

HSB Capstone FAQ 2017-2018

The Graduate Division of UC Berkeley and the School of Public Health require a capstone - also known as comprehensive exam or integrative learning experience (ILE) - with both written and oral components. The capstone builds on the core curriculum requirements of the School and the HSB program and is intended to be a culminating experience for MPH students, requiring synthesis and integration of knowledge acquired through coursework, internships, and other experiences.

CHS faculty have been examining our current program capstone requirements with the goal of making the capstone, also known as the Integrative Learning Experience (ILE), more relevant to student needs and following the new Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) accreditation criteria. Note that the HSB Capstone/ ILE information described below is tentative and subject to change. The new capstone requirements are effective for students starting their MPH program in Fall 2017.

The new HSB Capstone/ Integrative Learning Experience (ILE)

Who may take the new HSB capstone?

Current students who matriculated under the old capstone system are entitled to continue with the old capstone system.

The HSB program is excited to institute a new capstone system that better meets student needs and the most recent CEPH criteria for capstone also known as the Integrative Learning Experience (ILE).

What was the old HSB capstone?

The old capstone provided selection from three options: Publishable Paper, Program Plan and Research/Grant Proposal. Rarely a student would pursue a Master's Thesis Plan I.

Will the Master's Thesis Plan I be available under the new HSB capstone?

The Master's Thesis Plan I option will be available by exception under the new capstone. Students submit their thesis directly to Graduate Division. This option must be selected in the first year of study as the student must assemble a thesis committee and file an Application for Candidacy for the Master's Degree Plan I Thesis with Graduate Division by the end of the semester prior to the semester they plan to graduate.

Is the HSB Capstone/ Integrative Learning Experience (IL) required of all students?

All HSB students declare their capstone/ILE option by the end of the first semester of their first year and indicate their decision on their HSB ILE Declaration of Intent form.

Students complete their capstone/ILE during the Fall and Spring semesters preceding graduation from the MPH degree program.

Will there be a Spring 2018 HSB Capstone course to prepare for the oral presentation requirement?

Students will enroll in the Spring HSB capstone course (PH 292 offered Spring 2018 by Professor Claire Snell-Rood) which will hold 2-3 workshop meetings to prepare students for their oral presentations.

How does the new capstone accommodate concurrent degree students?

The HSB program will be meeting each concurrent degree department (City Planning, Journalism and Social Welfare) to discuss details on how the new HSB capstone will be implemented for concurrent degree students. **Please look for more information to come later as there may be changes pending these department reviews.**

Concurrent City Planning/Public Health students who do not choose to enroll in an approved capstone course will enroll in a 298 with faculty and complete a Client Report option under faculty guidance and submit their capstone prospectus for approval by Professor Herd early in the Fall of their final year. In the past Jason Corburn and William Satariano have acted as co-directors of the concurrent MCP/MPH degree. Jason Corburn will continue in this role and Rachel Morello-Frosch will succeed William Satariano.

Professor Claire Snell-Rood will advise concurrent/dual MSW/MPH degree students.

How does the new capstone accommodate students interested in doing a program plan?

Six students will be able to take PH 290 Program Planning along with a 299 with Professor Prata as their capstone option. Professor Herd is in discussion with Professor Prata regarding the details. More information to come soon.

How does the new capstone accommodate students interested in doing a Qualitative Research paper?

Students interested in a Qualitative Research option may fulfill this with PH 219E taught by Professor Claire Snell-Rood.

How does the new capstone accommodate students interested in doing a Publishable Paper option?

This option will now be offered via the Master's Thesis Plan I option. *Note timeline restrictions for this option.

What other options will be available with the new HSB capstone?

In addition to the **Public Health Analysis** students may do a **Qualitative Research project** (this option will be available for AY 2018-2019) or a **Master's Thesis Plan I**.

What is HSB Capstone/ Integrative Learning Experience (ILE)?

Students will complete an original written capstone/ILE paper and an oral presentation based on one of the options below.

Option A: Public Health Analysis

The student's capstone product is the accepted coursework from an **approved list of courses along with 1 unit PH 299** taken with the instructor of that course. Course must be at least three units to be included as an option. Faculty currently are approving the list of courses that will fulfill the capstone requirement. More information to come soon.

What courses may fulfill the new capstone Public Health Analysis option?

Faculty currently are approving the list of courses that may fulfill the capstone requirement. Below is the list of courses approved as of 6/29/17. This list will continue to be updated as courses are approved.

Fall semester courses that may be used to fulfill the new capstone:

PB HLTH 201F Theory & Methods in Community Interventions, Ozer, Fall 2018, 3 units

PB HLTH 204A Mass Communications in Public Health, Dorfman, Fall 2017, 3 units

PB HLTH 220 Health Policy Decision Making Keller, Fall 2017, 3 units

PB HLTH C233 Healthy Cities, Corburn, Fall 2017, 3 units

PB HLTH 290 BioEthics, Obasogie Fall (new course) Fall 1-4 units, student must enroll in 3 units

Spring semester courses that may be used to fulfill the new capstone :

PB HLTH 200A PH Ethics, Halpern, Spring, 3 units

PB HLTH 202B Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in Health Status, Morello-Frosch, Spring, 4 units

PB HLTH 204G Research Advances in Health Disparities, Herd, Spring 2018, 2-3 units, ILE student must enroll in 3 units

PB HLTH 214 Eat Think Design, Madsen, Spring, 3 units

PB HLTH 219E Intro to Qualitative Methods, Snell-Rood, Spring, 3 units – no pre-reqs

PB HLTH 255C Mental Health and Psychopathology, Ozer, Spring 2019, 3 units

PB HLTH 290 Human Reproductive & Genetic Technologies, Obasogie, Spring 2018, 3 units

How can students learn more about these capstone courses?

