MPH-Public Health Practice
Program Curriculum

The MPH in Public Health Practice requires 42 credits or 14, 3-credit courses. The credits are split into 3 types of courses:

1. Required Core Courses (15 Credits)
   a. Biostats 540-Introduction to Biostatistics
   b. Epi 630-Principles of Epidemiology
   c. HPP 601-Application of Social and Behavioral Theory
   d. HPP 620-Introduction to the US Health Care System
   e. EHS 565-Environmental Health Practices

2. Required Research Courses (9 Credits)
   a. HPP 624-Research Methods
   b. HPP 698P-MPH Practicum
   c. HPP 691S-Final Culminating Capstone Project

3. Elective courses (18 Credits)
   See full descriptions below.

Required core courses and required research courses are offered every spring and fall term. In addition, the practicum runs during the summer. There is no order in which students are required to complete courses. However, it is recommended that you complete the 5 core courses quickly upon matriculation, as these serve as foundation courses for the electives you will take.

Elective courses are offered by the various Public Health Departments within the school and are usually offered once per year on a rotational basis. We currently offer 37 different elective choices and try to run at least 8 choices in spring and fall and 16-20 choices during the summer. Additionally, new courses are offered on a regular basis.

If you have an idea for a new course, please contact the department.

Electives offered by the Health Promotion and Policy Department

HPP 507 (formerly HPP 590G)-Violence as a Public Health Problem- This course examines violence from a public health perspective in the United States and globally. It covers topics from interpersonal to structural violence and approaches to violence prevention.

HPP 524-Introduction to Health Policy and Politics- Examines the determinants of health politics and policy in the U.S., including decisions and non-decisions made by institutional and political actors at all levels of government and by private sector actors.

HPP 525-Ethical Issues in Public Health- C. Everett Koop, former Surgeon General of the Unites States famously once said "Anything we can do to stop smoking is good." The course explores the meaning of this "anything" in public health practice. A guiding question will be "what are the ethical limits in protecting the public's health?" While we won't be solving all the ethical issues that confront practitioners, we will raise questions about ethical public health practice. This course explores these
questions through the methods and principles of contemporary bioethics and the differences between public health ethics and medical ethics will be stressed. Some issues include the use of the State’s police power; the meaning of ethical research; the limits of health promotion, including an ethical analysis of manipulation and coercion in the name of the public’s health. We will also address the ethics of public health emergencies; ethical questions in public health genetics; and public health concerns with social justice. A foundation of ethical theory will aid our explorations of ethical public health practice. Critical reading, philosophical analysis and group discussion is emphasized.

**HPP 560 (formerly HPP 590Q) Globalization and Public Health** - This seminar will identify the linkages between globalization and health and examine the positive and negative impacts which globalization poses for the safety and security of the world’s population.

**HPP 580-Comparative Health Care Systems** - Overview of the characteristics of main health care systems and policies in selected countries. Topics of study include financing, insurance and delivery, access, and cost of health care services.

**HPP 583-Global Health in the Developing World** - Introduction to major health issues in developing world, factors which affect health status, models for tackling these problems, and the role of industrialized countries in improving global health. Students explore major causes of morbidity and mortality and explore strategies to improve health.

**HPP 590E-Emerging Infectious Diseases** - Etiological agents, epidemiology, and disease characteristics of emerging parasitic, viral, and bacterial diseases and practical approaches to limiting emergence. Microbiology 255 or 310/312 or Biology 101 are not required but highly recommended pre-requisites

**HPP 602-Community Development and Health Education** - Latest approaches in community development and community organizing strategies. Exploratory readings, field assignments; emphasis on leadership development, capacity building, and coordinated community action.

**HPP 608-Communication Theory** - Review of communication sources, channels, messages, reception, and effects, diffusion of health information, adoption of preventive health behavior, and mass media and social change patterns.

**HPP 614-International Health, Population, and Development** - The course will examine current global health issues particularly within the context of development and international health policy. Questions covered include: How do developing countries grapple with forces such as globalization, debt and inequality? What roles do governments, international organizations and multi-national corporations play in development? How are community and participatory development promoted? Other topics include: international trade, political development, inequality, poverty, culture and social change, gender, and international cooperation.

