



Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences

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MPH in Social & Behavioral Sciences

The social and behavioral sciences concentration is designed to develop familiarity with basic theories, methodologies, and applications in sociology, anthropology, and psychology that influence our understanding of health and health behaviors. This multidisciplinary approach focuses on health problems of the principal population groups in the United States and the global community with a significant emphasis on empirical research methods and population and interpersonal dynamics as a basis for illuminating the socio-cultural, economic, political, and personal factors that influence the distribution of health and healthcare. **For the culminating experience, students in the social and behavioral sciences concentration may only choose the thesis option.** By the conclusion of the M.P.H. program, a student in the social and behavioral sciences concentration will be able to:

1. Critically evaluate and use theories in anthropology, sociology and psychology to explain health risks and healthcare distribution.
2. Apply social and behavioral science theories to determine which health promotion/ disease prevention programs/interventions may or may not be effective.
3. Critically evaluate the importance of social and behavioral theoretical perspectives in explaining health problems of the principal cultural, socioeconomic, ethnic and regional population groups in the United States and the global health setting.
4. Apply knowledge of the social and behavioral sciences to investigate illness and develop and implement interventions.
5. Recognize the implications of diversity (racial/ethnic, cultural, and social) and the importance of cultural competency in addressing health issues in the community.
6. Apply empirical research methods and analysis to measure and explain population health status, social and behavioral determinants of health and disease, disease prevention and health promotion behavior, public health and medical service organization and delivery.
7. Interact ethically and professionally with persons from diverse cultural, socioeconomic, educational, and professional backgrounds and with persons of all ages.

Social & Behavioral Sciences Curriculum (45 SCH)

CORE COURSES: 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

REQUIRED COURSES: 9 SCH (Choose three from the following courses)

BIOS	5215	Biostatistics II	3 SCH
BIOS	5740	Introduction to Statistical Packages	3 SCH
BIOS	5760	Data Management	3 SCH
EPID	5300	Survey Methodology	3 SCH
SCBS	5350	Introduction to Research Methods in SCBS	3 SCH
SCBS	5412	Program Evaluation in Public Health	3 SCH

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE: 3 SCH (to be eligible for enrollment, students must complete all core courses and at least two required courses)

SPH	5855	Public Health Practice Experience	3 SCH
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ELECTIVE COURSES: 12 SCH (Choose four from the following courses)

HMAP	5245	Health Economics	3 SCH
SCBS	5150	Medical Sociology	3 SCH
SCBS	5215	Introduction to Health Disparities	3 SCH
SCBS	5225	Medical Anthropology	3 SCH
SCBS	5400	Community Health	3 SCH
SCBS	5411	Community Program and Intervention Planning	3 SCH
SCBS	5500	International Health	3 SCH
SCBS	5650	Stress and Coping	3 SCH
SCBS	5710	Psychiatric Diagnostics and Research	3 SCH
SCBS	6200	Health Psychology	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.

CULMINATING EXPERIENCE: 6 SCH

SPH	5950	Thesis	6 SCH
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