of the analysis and solution of a problem of public health importance in professional journals.

### **Public Health Practice Experience: 4 SCH**

SPH	6860	Public Health Practice Residency	4 SCH
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### **Culminating Experience Requirement: 9 SCH**

SPH	6950	Dissertation	9 SCH
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### **Social and Behavioral Sciences Concentration Curriculum**

#### **Required Courses: 18 SCH**

SCBS	6125	Anthropology of Health	3 SCH
SCBS	6170	Qualitative Research Methods	3 SCH
SCBS	6200	Health Psychology	3 SCH
SCBS	6220	Advanced Topics in Culture, Race, Ethnicity and Health	3 SCH
SCBS	6400	Research Methods in Social and Behavioral Sciences	3 SCH
SCBS	6405	Disparities in Health	3 SCH

#### **Elective Courses: 12 SCH\***

SCBS	6250	Health Promotion in Multicultural Populations	3 SCH
SCBS	6305	Health Care Issues in Substance Abuse Practice and Research	3 SCH
SCBS	6340	Motivational Interviewing in Public Health Settings	3 SCH
SCBS	6360	Public Health and Aging	3 SCH
SCBS	6910	Doctoral Independent Study in Social & Behavioral Sciences	1-3 SCH

\*Students may substitute electives with the approval of their academic advisor. Electives may be selected from the public health curriculum or may be transferred from another school. Courses not approved by the student's advisor will not be applied toward the degree plan.

## **Social and Behavioral Sciences Dr.P.H. Qualifying Examination**

1. The doctoral student must complete **all** course work except Dr.P.H. Capstone before taking the concentration examination.
2. The concentration examination will be a *separate* activity from the dissertation proposal defense.
3. There will be a written component to be administered in house. A subsequent oral component will occur approximately two weeks after the written exam with concentration exam committee. Only the student and the committee attend the oral defense.
4. The concentration exam committee will be composed of the student's academic advisor and faculty who taught the courses over which the student will be tested.
5. The exam will test the student's ability to integrate and apply knowledge gained in the required Dr.P.H. Social and Behavioral Departmental courses (SCBS 6125, SCBS 6170, SCBS 6200, SCBS 6220, SCBS 6400, and SCBS 6405). The exam will have two essay questions from each course composed by the faculty who taught the course.
6. The in-house component will follow the guidelines outlined below:
  - 8 hours (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.); 30 minute lunch break
  - No Internet Access
  - No Books/Notes Allowed
  - No test questions before hand
  - Test questions will be on a diskette
  - A computer will be provided for student's use
  - All cell phones must be turned off and stored out of sight
  - All pagers must be turned off unless the student has a clinical 'on-call' requirement
  - A test monitor (academic advisor) will be present at all times
  - No discussion of exam with anyone
7. A student who fails the exam may, upon recommendation from the exam committee, be asked to repeat the course pertaining to the part of the exam not mastered and retake the exam at a later date. A student may not defend his/her dissertation proposal before passing both the written and oral parts of the comprehensive examination.
8. The student may take the concentration exam the same semester they are registered for the Dr.P.H. Capstone.

### **Social and Behavioral Sciences Concentration Learning Objectives**

After the completion of the concentration curriculum in social and behavioral sciences, the student will be able to:

1. Occupy leadership positions in health care organizations such as public health departments, health-care facilities, federal or state health departments or academia.
2. Carry out a community diagnosis/assessment in order to facilitate problem solving and policy development.
3. Design, plan, develop and evaluate programs of health promotion and disease prevention using quantitative and qualitative techniques.
4. Identify the role and impact of social, economic, cultural, political and behavioral factor in determining health status.
5. Identify social, cultural, economic and gender related determinants of health and how to develop effective behavioral changes and other interventions which are culturally sensitive.
6. Develop his/her public health career on social science theories, health education, community health, health promotion, and health education.
7. Apply ethical frameworks to the conduct of health care research, practice, policy-making and management.
8. Analyze data and write journal articles, focusing on social and/or behavioral aspects in public health.
9. Write a dissertation, focusing on the analysis and solution of social and/or behavioral issues in public health.