Social and Behavioral Sciences

DEGREES OFFERED:

• Master of Public Health
• Doctor of Philosophy

MPH IN SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

The MPH degree in Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBHS) addresses the behavioral, social, and environmental factors related to individual and population health and health disparities over the life span. Research and practice in this track contributes to the development, administration, and evaluation of programs and policies in public health to promote and sustain healthy environments and lives for individuals and populations. The SBHS MPH is offered on campus and online.

The curriculum is designed so that students have a broad exposure to the core disciplines in public health and introduction to the social and behavioral sciences during their first academic year with a greater focus on social and behavioral sciences in their second academic year. The standard schedule allows for students to select three electives (nine credit hours). It is highly recommended that these electives be selected from the approved list of electives for students in SBHS. Students may also opt to complete the public health practice area of emphasis.

A student who graduates with an MPH in Social and Behavioral Science from WVU will be qualified to work and provide leadership in public health and research settings at national, state or local levels, or work in the public or private sector on health promotion program implementations and evaluation efforts.

PH.D. IN PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES (SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES MAJOR)

The mission of the Ph.D. in Public Health Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences Major, is to provide state of the art doctoral education in the theory and application of social and behavioral science to a select group of highly qualified and committed students desiring to transform public health. Our program trains students using a research intensive curriculum led by a distinguished faculty at the cutting edge of public health science. This program emphasizes both evidence-based, theory-driven primary prevention of disease and injury and health promotion research and practice. Graduates will complete their degrees with a competitive record of research achievement, ready to embark on high-impact research careers.

The curriculum is designed so that students receive a methodologically-intense training and one-on-one research experience with faculty in Social and Behavioral Sciences, typically over a three- to four-year period. The first years of the program emphasize research and statistical methods complemented by theoretical and process-oriented coursework relevant to Social and Behavioral Sciences. During the latter years of the program, students are engaged in their dissertation research while given the freedom to further diversify their training by choosing electives.

FACULTY

CHAIR

• Keith Zulllig, Professor - Ph.D. (University of South Carolina)

PROFESSORS

• Linda Alexander - Ed.D. (University of Virginia)
• Geri Dino - Ph.D. (Kansas State University)
• Ranjita Misra - Ph.D. (Old Dominion University)

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

• Christiaan Abildso - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
• Ishonte Allar - Ph.D., MPH (West Virginia University)
• Danielle Davidov - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
• Haslyn Hunte - Ph.D. (University of Michigan)
• Allgeir Kristajansson - Ph.D. (Karolinska Institute)
• Michael Mann - Ph.D. (University of Florida)
• Cecil Pollard - MA (West Virginia University)
• Megan Smith - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
• Nancy O’Hara Tompkins - Ph.D. (University of Maryland)
TEACHING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
• Janet B. Hunt - MPH (University of Tennessee)
• Toni Morris - Ed.D., M.S. (West Virginia University)

INSTRUCTOR
• Bobbi Sykes - M.S. (West Virginia University)

ADJUNCT PROFESSORS
• Ahmed Aboraya - MD (Cairo University)
• Lesley Cottrell - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
• Dwight Harshbarger - Ph.D. (University of North Dakota)
• Samuel Zizzi - Ed.D. (West Virginia University)

ADJUNCT ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS
• Joy Buck - Ph.D. (University of Virginia)
• Cindy Fitch - Ph.D. (Case Western Reserve University)

ADJUNCT ASSISTANT PROFESSORS
• Muazzam Nasrullah - MD (Allama Iqbal Medical College, Lahore Pakistan)
• Judith Sedgeman - Ed.D. (West Virginia University)
• Melissa Olfert - Ph.D. (Loma Linda University)
• Thomas Sims - M.A. (Georgia State University)

ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR
• Janie Leary - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
• Janet Reger-Nash - M.S. (University of California)
• Gary Sams - MS (University of Pittsburgh)
• Gina Sharps - MPH (West Virginia University)
• Matthew West - MBA (Duke University)

FACULTY EMERITI
• William Reger-Nash - Ed.D. (West Virginia University)
• Pete Shaffron - Ed.D.
• Kenneth Simon - Ed.D. (Columbia University)

ADMISSION GUIDELINES FOR THE MPH IN SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES (ON CAMPUSS OR ONLINE)
• Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university with a preferred GPA of 3.0
• GRE scores of 146 (verbal), 144 (quantitative), 3.0 (analytical writing)
• TOEFL scores (minimum 550 paper-based) (minimum 213 computer-based). Internet-Based TOEFL (iBT) minimum score recommended for admission, which is an 80 (20 or higher in each of the four sections). International Students Only.

