

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREE PROGRAM

Chairperson: Thomas Britt

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The MPH at CSU is a practice-centered curriculum designed to prepare students for the health problems of the 21st century by focusing on the core functions of public health – health status assessment, environmental health quality assurance, behavior change strategies, health disparities, as well as health policy development and research. The current focus of the MPH program is on health promotion and disease prevention. The curriculum is designed to emphasize the social and behavioral scientific strategies in understanding the causality, consequences, prevention and control of diseases in minority populations. Students will be trained to identify community health problems through classroom course work, field internships, and research experiences; and by working with communities to assess health needs/problems, plan and implement solutions, monitor and appraise outcomes. Particular attention was paid in the curriculum design to minority health, migrant and low-income populations where high rates of unemployment and poverty result in poor health outcomes. Additional specialty areas such health service management, environmental toxicology and bio-security preparedness will be developed in the future.

The MPH curriculum at CSU requires 48 credits of course work divided into “public health core,” “concentration” courses and “electives”. Students will have the option of a practicum or thesis as a required capstone experience.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Applications to the MPH program must be made through the School of Graduate and Professional Studies, including paying the application fee, and the submission of original transcripts of the candidate’s undergraduate coursework. Application materials must be received by March 15 each year for the fall semester enrollment. Early application is encouraged; applicants may apply to the program up to 12 months prior to the desired start date.

Students seeking admission into the MPH degree must meet the following admission requirements:

- A baccalaureate degree from an accredited university with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.00 on a 4-point scale.
- A combined graduate Record Examination (GRE)* score of at least 1,000 (verbal plus quantitative scores). Beginning August 1, 2011, due to the normalization of the GRE score, a combined score of 214 will be required. *GRE will be waived for students with: i) doctorate degree, ii) entry-level professional doctorate degree such as MD, DDS, B.Pharm, DPsych, DPT. etc, or, iii) Master's degree that involves completion of a thesis /dissertation.
- A curriculum vitae/resume.

- Personal statement describing past education, experience, and current professional career objectives.
- Three letters of recommendation from persons qualified to assess their academic work, clinical, public health, professional experiences or leadership potential in public health.

Courses taken prior to admission to the MPH program must be approved at the time of admission if they are to be counted towards the degree. These courses must have a grade of B or better. Approval must be granted by both the department and the School of Graduate and Professional Studies. To gain approval an extra original transcript must accompany the application and submitted to the School of Graduate and Professional Studies.

Upon admission into the program, a faculty advisor will be assigned to each student based on their specialty. The faculty advisor will monitor students' performance each semester. Attention will be given to course grades and related measures of achievements.

Applicants whose background is not in health sciences will be required to take PUBH 5126: Biological Basis of Public Health course during the first semester. Prospective students seeking admission to the MPH program must meet the standards on academic ability and work experience. The Admission Committee will place emphasis on the qualifications and credentials of the students to succeed in public health practice.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To be awarded an MPH degree, students must successfully complete all academic work by the semester they wish to graduate. Capstone fieldwork experience or a thesis must also be completed. Specific requirements to be fulfilled by the graduating students include:

- (a) **Academic Performance:** Cumulative grade point average of 3.00 on a four point scale in all required and elective courses.
- (b) **Practicum:** Six credits of field work (practicum) to develop the skills and competencies through service experience in a health profession or health-related organization --- applying concepts and theories learned in the classroom. The practicum will be arranged in two blocks spanning over two semesters and must be successfully completed. Prior to the experience, the practicum coordinator will discuss with each student their career interest, needs and geographic constraints to determine the placement site.
- (c) **Final Submission of a Thesis:** Students on the research option track will submit their thesis to the faculty advisor and a copy must be submitted to the chairperson two weeks before defense date. The student must successfully defend the thesis.
- (d) **Presentation of Project:** Each student must successfully complete their capstone fieldwork experience and thesis and present it at the School of Graduate and Professional Studies Research Forum.
- (e) **Grade Format:** Letter (A-F) grades are awarded in theory courses. "Satisfactory" or "Unsatisfactory" grades are awarded only for the capstone thesis and practicum experiences.

Progression and Probation Policy

The following academic progress and probation policy will be enforced in the MPH program:

1. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average to demonstrate satisfactory academic progress and good academic standing. A student is placed on probation if the cumulative grade point average falls below 3.0 for any term. After being placed on probation, a student must attain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 within the next two terms or be dismissed from the graduate program.
2. No more than two grades of C can be earned in any of the MPH courses. A course in which a D was obtained must be repeated to obtain a grade of C or better.
3. Student cannot obtain more than six credit hours of course work with a grade of D or F, whether the grade is part of the MPH program or not. Where a student has two or more grades of I outstanding, the student should be reviewed for probationary status.

