Interdisciplinary MPH Program
2015-16 Student Handbook

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
UC Berkeley School of Public Health
Interdisciplinary MPH Program, 2015-16

The Interdisciplinary M.P.H. is an accelerated, 11-month program designed to meet the needs of mature scholars with diverse cultural and professional backgrounds who have specific public health career goals in mind. The program focuses on an interdisciplinary understanding of complex issues and the leadership challenges of successful interventions in public health. Graduates leave as well-rounded public health professionals with a heightened understanding of the importance of a multidisciplinary approach to public health practice.

The class size ranges between 12 and 20. Originally dominated by mid-career physicians, the program now accepts senior medical students, residents, and fellows. In addition, we also actively recruit applicants with a range of professional background who hold a master's degree or the equivalent, and who have significant health care experience or interest in public health. Applicants from the fields of journalism, business, social work, anthropology, economics, and law are encouraged if their future career paths include public health activities and/or significant interaction with public health systems.

The Interdisciplinary Program’s curricular flexibility allows successful applicants, in consultation with their faculty advisers, to develop an individualized course of study tailored to meet their needs. In addition to the required courses at the School of Public Health, elective courses may be chosen from any of the academic offerings across the Berkeley campus. A year-long, mentored M.P.H. project is required for completion of the program.

Program Curriculum and Requirements

Students in the Interdisciplinary M.P.H. program are required to complete 42 semester units of course credit between July and May. Students take a heavy course load (17-19 units per semester), in addition to one or two summer courses (4-8 units) to satisfy the 42 unit requirement. Consequently, students should not plan to work during the fall and spring semesters, and should make every effort to minimize work-related responsibilities while at school.

We advise students to enroll in the six-week Summer Session courses on Epidemiologic Methods (PH 250A) and/or the Introduction to Biostatistics (PH 141). This will reduce their course load to manageable levels in the Fall and Spring semesters. Students with previous biostatistics or epidemiology experience may take both summer courses provided that they can make a full-time commitment to coursework beginning in early July. Students who have taken rigorous or advanced epidemiology or biostatistics in the past are encouraged to take the exemption exams in epidemiology and biostatistics in late August. Passing out of a course, however, does not decrease the 42-unit requirement for graduation.

Students are required to attend a one-unit Interdisciplinary Summer Seminar during which they will begin to develop ideas for their year-long MPH project. The course number is PH 292 (1) and the course control number is 72738. Students should enroll in this course for one unit with the S/U grading option.
The Interdisciplinary MPH core requirements consist of six courses totaling 23 units:

- Biostatistics
  - PH141 (4-5 units):
    - This requirement may also be met by passing the exemption exam during welcome week

- Epidemiology
  - PH 250A or PH250B (3 units)
    - This requirement may also be met by passing the exemption exam during welcome week

- Breadth courses:
  - PH 200C1—Health Policy and Management (2 units): offered in the first half of Fall semester
  - PH200C2—Environmental Health Sciences (2 units): offered in the second half of Fall semester
  - PH 200C3—Health and Social Behavior (2 units): offered in Spring

- Interdisciplinary Program Seminar Series
  - PH 292(1) – Summer Interdisciplinary Seminar (1 unit)
  - PH292 (12) – Fall, 4 units and PH 292 (7)—Spring, 4 units: a full-year course designed to enhance knowledge and practice skills and to provide guidance and mentorship in the development and implementation of a culminating MPH Project. The oral presentation and written paper for the MPH project satisfy the Public Health Practice and Comprehensive Examination requirements for the degree.

We also strongly recommend that in Spring 2016 you take PH 291, the Preparation for Public Health Practice Workshop Series, a one unit course offered by the Center for Public Health Practice with a S/U grading option only.

The remaining 19-20 units are available for electives that may be used to customize a curriculum that fits your career-building needs.

