



MPH-Behavioral Sciences

The behavioral sciences concentration will concentrate on fundamental psychological and psycho-physiological processes that underlie health behaviors, with a specific focus on stress, quality of life, and overall emotional well-being. The application of theories in this concentration will be toward: (1) substance abuse and addictive behaviors, especially tobacco, alcohol and illicit drug use; (2) prevention of major illnesses, especially psychiatric illnesses, obesity, cardiovascular illnesses, malignancies, metabolic diseases, injuries and disabilities. This will differentiate health behaviors that are the psychological foundation of risk factors for major illnesses.

Research methods will emphasize multivariate procedures common to behavioral analysis as well as techniques useful for small group analysis, and community interventions using quasi-experimental designs, especially as pertaining to management of population health risk factors. Major attention will be given to cultural, ethnic, gender-based and economic disparities in health of population groups from the perspectives of psychology, psycho-physiology and social psychology.

Curriculum

Core Curriculum Requirements: 15 SCH

BIOS	5210	Biostatistics for Public Health I	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

Culminating Experience: 6 SCH

SPH	5950	Thesis	6 SCH
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Behavioral Sciences Concentration Curriculum

Practicum Requirement: 3 SCH

SPH	5855	Public Health Practice Experience	3 SCH
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Required Courses: 12 SCH

*BIOS	5215	Biostatistics for Public Health II	3 SCH
SCBS	5350	Introduction to Research Methods in SCBS	3 SCH

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SCBS 5610	Neuropsychobiology of Substance Use	3 SCH
SCBS 5710	Psychiatric Diagnostics and Research	3 SCH

Selective Courses: 9 SCH

SCBS 5120	Obesity: Origins, Consequences, Prevention and Treatment	3 SCH
SCBS 5130	Sociology of Mental Health	3 SCH
SCBS 5135	Social Gerontology	3 SCH
SCBS 5411	Community Program and Intervention Planning	3 SCH
SCBS 5412	Program Evaluation in Public Health	3 SCH
SCBS 6200	Health Psychology	3 SCH
SCBS 6340	Motivational Interviewing in Public Health Settings	3 SCH

*Students may substitute BIOS 5215 (Required Course) with EPID 5300 or SCBS 6170.

Behavioral Sciences Concentration Learning Objectives

By the conclusion of the M.P.H. program, a student in the concentration in behavioral sciences will be able to:

1. Critically evaluate the importance of behavioral perspectives in explaining health problems of the principal cultural, socioeconomic, ethnic and regional population groups in the United States and the global health setting.
2. Apply theories in health psychology, cognitive neuroscience, and other behaviorally oriented disciplines to determine which health promotion/disease prevention programs/interventions may or may not be effective.
3. Apply knowledge of the behavioral sciences to investigate primary illnesses and causes of morbidity and mortality, including smoking, dietary behaviors, physical activity, cardiovascular illnesses, malignancies, metabolic diseases, injuries, disabilities, and infant and child illnesses.
4. Recognize the implications of diversity (racial/ethnic, cultural, and social) and the importance of cultural competency in addressing health issues in the community.
5. Apply research methods including multivariate procedures (i.e. analysis of variance and regression) to analysis of data to measure and explain population health status, behavioral determinants of health and disease, disease prevention and health promotion behavior, public health and medical service organization and delivery.
6. Interact ethically and professionally with persons from diverse cultural, socioeconomic, educational, and professional backgrounds and with persons of all ages.
7. Critically evaluate and use theories in health psychology, cognitive neuroscience, and other behaviorally oriented disciplines.