**HPP 621-Health Care Organizations and Administration** - The theory of internal organization and management applied to health care organizations. Analysis of management functions. Interrelationship between health institutions, their surrounding communities, and government.

**HPP 622-Program Evaluation of Health & Human Service Organizations** - Concepts of program evaluation and their application to the health field. Emphasis on theoretical concepts and their application to development of practical skills in program evaluation.
HPP 627-Long Term Care Policy and Management- The impact of aging, chronic disease, disability, and dependency on the organization and delivery of long-term care services. Policies which have been developed to deal with quality, cost, and ethical issues. Management issues and current research in long-term care.

HPP 628-Financial Management of Health Institutions- The fundamental tools for management control and decision making in health care organizations. The budgeting and financial management process. Emphasis on reimbursement for services and reporting requirements to government and third-party payer, and how managers establish budgets and financial controls to cope with them. Prerequisite: PUBHLTH 620

HPP 630 (formerly HPP 690AA)-Public Health, Aging, and Policy- The demographic shift that doubled average life expectancy in the United States during the previous century has affected every aspect of public health, including delivery and cost of health care, types of diseases that predominate as causes of mortality, morbidity and disability, and quality of life in old age. This class explores in depth the causes and effects of these changes, and provides students with the opportunity both for working in teams and for as conducting independent research, with individualized faculty guidance, in an area of interest pertaining to population aging and public health.

HPP 632 (formerly HPP 690SJ)-Social Justice and Public Health- Social justice is an integral part of public health but what exactly is social justice and how can the public health professional bring this concept into daily practice? This course is about the intersection of public health and social justice. We will concentrate on the meaning of social justice and how it is applicable to the public health professional. The course is roughly divided into three sections. First we will look at the philosophical underpinnings of social justice using classical and contemporary theorists. Second, we will see how social injustice affects various populations. Public health is concerned with populations, but different population groups may be affected differently and we look at the elderly, minorities, the poor, and other groups through a social justice perspective. Third, we will investigate a theory of social justice as a foundation for public health practice. Critical reading, philosophical analysis and group discussion is emphasized.

HPP 634 (formerly HPP 690W)-Fundamentals of Women’s Health- This course will provide a comprehensive overview of issues related to health in women, addressing areas including but not limited to biology, psychology, geography, economics, health policy, and social issues.

HPP 636 (formerly HPP 690MC)-Global Maternal and Child Health-This course is designed to give students an overview of the issues pertinent to the health of mothers and children globally. Topics will include morbidity and mortality, antenatal care, labor/delivery, family planning, child health, nutrition, and HIV/AIDS. The health status of mothers and children is an important indicator of the health of a nation, so in this course, the major maternal child health indicators of developed countries will be contrasted with those of underdeveloped countries.

HPP 638 (formerly HPP 690DS)-Health Disparities- This course is a graduate introduction to social injustice and inequality issues which create conditions that lead to unconscionable health disparities according to race, ethnicity, childhood experiences, gender, income, nationality, and other factors. This course explores the multi-faceted origins of health disparities clearly essential to effective and humane
programs, policies, and systems. The course will also continuously examine how to translate theory into practice.

**HPP 642 (formerly HPP 690L)-Leadership in Public Health Systems** - The course and field work focuses on leadership theory, development, and competencies of contemporary public health leaders. Integral to the leadership role is the application of health policy leadership.

**HPP 644 (formally HPP 590D)-International Organizations and Population Health** - This course will examine international organizations and the role that they play on population health in both developed and developing countries.

**HPP 690C-Public Health and Childhood Obesity** - According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Childhood obesity has more than doubled in children and quadrupled in adolescents in the past 30 years. In 2012, more than one third of children and adolescents were overweight or obese. The prevalence of Childhood Obesity is on the rise. This course will focus on childhood obesity in underserved and underinsured populations, the role of affordable healthy food options, health consequences, how cultural factors may influence childhood obesity, the role environment and poverty has played in this epidemic and prevention strategies. We will discuss various public health programs in place to help decrease incidence of childhood obesity and discuss how public health professionals can contribute. This course will also discuss how clinicians and public health professionals can approach these topics with patients and clients and increase self-confidence and self-efficacy toward living healthier lives.