School of Public Health Specialty Areas

While taking electives towards the MPH, students may also simultaneously complete a Specialty Area, or minor, in a particular area. Specialty Areas draw faculty and students across many areas of study. They require that students complete nine units of specific courses and electives. The School offers the following specialty areas of study:

- Aging
- Global Health
- Maternal and Child Health
- Multicultural Health
- Public Health Nutrition

Please refer to the School of Public Health website for more information about the Specialty Areas:
http://sph.berkeley.edu/
The curriculum for the Interdisciplinary MPH program is an intensive, full-time program. The 42-unit program requires completion of at least 17 units of coursework in each of the fall and spring semesters. In order to meet the 42-unit requirement, students are also expected to enroll in the summer session prior to the Fall semester in which they enter the program. Up to four units from previously completed graduate coursework may also be applied towards the 42 units, subject to ‘rules for transfer units’ and approval from Graduate Division. Curricular requirements are summarized below. The one-year program also requires completion of a community-based research project (this is an MPH Project, not a thesis). Projects may take a variety of forms including research studies, needs assessments, program evaluations, or policy analyses. Projects are presented at the end of the Spring semester in written and oral formats and fulfill the School of Public Health Comprehensive Exam requirement.

**Bolded type** denotes courses that are required by the School of Public Health and the Interdisciplinary MPH Program.

### Epidemiology:
There are several ways to satisfy the Epidemiology requirement:
1. Take PH 250A (Epidemiological Methods I) in the Summer or Fall;
2. Take and pass the epidemiology exemption exam at the beginning of the Fall semester; or
3. Take PH 250B (Epidemiological Methods II) in the Fall.

### Biostatistics:
There are also several ways to satisfy the Biostatistics requirement:
1. Take PH 141 (Intro to Biostatistics) in the Summer;
2. Take PH 142 (Intro to Biostatistics) in the Fall; or
3. Take PH 245 (Intro to Multivariate Statistics) in the Fall
4. Take PH 252 (Epidemiological Analysis) in the Spring
5. Take and pass the Biostatistics exemption exam before the Fall semester begins

**Recommended 1-year Interdisciplinary Course Selection (ALL MUST BE TAKEN FOR A LETTER GRADE EXCEPT WHERE NOTED):**

#### SUMMER SEMESTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PH 250A</td>
<td>Epidemiological Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 141</td>
<td>Introduction to Biostatistics</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 292(1)</td>
<td>Summer Interdisciplinary Seminar (S/U grading option only)</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
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#### FALL SEMESTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PH 142</td>
<td>Intro to Probability &amp; Statistics in Biology &amp; PH (if summer PH141 not taken)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 200C-1</td>
<td>Health Policy and Management Breadth Course (half semester)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 200C-2</td>
<td>Environmental Health Sciences Breadth Course (half semester)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 292(12)</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Seminar</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 250A</td>
<td>or Epidemiologic Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 250B</td>
<td>Epidemiologic Methods II</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(Note: PH 250A and/or 250B not needed if PH 250A was taken in summer)

Electives (to be chosen by student)***
5-8 units

#### SPRING SEMESTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PH 292(7)</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Seminar</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 200C-3</td>
<td>Health and Social Behavior Breadth Course</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 291A</td>
<td>Preparation for Public Health Practice Workshop Series (S/U grading option only)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(PH 291A is not required but is highly recommended)*

Electives (to be chosen by student)*** *(For examples, see next page)*
12-13 units

*** Electives are chosen in collaboration with Faculty Advisor, customized to provide the skills for each student’s desired career path. Students must have approval of their faculty advisor for elective courses taken outside the School of Public Health.

**TOTAL NUMBER OF UNITS REQUIRED FOR THE 11-MONTH MPH PROGRAM: 42 units**
EXAMPLES OF SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH ELECTIVES:
(see http://catalog.berkeley.edu for complete selection)

Note: there are no restrictions on where you take your electives as long as they are on the Berkeley campus. You can take electives in other UC Berkeley schools and departments such as Business, Public Policy, Demography and Anthropology, or any other department subject, to approval from that department and from the student’s faculty advisor.