HSB will share a google document where students can preview the capstone course syllabi as they plan their coursework.

Can a Spring course be used to fulfill the HSB capstone?

Courses that fulfill the HSB capstone may be taken in the Fall or Spring of the student's last year of study. All students will participate in an oral presentation component which will now be held in RRR week to accommodate students in spring classes.

Option B: Quantitative Research Project – *this option will not be available until AY 2018-2019.*

The student's capstone product is a quantitative research project on a topic of their choosing. In order to be approved, the topic must be relevant to public health practice in their MPH concentration and address program specific competencies agreed upon by the student and their faculty advisor.

Students who choose to do a quantitative research project must prepare earlier in their MPH program in order to complete the required coursework for this option. Students must also have a written commitment from a faculty advisor who will oversee their project. Paper will be standard publishable paper format. More details to come.

The purpose of the Quantitative Research Project is to engage students in learning:

- How to formulate a good research question
- How to identify the appropriate methods to address the research question
- How to test the research question with empirical data
- How to analyze/interpret/summarize and present the findings, linking these to the existing body of scientific literature
- How to present the findings in a formal paper and link them to implications for policy

How to orally present and defend research findings in an academic setting

Prerequisites:

Required coursework with a B+ or higher:

- PB HLTH 142: Introduction to Biostatistics (Fall, year 1)
- PB HLTH 250A Epidemiological Methods (Fall, year 1)
- PB HLTH 241 Statistical Analysis of Categorical Data (Spring, year 1)

Quantitative Project Course(s): Students must select **one** of the following courses.

- PB HLTH 251C Causal Inference and Meta-Analysis In Epidemiology (Fall, 2018)
- PB HLTH 290.6 Grant Writing Course (will become PB HLTH 249) (Fall, 2018)

EXCEPTIONAL APPROVAL: Students who are working on specific data set with vetted/approved mentor may receive exceptional approval to analyze that particular data set.

- Should be limited to very few students
- These students will be primarily mentored on data analysis by that particular PI, and will receive less guidance by the Research Seminar instructor.

Option C: Master's Plan I Thesis – *this option is by exception only and requires faculty approval.*

The student's capstone product is a master's thesis submitted directly to Graduate Division. To select this option students must prepare earlier in their MPH program in order to complete specific required coursework. Students must also have a written commitment from a faculty advisor and have identified their faculty thesis committee of three UC Berkeley Academic Senate faculty. In addition the student will need to complete the appropriate online Collaborative IRB Training Initiative (CITI) course and submit an Application for Candidacy for the Master's Degree Plan I Thesis to Graduate Division by the end of the semester prior to the semester they plan to graduate. See details below and contact your program manager for more information.

Required coursework with a B+ or higher:

- PB HLTH 142: Introduction to Biostatistics (Fall, year 1)
- PB HLTH 250A Epidemiological Methods (Fall, year 1)
- PB HLTH 203A Theories of Health and Social Behavior (Fall, year 1)
- PB HLTH 219E Intro to Qualitative Research Methods (Spring, year 1)
- PB HLTH 200A Public Health Ethics (Spring, year 1)

The student is responsible to assemble a thesis committee of three members, two of whom must be UC Berkeley Academic Senate faculty (see <http://grad.berkeley.edu/policy/degrees-policy/#f46-academic-senate-status>) from the student's major (and one of whom must be from the student's program). If a faculty committee member is not UC Berkeley Academic Senate the student also must file an exception request form (http://grad.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/exception_form_committee.pdf).

In addition to listing their faculty committee the student will need to complete the appropriate online Collaborative IRB Training Initiative (CITI) course and print out the Course Completion Record to submit with their candidacy application.

Once the student obtains the necessary signatures and the IRB completion record the student submits an Application for Candidacy for the Master's Degree Plan I Thesis (<http://grad.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/Mastcand.pdf>) to Graduate Division. In the future the student may submit all documents directly via Cal Central but currently the student will complete the application, obtain all necessary signatures and request their department to submit the application to Graduate Division on their behalf.

It is recommended that the student submit the Application for Candidacy for Plan I Master's Thesis by the end of the semester prior to the semester they plan to graduate - in this case by the end of the Fall 2017 semester (by December 8, 2017).

The student's thesis must be formatted in a specific way. For guidelines on this check out the Graduate Division Thesis Writing and Filing guidelines at <http://grad.berkeley.edu/academic-progress/thesis/>

Once the student has completed their thesis the student is responsible for submitting it in PDF format directly to edegrees@berkeley.edu no later than the last day of the semester (i.e. May 12th 2018) along with a signature approval page and a thesis release form that can be found at grad.berkeley.edu/academic-progress/forms/ .

Oral Presentations – *required of all students.*

Students will make an oral presentation on their capstone/ ILE to faculty and peers in an HSB wide culminating event in the final spring semester.