Curriculum Pattern (Semester by Semester Course Offering)

The curriculum patterns for the MPH program in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and Health Services Management are presented below:

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	
FIRST YEAR	
Fall Semester	Credit Hours
PUBH 5110 - Fundamentals of Public Health Practice	3
PUBH 5112- Environmental Health and Safety	3
PUBH 5113- Epidemiology	3
PUBH 5117 -Research Methods	3
PUBH -5126- Biological Basis of Public Health*	3
*For non-health science professional admitted into the MPH program	
Total Credit Hours – 12 or 15	
Spring Semester	
PUBH 5115-Behavioral, Social and Cultural Aspects of Health Disparities	3
PUBH 5114-Principles of Health Policy and Management	3
PUBH 5111-Biostatistics and Computer Applications	3
PUBH 5116-Community Health Risk Assessment	3
Total Credit Hours - 12	
Summer Semester (Optional)	
PUBH 5122-Field Practicum in Community Health I <u>OR</u> PUBH 5124 – Thesis Proposal	3
Total Credit Hours - 12	
SECOND YEAR	

Fall Semester	
PUBH 5118-Health Education and Community Advocacy	3
PUBH 5119-Health Issues in Minority Populations	3
PUBH 5120-Principles, Theories & Practice in Behavioral Change	3
PUBH 5122-Field Practicum in Community Health I <u>OR</u> PUBH 5124 – Thesis Proposal	3
Total Credit Hours - 12	
Spring Semester	
PUBH 5121-Health Services and Programming in Minority Population	3
PUBH 5132- HIV/AIDS in People of Color: Evidence –based Interventions PUBH- Elective	3
PUBH 5123- Field Practicum in Community Health II & Capstone Paper or Thesis Research and Defense	3
Total	48/51
credit	

Health Services Management	
FIRST YEAR	
Fall Semester	Credit Hours
PUBH 5110- Fundamentals of Public Health Practice	3
PUBH 5112-Environmental Health and Safety	3
PUBH 5113-Epidemiology	3
PUBH 5117-Research Methods	3
PUBH-5126: Biological Basis of Public Health*	3
*For non-health science professional admitted into the MPH program	
Total Credit Hours – 12 or 15	
Spring Semester	
PUBH 5111- Biostatistics and Computer Applications	3
PUBH 5114-Principles of Health Policy and Management	3
PUBH 5115- Behavioral, Social and Cultural Aspects of Health Disparities	3
PUBH 5121- Health Services and Programming in Minority Populations	3
Total Credit Hours - 12	
Summer Semester (Optional)	
PUBH 5122-Field Practicum in Community Health I <u>OR</u> PUBH 5124 – Thesis Proposal	3
Total Credit Hours - 12	
SECOND YEAR	

Fall Semester	
PUBH 5131- Health Economics and Financial Management	3
PUBH 5132-Health Services and Programming in Minority Populations	3
PUBH Elective	3
PUBH 5123- Field Practicum in Community Health II and Capstone Paper or PUBH 5125 – Thesis Research and Defense	3
Total Credit Hours - 12	
Spring Semester	
PUBH 5122- Field Practicum in Community Health I or PUBH 5124- Thesis Proposal	3
PUBH 5127- Management of Health Care Organization	3
PUBH 5128-Health Program Design, Planning, and Evaluation	3
PUBH 5130- Ethical, Legal and Regulatory Aspects of Public Health Practice	3
Total Credit	
48/51	

Course Offerings for Public Health (PUBH)

5110 INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC HEALTH (3)

Prerequisites: Admission to the MPH program or consent of Program Chairperson.

This course explores historical perspectives, content, and progress made in public-health practice in the United States over the past 150 years.

5111 BIostatistics AND COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (3)

Prerequisites: Admission to the MPH program or consent of Program Chairperson.

This course covers parametric, non-parametric statistics and population-based arithmetic and geometric projections, and other quantitative data analysis techniques.

5112 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the MPH program or consent of Program Chairperson.

This course covers the link between environmental exposure and disease onset. Additional focus includes pollution control, occupational health and regulatory agencies historical perspectives content and progress made in public health practice in the United States over the past 150 years.

5113 EPIDEMIOLOGY (3)

Prerequisites: Admission to the MPH program or consent of Program Chairperson.

This graduate level course focuses on the principles and methods of epidemiology and the quantitative techniques for experimental design and data analysis.

5114 PRINCIPLES OF HEALTH AND POLICY MANAGEMENT (3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the MPH program or consent of Program Chairperson.