Fall Electives

PH 201E Public Health Interventions: Theory, Practice and Research (3 units)
PH 204A Mass Communication and Public Health (3 units)
PH 204D Community Organization and Community Building for Health (3 or 4 units)
PH 204E Multicultural Competence in Public Health (3 units)
PH 206A Nutrition Status, Physical Activity, and Chronic Conditions (3 units)
PH 206C Nutritional Epidemiology (3 units)
PH 210B Adolescent Health (3 units)
PH 2110C Needs Assessment in Maternal and Child Health (3 units)
PH 212A International Maternal and Child Health (2 units)
PH 213A Family Planning, Population Change, and Health (3 units)
PH 216A Biological Embedding of Social Factors (3 units)
PH 217A Aging and Public Health (3 units)
PH 220F Healthy Workforce and Public Policy (2 units)
PH 223A Introduction to the Healthcare System (3 units)
PH 224A Health Organizations and Management (3 units)
PH 226A Health Economics (3 units)
PH 226D Global Health Economics (3 units)
PH 235 Impact Evaluation for Health Professionals (3 units)
PH 245 Introduction to Multivariate Statistics (3 units)
PH 252C Intervention Trial Design (3 units)
PH 252D Introduction to Causal Inference (3 units)
PH 253C Overview of AIDS Epidemic (3 units)
PH 255C Mental Health and Psychopathology (3 units)
PH 257 Outbreak Investigation (1, 3 units)
PH 260A Principles of Infectious Disease (3 units)
PH 263 Public Health Immunology (3 units)
PH 264 Current Issues in Infectious Disease (2 units)
PH 270B Toxicology (4 units)
PH 282 Topics in the History of Medicine and Public Health (3 units)
PH 285A Public Health Injury Prevention and Control (3 units)
PH 285A Public Health Injury and Control (2 units)
PH 290 Health Issues Seminar: Social Justice and Worker Health (1-4 units)
PH 290 Health Issues Seminar: Health Communications in the Digital Era (1-4 units)
PH 290 Health Issues Seminar: Behavior Change in Adolescence (1-4 units)
PH 290 Health Issues Seminar: Healthcare Quality (1-4 units)
PH 290 Health Issues Seminar: Implementing Health Reform (1-4 units)
PH 291A Preparation for Public Health Practice
PublicPol 260 Public Leadership and Management (3 units –Note: special enrollment procedures)
### Spring Electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PH 144</td>
<td>Introduction to SAS Programming</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 200A</td>
<td>Current Issues in Public Health Ethics – Research and Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 202E</td>
<td>Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in Health Status and Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 205</td>
<td>Planning, Development and Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 212E</td>
<td>Private Sector Health Care in Developing Countries</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 212D</td>
<td>Global Health Core Course, Part 2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 217D</td>
<td>Biological and Public Health Aspects of Alzheimer’s Disease</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 218B</td>
<td>Evaluation of Health and Social Programs</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 219A</td>
<td>Advanced Methods: Qualitative Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 219C</td>
<td>Community Based Participatory Research in Health</td>
<td>3, 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 219E</td>
<td>Introduction to Qualitative Methods in Public Health Research</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 223C</td>
<td>Strategic Management and Organization of Health Services</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 223F</td>
<td>Effective PH Negotiations</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 224A</td>
<td>Healthcare Organizations and Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 225</td>
<td>Legal Basis for Healthcare Delivery</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 230</td>
<td>Advanced Health Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 253B</td>
<td>Epidemiology and Control of Infectious Diseases</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH C234</td>
<td>Green Chemistry: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Sustainability</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 253C</td>
<td>Ethical Challenges in Public Health Interventions</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH 253D</td>
<td>Behavior and Policy Science in HIV Prevention and Treatment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 257A</td>
<td>Social Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 257A</td>
<td>Disaster Epidemiology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 270B</td>
<td>Toxicology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 271C</td>
<td>Practical Toxicology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 271E</td>
<td>Science and Policy for Environment and Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 271G</td>
<td>Health Implications of Climate Change</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH 272A</td>
<td>Geographical Information Science for Public Health and Environment</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH 281</td>
<td>Public Health and Spirituality</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 271D</td>
<td>Global Burden of Disease and Comparative Risk Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH 282</td>
<td>Topics in the History of Medicine and Public Health</td>
<td>2 or 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH 290(2)</td>
<td>Health Issues Seminar: Designing Innovative Public Health Solutions</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH 290(8)</td>
<td>Public Health Journalism</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH 290(9)</td>
<td>Seminar: HIV Biology to Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH 285</td>
<td>Public Health Injury and Control</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 291A</td>
<td>Preparation for Public Health Practice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBA 209F</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Business for Non-Business Majors</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PublicPol 280</td>
<td>Wealth and Poverty. Note: special enrollment procedures</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Learning Objectives for the Interdisciplinary MPH Seminar, 2015-16

