

Areas of Study

**HEALTH AND
SOCIAL BEHAVIOR
(MPH)**

HEALTH AND SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

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I. Health and Social Behavior Program

INTRODUCTION

Health and Social Behavior is one of three programs of study (the Health and Social Behavior Program, the Maternal and Child Health Program, and the Public Health Nutrition Program) that comprise the division of Community Health Sciences (CHS). The CHS Division's broadly multidisciplinary faculty represents, among others, the fields of medicine, epidemiology, sociology, health education, anthropology, health psychology, human reproduction, nutrition, economics, journalism, and moral philosophy.

MISSION

Our mission is to train scholars and practitioners to identify and analyze the major social, cultural and biobehavioral determinants of health and health behavior; and to design, implement and evaluate social and behavioral interventions and social policies aimed at improving community and population health.

The core MPH curriculum for the HSB program includes coursework in the behavioral, bio-behavioral and social sciences as these relate to public health; in research methods; and in program planning and evaluation with an emphasis on the role of race/ethnicity, culture, class and gender in influencing physical and mental health status, interactions between the individual and society, and ethical issues in the design and implementation of community-based interventions.

COMPETENCIES

Upon satisfactory completion of the MPH curriculum with a concentration in Health and Social Behavior, graduates will be able to:

- » Identify, assess and think critically about the determinants of community and population health, including cultural, social and biobehavioral factors contributing to health related behaviors.
- » Apply theoretical and methodological perspectives in analyzing the behavioral, cultural and ethical dimensions of a community health problem.
- » Critically analyze and evaluate the nature and process by which research informs practice and practice influences research in community and population health.
- » Develop a study protocol detailing research questions, sampling strategy and qualitative or quantitative research methods employed.
- » Demonstrate cultural competence and cultural humility and an understanding of diversity.
- » Identify and implement a range of individual, interpersonal and community-wide health promotion and disease prevention models and strategies.
- » Evaluate the effects of community intervention programs and policies.
- » Develop and articulate policy options for the achievement of health promotion and disease prevention objectives within a broad community or population health context.
- » Develop and implement strategies in health promotion advocacy and intervention.
- » Effectively communicate and collaborate with a range of groups and organizations in the community.

II. Health and Social Behavior Curriculum

TWO-YEAR MPH CURRICULUM

Unit requirements

Two-Year MPH students are required to complete a minimum of 48 units of coursework over four academic semesters and one summer. The minimum unit enrollment per academic semester is 12 units. *Courses on preparation for teaching as a GSI (300-level courses) and lower-division undergraduate courses do not count toward your 48 overall units, though they do count toward your semester 12-unit minimum.*

Grading

Required courses must be taken for letter grades except for the field placement which is taken on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) basis. Recommended courses may be taken for letter or S/U grading unless otherwise stated. *Credit for courses taken on a S/U basis is limited to one-third of your total coursework. Public Health 291, 297, and 299 courses are excluded from the maximum S/U unit limit.*

Courses

Please check the online schedule at <http://schedule.berkeley.edu> each semester for new courses and course availability. Please be aware that section numbers of some courses may change each semester, particularly those courses in the PB HLTH 290, 292, 298, and 299 series. Course numbers for enrollment change every semester.

Minimum grade requirements

In order for students to be in good standing, they must maintain an overall grade-point average of at least 3.0 on the basis of all upper division and graduate courses (100- and 200-level) taken in graduate standing. Grade-points earned in Berkeley courses numbered below 100 or above 300 are not included in determining a student's grade-point average for remaining in good standing or earning a degree.

IMPORTANT NOTE: All MPH students must receive a grade of B- or higher in the school-wide breadth courses. This rule also applies to alternate courses. Please consult the School of Public Health Handbook for approved alternate courses. Students receiving less than a B- in a breadth course (or its alternate) will be required to retake the course or pass a waiver exam (if available) to fulfill degree requirements. Passing the waiver exams satisfy the requirement but do not earn units toward your degree.

SCHOOL-WIDE REQUIREMENTS (14 UNITS)

HSB Program Required Courses (at least 29 units)		Units	Semester
PB HLTH 292.001	MPH Seminar: Introduction to HSB	2	Fall
PB HLTH 203A	Theories of HSB	3	Fall
PB HLTH 292.002	Capstone Course I in HSB	3	Fall
PB HLTH 292.002	Capstone Course II in HSB	1-3	Spring
PB HLTH 290	Program Planning & Needs Assessment	4	Spring
PB HLTH 218B	Evaluation of Health and Social Programs	4	Spring

HSB Program Required Courses (at least 29 units)		Units	Semester
PB HLTH XXX	One Research Methods course from a list	3-4	Fall/Spring
PB HLTH XXX	One course with a focus on Health, Race, and Equity	3	Fall/Spring
PB HLTH XXX	At least 6 units of Public Health/HSB courses taken for a letter grade	6	Fall/Spring

TWO-YEAR SAMPLE SCHEDULE

As you plan your course of study, many resources are available, including your academic adviser, other faculty, the MPH Program Director and the HSB Field Program Supervisor. You may wish to consider course sequencing in relation to your field placement interests. Be sure to verify that a course is being taught in a given semester as schedules are subject to change to accommodate faculty sabbaticals or other needs.

First Year Program

Fall Semester (16 units)		Units
PB HLTH 142	Introduction to Probability and Statistics in Biology and Public Health	4
PB HLTH 200J	Health Policy and Management Breadth Course	3
PB HLTH 200K	Environmental Health Sciences Breadth Course	3
PB HLTH 250A	Epidemiologic Methods I	3
PB HLTH 203A	Theories of HSB	3
PB HLTH 292.001	Introduction to HSB	2

Spring Semester		Units
PB HLTH 218B	Evaluation of Health and Social Programs	4
PB HLTH 290	Program Planning/Needs Assessment	4
PB HLTH XXX	Research Methods Course	3-4
PB HLTH XXX	HSB Elective Course	4

Summer Semester		Units
PB HLTH 297	Public Health Field Placement	

Second Year Program

Fall Semester (at least 12 units)		Units
PB HLTH 292.002	HSB Fall Capstone Course I	3
PB HLTH 297	Public Health Field Placement	3
PB HLTH XXX	Course with a focus on Health, Race and Social Equity	2-3
PB HLTH XXX	HSB Elective Course	2-4

Spring Semester (at least 12 units)		Units
PB HLTH 292.002	HSB Spring Capstone Course II	1-3
PB HLTH XXX	HSB Elective Course	2-4
PB HLTH XXX	Other Elective Courses	2-3

NOTE: Field placement occurs during the summer but students register for and receive credit the following fall semester. Students must take at least 6 units of HSB elective courses for a letter grade. Students must complete at least 48 units toward the MPH degree.

III. Health and Social Behavior Capstone

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 student’s MPH concentration and is intended to be a culminating experience requiring synthesis and integration of knowledge acquired through coursework, internships, and other experiences.

HSB faculty are currently revising our program capstone requirements with the goal of making the capstone more relevant to student needs and following the new Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) accreditation criteria. Details will be provided by each program in the fall semester. 