



## Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences

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# MPH in Community Health

The community health concentration prepares professionals from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds and interests (e.g., medicine, nursing, allied health, social work, social sciences, psychology, dentistry, physician assistant, health education, nutrition, etc.) to assume public health positions. The community health concentration uses a multidisciplinary approach and focuses on social, cultural, political, and economic factors that influence health status and health-related behaviors of individuals. The community health concentration emphasizes the role of social, economic, cultural, and behavioral factors in disease prevention, promotion of health, vulnerability to disease, and interaction with health care systems. The curriculum concentrates on strategies for the promotion of health and the prevention of disease in populations through public health policy and interventions in the context of social structure, community, family, and health care systems. Traditionally, program graduates have assumed positions in public health as well as both public and private health care. Students in the community health concentration may select between two culminating experience options: 1) thesis or 2) capstone/professional report. By the conclusion of the M.P.H. program, a student in the community health concentration will be able to:

1. Critically evaluate the value and the implications of diversity (racial/ethnic, cultural, and social) and the importance of cultural competency in addressing public health issues in the community.
2. Identify the role and impact of demographic, social, economic, cultural, political, and behavioral factors in determining population health status, disease, disease preventing and health promoting behavior, and medical service organization and delivery.
3. Describe how race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, demographic characteristics, and culture affect individual and group physical and psychological responses to health messages.
4. Analyze the implications of the global inter-connectives of our society in the economic, social, and political areas and its public health implications at the local level.
5. Analyze factors that contribute to individuals' social, economic, and political incorporation and acculturation in the mainstream social and describe how this process affects health status and delivery of health care.
6. Critically evaluate and use the behavioral sciences' theory and literature in determining which health promotion/disease prevention programs/interventions may or may not be effective because of group social, racial, ethnic, economic factors as well as unique characteristics and requirements of different cultures.
7. Apply knowledge of community social, economic, political and cultural characteristics in the development and implementation of interventions in participatory community health planning.
8. Identify and assess economic, cultural, political and social barriers to the development of programs to address community public health needs and adapts approaches and solutions to problems that take into account cultural differences.
9. Promote networks and establish partnerships with diverse community agencies, health providers, community organizations and institutions to promote policies, programs, services and resources that protect the health of community residents.

10. Interact ethically and professionally with persons from diverse cultural, socioeconomic, educational, and professional backgrounds and with persons of all ages and lifestyle preferences.
11. Identify community needs, demands, problems, resources available, and develop suggestions for action.

## Community Health 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	5115	Behavioral Foundations of Public Health	3 SCH

### REQUIRED COURSES: 18 SCH

BIOS	5215	Biostatistics for Public Health II	3 SCH
(Students may substitute BIOS 5215 with EPID 5300 or SCBS 6170)			
SCBS	5350	Social and Behavioral Research Methods & Evaluation	3 SCH
SCBS	5400	Community Health (Offered last time Fall 2008)	3 SCH
SCBS	5410	Community Assessment	3 SCH
SCBS	5411	Community Program Planning	3 SCH
SCBS	5415	Public Health Interventions	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: 3 SCH

3 SCH

Students may take any SPH course with approval of their academic advisor.

### CULMINATING EXPERIENCE: 6 SCH

SPH	5950	Thesis	6 SCH
Or			
SCBS	5800	Capstone (Offered last time Fall 2008)	3 SCH
SPH	5900	Professional Report	3 SCH