



Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences

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DrPH in Social & 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. By the conclusion of the Dr.P.H. program, a student in the social and behavioral sciences concentration 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.

DrPH Prerequisites (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	5115	Behavioral Foundations of Public He	3 SCH

Social & Behavioral Sciences Curriculum (65 SCH)

CORE COURSES: 22 SCH

BIOS	6100	Applied Statistical Methods for Data Analysis	3 SCH
ENVR	6100	Environmental Health Determinants	3 SCH
EPID	6110	Intermediate Epidemiology for Non-Majors	3 SCH
HMAP	6100	Health Care Systems	3 SCH
SCBS	6100	Social & Behavioral Theories and Health Applications	3 SCH
HMAP	6140	Ethical Issues in Public Health	2 SCH
HMAP	6145	Leadership for Public Health	2 SCH
SPH	6900	Doctoral Capstone	3 SCH

- Students should enroll in the Doctoral Capstone (SPH 6900) at the conclusion of all coursework.
- Students must obtain a permission number from their major professor to register for SPH 6900.

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE: 4 SCH

SPH	6860	Public Health Practice Residency	4 SCH
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REQUIRED COURSES: 12 SCH (choose four of the following courses)

BIOS	6750	Applied Categorical Data Analysis	3 SCH
BIOS	6760	Multivariate Analysis	3 SCH
EPID	6635	Social Epidemiology	3 SCH
SCBS	6170	Qualitative Research Methods	3 SCH
SCBS	6400	Research Methods in Social & Behavioral Sciences	3 SCH

ELECTIVE COURSES: 18 SCH (choose six of the following electives)

HMAP	6220	Advanced Health Economics	3 SCH
SCBS	6125	Anthropology of Health	3 SCH
SCBS	6200	Health Psychology	3 SCH
SCBS	6220	Advanced Topics in Culture, Race, Ethnicity and Health	3 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	6415	Society & Health	3 SCH
SCBS	6910	Independent Study	1-3 SCH

CULMINATING EXPERIENCE: 9 SCH

SPH	6950	Dissertation	9 SCH
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Social & Behavioral Sciences DrPH Qualifying Examination

1. The doctoral student must complete **all** course work except Dr.P.H. Capstone before taking the qualifying examination; the Dr.P.H. Capstone may be taken during the same semester the qualifying exam is taken.

2. The qualifying examination will be a *separate* activity from the dissertation proposal defense.
3. A written component of the qualifying examination will be administered in-house. An oral component, administered by the examination committee, will occur approximately two weeks after the written exam. Only the student and the committee attend the oral defense.
4. The qualifying 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. The exam will have two essay questions from each course composed by the faculty member who taught the course.
6. The in-house component of the exam will follow the guidelines outlined below:
 - 8 hours (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) with a 30 minute lunch break
 - No internet access
 - No books/notes allowed
 - No test questions beforehand
 - Test questions will be provided and submitted on a diskette
 - A computer will be provided for the 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 the 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 until both the written and oral parts of the exam have been passed.