By the end of the year-long Interdisciplinary Program Seminar, students will be able to:

- Design and implement a project to address a current public health challenge
  - Complete a comprehensive literature review on a defined public health topic, including synthesis of themes and findings across multiple studies
  - Research best practice models to inform project design
  - Develop clear, measurable, time-specific project objectives
  - Learn about the fundamental principles of ethics in public health research
  - Successfully complete the application process for IRB Human Subjects approval and/or waiver
  - Formulate a research plan, including determination and application of appropriate research methods (quantitative, qualitative or mixed)
  - Develop and ensure the implementation of sustainability and/or replicability plans
  - Develop and implement project dissemination plans to ensure communication of results with all project stakeholders and with public health community

- Partner effectively and ethically with community-based organizations and/or agencies
  - Identify public health organizations and agencies whose mission intersects with project work
  - Assess potential for substantive community partnership
  - Describe and apply CDC Principles of Community Engagement
  - Develop work plans with community partners to ensure clear communication and mutual benefit

- Gain public health knowledge and skills to enhance professional practice
  - Understand and apply basic framework for cost-effectiveness analysis
  - Identify public health funders and write competitive grant proposals, letters of intent and comprehensive budgets
  - Understand and apply basic framework for conducting policy reviews
  - Develop skills to improve scientific writing for peer-reviewed publications

- Integrate learning across the MPH program
  - Actively synthesize and reflect on course and project work across the MPH program to inform future career
  - Access mentors, advisors and public health peers for support, troubleshooting and identification of useful resources

- Leadership and Inter-professional education
  - Learn effective leadership skills including facilitation, mediation, decision making, delegation, effective feedback, and systems thinking
  - Learn and apply skills needed to work in inter-professional teams effectively
Learn and apply skills needed for effective scientific presentations and media advocacy, including on-camera communication skills
Interdisciplinary Program Core Faculty

Phuoc Le, MD, MPH, DTM&H is the Program Director. Dr. Le graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Dartmouth College with a double major in Chinese and Biochemistry, an MD from Stanford, and an MPH from UC Berkeley’s Interdisciplinary Program (2003). He completed a combined residency in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Global Health Equity at Harvard. During residency he worked with the Partners in Health (PIH) to provide equitable health care in Rwanda, Lesotho, Malawi, and most recently, Haiti. He has participated in community health and anthropological research in Tibet, Shanghai, and Qinghai, PRC, and Geneva, Switzerland. His interests are in health disparities and interventions in developing countries. Currently, Dr. Le is dually appointed as an assistant professor of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at UCSF in addition to his appointment at UCB. He continues to work with PIH for several months a year. Email: ple@berkeley.edu