**HPP 690D-Public Health and Diabetes** - According to the American Diabetes Association, in 2012, 29.1 million Americans had Diabetes and 86 million Americans age 20 and older had Pre Diabetes. This course will focus on the medical challenges related to Diabetes and strategies to engage these issues with clients and medical providers in the community. Information on current pharmacological and non-pharmacological therapies will be discussed and the cost of the disease. We will cover a brief overview of the physiology, epidemiology, and chronic disease implications of Diabetes and discuss topics on disease risks, health implications, societal norms, and prevention strategies.

**HPP 690E-Evidence Based Policy** - The rationale, methodologies and frameworks for developing and evaluating evidence that informs healthcare policies will be addressed. The course is designed to bridge epidemiology, policy development, implementation, and evaluation.

**HPP 690S-Substance Abuse and Public Health** - An interdisciplinary analysis of contemporary drug issues and problems. The course will examine physiological, social, philosophical, historical, legal, and health aspects of drug use and abuse.

**HPP 704-Health Program Planning** - Foundation for program planning in community health education and other public health areas. Provides basic planning principles, processes, and methods. A multi-disciplinary approach integrating the use of theory and practice.

**HPP 726-Health Economics and Reimbursement** - This course introduces the applications of economics to health and health care. The topics to be covered include: allocation of health care resources with respect to demand and supply of health care; the roles of hospitals physicians, and health insurance; market imperfections and their role in economics of health care.
HPP 750-Public Health Emergency Management - Provides an operational overview of public health management in preparing for and responding to disasters. Since disasters, by definition, cannot be effectively managed by the application of routine procedures or resources, this course provides needed guidance in a variety of newly defined and emerging areas for the field of public health.

HPP 757-Public Health Informatics - This course includes informatics content applicable to administrative and clinical systems used in public health. Learners analyze the application of information science and technology to public health practice.

HPP 780-Public Health Law - Constitutional and social bases for public health law. Development of statutes and regulations and their effects on social problems, including review of court decisions and preparation of administrative regulations.

Electives offered by the Department of Environmental Health Sciences

EHS-567-Environmental Regulation & Compliance - Principles of environmental compliance obligations, common law, trespass, nuisance, and negligence. The major federal environmental laws affecting companies and agencies, and selected state and local regulations. Civil and criminal penalties and liabilities attached to environmental regulations. Strategies for compliance including proactive and environmental management as a method for reducing legal exposure to environmental issues.

EHS 666-Environmental & Occupational Toxicology - The toxicological activity of toxic substances found in the general environment and in industrial settings. Topics include biochemical mechanisms for absorption, excretion, tissue distribution, metabolic transformations, and conjugations; comparative metabolism of animal species; special applications to the toxicology of heavy metals, pesticides, and other industrial chemicals.

Electives offered by the Department of Biostatistics

Biostats 640-Intermediate Biostatistics - Principles of statistics applied to analysis of biological and health data. Continuation of Biostats 540 including analysis of variance, regression, nonparametric statistics, sampling, and categorical data analysis.

Biostats 691F-Data Management and Statistical Computing - An introduction to data management for research projects in the biomedical sciences using microcomputers. Topics include design of data collection forms, data entry, computer managed documentation and statistical computing using SAS.

Electives offered by the Department of Epidemiology

EPI 632-Applied Epidemiology - Intermediate level course. Application of epidemiologic methods to study the etiology, control, and impact on society of selected diseases. Prerequisite: EPI 630.

EPI 633-Communicable Disease Epidemiology - Review of selected infectious diseases; emphasis on current theories of distribution, transmission, and control.
EPI 634-Nutritional Epidemiology - Epidemiologic study design problems and issues; major methods of dietary assessment; non-dietary nutritional assessments; and the relative strength of evidence in support of diet-disease relationships.