This course examines marketing principles, strategies for accomplishing marketing objectives and human resource management.

5115 BEHAVIOURAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ASPECTS OF HEALTH DISPARITIES (3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the MPH program or consent of Program Chairperson.

This course examines the behavioral, cultural and social contexts of health disparities and their consequences and implications for minority populations.

5116 COMMUNITY HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT (3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the MPH program or consent of Program Chairperson.

This course explores principles of community-based risk assessment and it also examines factors that contribute to poor health outcomes.

5117 RESEARCH METHODS IN HEALTH SCIENCES (3)

Prerequisites: Admission to the MPH program or consent of Program Chairperson.

This course covers the principles and strategies of scientific research in health professions, including sample selections, data analysis and reporting.

5118 HEALTH EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ADVOCACY (3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the MPH program or consent of Program Chairperson.

This course covers the techniques of applying behavioral change theories into specific community education advocacy and policy interventions.

5119 HEALTH ISSUES IN MINORITY HEALTH (3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the MPH program or consent of Program Chairperson.

This course explores issues that affect the health of minorities in the United States with emphasis on their disease burden.

5120 PRINCIPLES, THEORIES AND PRACTICE IN BEHAVIOR CHANGE (3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the MPH program or consent of Program Chairperson.

This course explores the fundamental concepts in social theories and the foundation of health education theory and behavioral change.

5121 CULTURAL, ETHICAL AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS IN PUBLIC HEALTH (3)

Prerequisites: Admission to the MPH program or consent of Program Chairperson.

This course explores the social, behavioral, and cultural variables that affect the health of communities.

5122 FIELD PRACTICUM IN COMMUNITY HEALTH I (3)

Prerequisites: Admission to the MPH program or consent of Program Chairperson.

This course focuses on Community Practicum, and it provides an integral component of the professional education that complements the training of a public health professional.

5123 FIELD PRACTICUM IN COMMUNITY HEALTH II AND CAPSTONE PAPER (3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the MPH program.

The experience provides the student with opportunities to apply knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to a variety of field work situations and to test new approaches and techniques in solving problems.

5124 THESIS PROPOSAL (3)

Prerequisites: Admission to the MPH program.

This course focuses on the independent graduate research project.

5125 THESIS RESEARCH AND DEFENSE (3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the MPH program.

An independent original research project on public health problem area utilizing health sciences methods in inquiry. It focuses on individual and community health interests and problems

through literature search, defining of the problem, use of theoretical and conceptual framework, methodology for data collection, analysis, findings, discussion implications, and conclusion.

5126 BIOLOGICAL BASIS OF PUBLIC HEALTH (3)

Prerequisites: Admission to the MPH program or consent of Program Chairperson.

The course introduces concepts of disease and disease causation with emphasis on determinants, pathophysiology, social and behavioral factors.

5127 MANAGEMENT OF HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATIONS (3)

Prerequisites: Admission to the MPH program or consent of Program Chairperson.

This course explores organizational structures and the delivery of health care services.

5128 HEALTH PROGRAM DESIGN, PLANNING, AND EVALUATION (3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the MPH program or consent of Program Chairperson.

This course explores theoretical foundations of program planning and practical evaluation of programs.

5129 ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN HEALTHCARE DELIVERY (3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the MPH program or consent of Program Chairperson.

This course explores opportunities and threat to entrepreneurial endeavors in health care industry.

5130 LEGAL AND REGULATORY ASPECTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE (3)

Prerequisites: Admission to the MPH program or consent of Program Chairperson.

This course explores legal obligations of health care providers which relate to the provision of health care.

5131 HEALTH ECONOMICS AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (3)

Prerequisites: Admission to the MPH program or consent of Program Chairperson.

This course explores economic analysis and the use of managerial techniques.

5132 HIV/AIDS IN PEOPLE OF COLOR: EVIDENCE-BASED INTERVENTIONS (3)

Prerequisites: Admission to the MPH program or consent of Program Chairperson.

This course examines the racial and ethnic disparities in rates of transmission, incidence, prevalence and mortality related to the HIV/AIDS epidemic at the local, national, and global levels. It also discusses biomedical and environmental determinants of HIV infection and public policy challenges and barriers to HIV prevention among communities of color.

5133 PUBLIC HEALTH ASPECTS OF AGING (3)

Prerequisites: Admission to the MPH program.

This course covers public health gerontology.

5134 GLOBAL HEALTH (3)

Prerequisites: Admission to the MPH program or consent of Program Chairperson.

This course explores global health issues and the economic implications.

5135 HEALTHCARE INFORMATICS (3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the MPH program or consent of Program Chairperson.

This course provides a broad coverage of technology concepts underlying computing and information management.