Anke Hemmerling, MD, PhD, MPH is a lecturer at UC Berkeley School of Public Health, and an Academic Coordinator at the UCSF Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health, where she is conducting studies on prevention of reproductive health infections. In addition, she is the Co-Chair of the Education Committee at the UCGHI Center of Expertise in Women’s Health and Empowerment. At UCSF, she is mentoring and teaching students in the Infectious Disease Research and Training Program (IDRTP) and the UCSF Global Health Masters Program. In addition, she serves on the steering committee of the Coalition Advancing Multipurpose Innovations for Reproductive Health. During her clinical training, she repeatedly worked in health projects and hospitals in Latin America. Her PhD research evaluated medication abortion with mifepristone in Germany. From 2004 to 2007, she was a postgraduate Global Health Research Fellow for the Bixby Program at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health, and a Director of Special Health Projects for Venture Strategies for Health and Development, conducting research related to safe motherhood and safe delivery. Email: ahemmerling@berkeley.edu

Harvey Kayman, MD, MPH works at UCB as a lecturer with affiliate status in the Department of Epidemiology. Dr. Kayman worked on a CDC funded research project at UC Berkeley School of Public Health from 2010-2012 on decisions made by California county public health officials on school closure during the 2009 H1N1 pandemic. From October 2013 until September 2014, he worked with a team to develop techniques to teach public health officials about decision making in crises. He has been instructor of record for a course on ethics, emergency preparedness, and application of decision theory and public health in the Epidemiology Department. He has worked at the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) as a Public Health Medical Officer, as acting section chief of the Bio-terrorism Emergency Preparedness as Senior Science Advisor to the Communicable Diseases Emergency Response Branch until 2010. From 2000-2006, he worked in the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), first as the health officer for a six county rural health district and then as the Director of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau for the State of South Carolina Health Department. He was a Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the University Of South Carolina School Of Medicine, and an Adjunct Associate Professor of Epidemiology in the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina. He was the public health representative to the South Carolina Medical Association Ethics Committee for six years. Dr. Kayman has had many years experience as a front line practicing pediatrician, first in the United States Army (Chief of Pediatrics at the US Army Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand-1971-1973) and then as a staff pediatrician at Northern California Kaiser Permanente for 25 years from 1973-1999, where he was also the Chief of Patient Education for 14 years. Dr Kayman and his wife have been married for 50 years, have three married adult “children,” and six grandchildren who form the center of his universe.

Nap Hosang, MD, MBA, MPH is a retired obstetrician and medical group administrator from Kaiser Permanente. He has held many leadership positions in the school, including the Joint Medical Program, Global Health, Maternal and Child Health and the Center for Entrepreneurship. His current interests are in reducing maternal mortality and the impact of indoor air pollution on women and small children. Dr. Hosang was the director of the Interdisciplinary Program until 2012. He is currently the director of UCB’s On-campus Online MPH (OOMPH) program. Email: hosang@berkeley.edu
Jaspal Sandhu, MS, PhD, is co-founder and partner at the Gobee Group, a firm that innovates for social impact globally. Current Gobee initiatives include: creating a digital platform to improve the cost-effectiveness of HIV drug purchasing by African governments, sparking community innovation in the Best Babies Zone in East Oakland, and building innovation capacity in the health care safety net across California. Jaspal is also a Lecturer at the School of Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley, where he teaches graduate-level, interdisciplinary courses on the innovation process. In 2014, he taught a new course focused on the intersections of food, innovation, and health: *Eat.Think.Design*. His writing on innovation has been featured in the Stanford Social Innovation Review, MIT Innovations, and Fast Company's Co.Exist. He received his Ph.D. in Design from the University of California, Berkeley, and his Master’s and Bachelor's degrees in engineering from MIT. Email: jaspal@berkeley.edu

**Interdisciplinary Program Staff**

Svetlana Battle, MA (Education), MA (Social Welfare), PMP, Interim Division Manager, **Interdisciplinary Division**, has been at UCB for nearly 10 years, and has a background in education, social welfare and project management. Prior to joining UCB, Svetlana was the executive director of a rehabilitation center for orphans in Russia. Email: imph@berkeley.edu
FAQs Answered for Incoming Interdisciplinary MPH Students
Academic Year 2015-16

1. **Is there a minimum grade required for required breadth courses and a required overall GPA?**

   Yes-- students must attain a B- or better in the breadth course requirements (Epidemiology PH 250A; Biostatistics PH 142; Health Policy & Management 200C1; Environmental Health PH 200C2; and Health and Social Behavior PH 200C3). Students who attain less than a B- will be required to retake the course. To receive the MPH degree, the student must also meet the Good Academic Standing Rule with an overall 3.0 GPA and a B average.

2. **Can I work during the 11-month program?**

   The full course load required is 42 semester units for the year, or about 5 or 6 classes per semester. That is a lot of course work which will keep you quite busy. Most students will likely have little extra time available for a part-time job or a Graduate Student Instructor or Graduate Student Research position.

3. **Summer session: How do I decide which summer course(s) to take?**

   Students are required to take the Summer Interdisciplinary MPH Seminar PH 292 (1), course control number 72738. In addition, we also recommend taking Biostatistics PH 141 and Epidemiology PH 250A. The 2015 summer session runs from July 7 to August 15. As this is a heavy a course load for beginners on these topics, we recommend that you do not work during the Summer Session. If you’re not able to take all three courses, please check in with the Interdisciplinary Program faculty to make alternate plans.

4. **Do the summer session courses satisfy the MPH requirements for Biostatistics and Epidemiology?**

   - Yes, PH 141 satisfies the Biostatistics requirement.
   - Yes, PH 250A satisfies the Epidemiology requirement

5. **Can I take the Biostatistics and Epidemiology exemption exams to satisfy the requirements?**

   You can satisfy the Biostatistics and Epidemiology requirements by passing the exemption exams, which will be offered just before the Summer and Fall semesters. You will receive notice of these exams in advance. Please email Svetlana Battle at ipmph@berkeley.edu if you have questions. Please note that if you satisfy the Biostatistics and Epidemiology requirements by passing the exemption exams, you will NOT receive unit credit for them and will still need to complete 42 units of course work in order to graduate.

6. **Can you recommend any online resources for biostatistics preparation or a refresher?**

   Yes, please see the free courses that are available at http://oli.cmu.edu/
7. Is health insurance for Summer Sessions available?

Yes. Please see http://www.uhs.berkeley.edu/students/insurance/summer.shtml for information on how to apply for summer health insurance. Note that the link says that it is for freshman and transfer summer students, but it also applies to any student enrolling in summer sessions and any entering student, including international students.

8. When does the Fall 2015 semester begin and end?

- Instruction begins on August 26 and ends on December 4.
- Fall 2015 orientation activities (“Welcome Days”) begin the week of August 24. More information about these activities and other important information will be coming to you soon via email from the School of Public Health Student Services office.

9. How can I satisfy the 42 units for the Interdisciplinary Program in just eleven months?

The two-year MPH programs require that you do 48 units in two years, whereas the 11-month MPH programs require 42 units in 11 months. The Interdisciplinary program is rigorous but doable, provided you are not working or have other time-intensive obligations. We will provide a list of possible curriculum scenarios at the beginning of the Summer Session.

10. What is the minimum number of units that I may to take each semester?

The minimum allowable number of units per semester is 12. However, as an Interdisciplinary student, you will need to take many more units each semester.

11. Can I transfer of units from previous graduate coursework not counted towards another degree?

You may be able to transfer up to four units of graduate level coursework towards your MPH degree. According to UC Berkeley’s Graduate Division Policy: “A master’s student may transfer up to four semester units or six quarter units of course work completed as a graduate student at another institution. The units must be equivalent to courses in the student’s graduate program at Berkeley, and the student must have received at least a B in the course(s) and have a grade point average of at least 3.3.” The courses to be transferred must be approved by the School of Public Health Curriculum Review Committee to insure that they meet the requirements for transfer. Students must submit a syllabus for each course. Eligible units might be stand-alone courses or courses taken that exceeded the requirements (extra units) for a previous degree. Detailed procedures for transferring units will be announced at the start of the Fall 2014 semester.

12. Do I take PH 297, the field practicum requirement that is listed on some UC Berkeley School of Public Health MPH curriculum materials?

No-- this course is for two-year MPH students only. As an 11-month student, you satisfy your practicum requirement as part of the Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 Interdisciplinary MPH Seminars - -PH 292(12) and PH 292(7) in the Spring.

13. The Interdisciplinary Seminars--PH 292 (12) in Fall and PH 292 (7)-- in the Spring are variable unit courses. How many units should I enroll in for each of these courses?

4 units for each course, taken for a letter grade
14. Can I take undergraduate courses and can they count towards my 42 units? How many undergraduate units can I take?

Yes, you may take undergraduate courses and they will count towards the MPH, but they must be upper division courses numbered 100 or above. You may take a maximum of 12 units in 100-level courses.

15. How many elective units can I take outside the UCB School of Public Health?

There is no limit on the number of elective units that may be taken outside SPH across other UCB departments.

16. Can I complete one of the public health specialty areas along with the interdisciplinary MPH?

Yes. You may use elective units in the Interdisciplinary curriculum to complete specialty area requirements such as for the Global Health Specialty Area.

17. May I take courses Pass/Fail or Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory?

All required courses must be taken for a letter grade. You may take electives as P/F or S/U, but no more than a third of your total units taken can be taken P/F or S/U (excluding independent study courses numbered 299).

18. What are the guidelines for taking independent study (299) units?

- The maximum number of PH 299 course units you may take towards the degree is ten.
- PH 299's can be taken either S/U or for a letter grade. The choice depends on what you arrange with the instructor.
- Although no more than one third of total units can be taken S/U, this one third does NOT include PH 299 units.

19. As a UCB student, do I get access to STATA for data analysis?

You have free access to STATA on the computers in the Epi/Biostat computer lab in Haviland Hall. You can also buy your own copy of STATA at a discount. Please see: http://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/campus-gradplan/

20. As a UCSF resident, can I receive the two-thirds tuition and fee reduction available to UC staff?

Unfortunately you cannot. To receive this discount, you may take no more than nine units of coursework per semester. The Interdisciplinary Program requires that you take more than nine units per semester.

21. When will I be presented with a financial aid package for this program? Are there financial support options that I should consider looking into?

While the School of Public Health has a variety of merit and need-based scholarships/fellowships, there is no guarantee that a newly admitted graduate will be a recipient of an award. As of right now, SPH scholarship/funding award letters have been sent out, but that does not necessarily mean all opportunities have been exhausted! In addition to fellowships/scholarships offered through SPH, it is common for students to look into external scholarships and/or federal loans. With regards to financial aid packages, which consist of loan allocations, as well as any grants one may be eligible for, UC Berkeley’s Financial Aid & Scholarships Office will notify newly admitted graduates of these opportunities around late April/early May, but only if the Statement
of Intent to Register is submitted. In the meantime, I would highly encourage you to look at the different ways to fund your education.

Another thing to note is that there will be more opportunities, such as GSI/GSRships and other internal scholarships, which you can apply for through our SPH jobsite. Attached you will find a “Tips for Finding GSI_GSR” document that was created by Ruthann Haffke, SPH Career Services Manager.

Also, as a member of the Association for Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH), our graduate students have access to funding resources such as "Tips and Tricks to Obtaining Scholarships" and external sources that are based on specific qualifying criteria (e.g., race, gender, state of residency, etc.):

22. Can I teach and facilitate a De-Cal course to undergraduates and receive unit credit for it?

Yes. You can receive unit credit via undergraduate independent study 199 units. For information please see [http://www.decal.org/](http://www.decal.org/)

23. If I need to book a room to use for a student meeting, project interview, etc., how can I do so?

You may ask Svetlana Battle – email her at ipmph@berkeley.edu, and please give her at least several days’ notice to find the room.

24. Are students required to wear traditional regalia to the Commencement ceremony?

Yes. We have several gowns available that students can borrow.
Some Current Positions Held By Interdisciplinary Alumni

(Source: 2012 Survey of Interdisciplinary Alumni)

- Academic Coordinator, USCF and Lecturer, UC Berkeley
- Assistant Clinical Professor, UC Irvine, Division of Obstetric Oncology
- Assistant Professor of Pediatrics. Seattle Children's Hospital, University of Washington School of Medicine
- Assistant Professor, UCSF -- Hospitalist Physician
- Assistant Professor, Stanford University; Advisor - Ethics Subcommittee of Advisory Board to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Alta Bates Summit Medical Center - Palliative Care Chaplain; and St. Mary's College - Project Advisor
- Assistant Team Leader, Pathways to Housing DC, Assertive Community Treatment
- Associate Professor, Kumamoto University, Japan
- Associate Professor, University of Toronto, Factor-Inwentash Chair in Child Welfare
- Behavioral Psychologist, Golden Gate Regional Center Clinical Psychologist, Department of Social Services/Social Security Administration
- Executive Advisor for Strategic Partnerships, CamFed USA Foundation
- Cardiac Anesthesia Fellow, Stanford University
- Clinical Assistant Professor, Stanford University
- County Governor of South-Trondelag (Fylkesmannen i Sør-Trøndelag, Norway) - Chief County Medical Officer
- Director, Associates in Hospital Medicine / Methodist Division, Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals
- Director, CA Emergency Medical Services Authority / State appointed position
- Director, TEACH Program and Associate Clinical Professor, UCSF
- Fellow in Preventive Medicine and Public Health, University of Rochester Medical Center
- Fellow, Jiangsu Province Population and Development Research Center
- General Pediatrician, Kaiser Permanente
- Internist, Permanente Medical Group
- Laboratory Advisor, University Research Co., LLC,
- Managing Director, Absolute Return for Kids US
- Medical Director, Housing and Urban Health, San Francisco Dept. of Public Health/ Special Advisor to the Executive Director, US Interagency Council on Homelessness
- Medical Social Worker. Pathways Home Health and Hospice
- Nurse Practitioner, Stanford Hospital and Clinics
- Orthopaedic Trauma Fellow, Wellspan Orthopaedic Surgery
- Physician (Nunavut)  Professor (University of Calgary)  Partner (Habitat Health Impact Consulting)
- Pediatric Medical Director, San Mateo Medical Center;  Keller Center for Family Violence Intervention
- Policy Analyst, Instructor and Researcher, University of California School of Public Health Center for Infectious Diseases Emergency Readiness
- Project Director, Global Access to Technology for Development (GATD) /
- Professor (University of Calgary) / Partner (Habitat Health Impact Consulting)
- Professor at PSIA-Sciences Po Paris and College de France, Chair: Knowledge Against Poverty
- Program Director, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, National Cancer Institute, NIH
- Program Director, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health
- Psychiatrist (solo practice)
- Public Health Medical Officer, California Department of Public Health
- Public Health Physician, State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Health Department, Germany
- Self-employed / Graphic Facilitator & Group Process Consultant
- Resident, Department of Radiology, Stanford University Medical Center
- Self-employed in house calls and geriatric consultation practice; self-employed as geriatric consultant to www.caring.com. Also now blogging to raise awareness of needs of geriatric health providers at www.geritech.org.
- Senior Medical Officer, Danish Health and Medicines Authority
- Student at UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine
- United States Air Force Commander, 374th Medical Group  United States Forces Japan/Surgeon General, 5th Air Force/Surgeon General (responsible for 11,000 people)