APPLICATION PROCESS (FALL ADMISSIONS ONLY):
If you are ready to apply to West Virginia University School of Public Health, the admissions team is here to assist you. Our School of Public Health is CEPH (http://www.ceph.org)-accredited, and we participate in SOPHAS (http://www.sophas.org) (Schools of Public Health Application Service). Our MPH Admissions process is a two-step process. All MPH applications must be submitted through the national SOPHAS service and applicants must also submit a WVU Graduate application.

In addition to the general application, applicants must submit to SOPHAS a statement of purpose and objectives, official GRE test scores, three letters of reference, a current resume/curriculum vitae, and all university transcripts. SOPHAS requires original transcripts from ALL U.S. institutions attended! (Even Study Abroad) Please see each Major’s website for additional application requirements.

There is a $120 SOPHAS application fee. Applicants must indicate their first choice of MPH major, and may also indicate a second choice. A maximum of two choices is allowed.

• E-submit your application as soon as the applicant entered information is complete. Do NOT wait for SOPHAS to receive transcripts, recommendations or test scores.
• Plan Ahead! Allow up to **4 weeks** for SOPHAS to verify grades, process and mail your application to your designated institutions after your documents have been received.

• SOPHAS grants fee waivers based upon financial need for Peace Corps Volunteers, McNair Scholars, Gates Millennium Scholars Program, AmeriCorps, U.S. and International applicants.

Applications that are complete will then be reviewed by the department. Students will receive a communication from the WVU School of Public Health regarding their recommendation for acceptance and instructions to complete the WVU Graduate application and pay the $60.00 WVU application fee.

*Important:* When sending GRE scores for consideration for admission at WVU use the GRE WVU School of Public Health college code: **0157**. This is the code that MUST be used, otherwise your GRE score will not be reported to SOPHAS and your application will be incomplete and therefore will not be reviewed for an admissions decision. [There are different codes for other programs at West Virginia University.]

**Fall Admissions Only:**

Fully completed applications received by April 15 will be considered first. Incomplete applications and new fully completed applications received by June 1 will be considered second, for those degree programs/concentrations that have openings after the April 15 decisions

**ADMISSION GUIDELINES FOR THE PH.D. IN PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES (SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES MAJOR)**

**Degree Requirements**

• A Master’s degree in Public Health or a closely related field is strongly preferred. Exceptional applicants with a Bachelor’s degree in a relevant field may also be considered.

• Minimum GPA of 3.0 is required, 3.5 is preferred.

**Minimum Test Scores**

• The following GRE scores are preferred: Verbal 150; Quantitative 155; and Writing 3.5.

• WVU requires international students to submit TOEFL scores. Preferred scores are as follows: 550 on paper-based; 213 on computer-based; and 80 on internet-based test.

**Application Procedure**

Applying to the PhD program is a two-step process in which prospective students first submit an application through the national SOPHAS service. If you are accepted into the PhD program by the School, the next step is for you to complete a WVU Graduate Application (https://graduateadmissions.wvu.edu/).

The SOPHAS application requires:

• Official test scores

• Official transcripts from all US institutions attended

• A Personal Statement

• 3 Letters of Recommendation

• Current CV/Resume

Applicants must indicate their first choice of Major and may indicate a second choice (you are allowed a maximum of two choices).

There is a $120 SOPHAS application fee. However, SOPHAS grants fee waivers based upon financial need for McNair Scholars, Gates Millennium Scholars, as well as for AmeriCorps and Peace Corps Volunteers.

**TIPS for completing the SOPHAS application:**

• APPLY EARLY! Allow up to 4 weeks for SOPHAS to verify your transcripts and test scores and send them to the Universities to which you have applied. Your application may not be reviewed if it does not contain verified transcripts and test scores.

• When submitting your GRE scores, **be sure to use the college code 0157 for the WVU School of Public Health.** This code MUST be used so that verified scores are sent by SOPHAS to the WVU School of Public Health for review.

• Submit your application once you have provided the required information. DO NOT wait for SOPHAS to receive transcripts, recommendations or test scores prior to submitting your application.

Go to https://sophas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login to complete the SOPHAS application.

**Personal Statement**
The Personal Statement is a critical piece of the application. The content of the Statement and the applicant’s writing skills will be evaluated in the admissions decision. The Statement should address the following in no more than 1000 words:

• What is it about Public Health that interests you?
• What is it about your selected major, specifically, that interests you?
• What are your career goals?
• What topics or areas of research do you wish to pursue and why? If you have identified a potential dissertation topic, briefly describe that as well.
• Which faculty members in the SPH do you see as being potential mentors to help you succeed in your area of interest?

Applicants should also include any additional information about their interests, background, prior experience, or special circumstances that may be helpful to the SPH Doctoral Admissions Committee.

Letters of Recommendation

Three letters of recommendation are required. At least two of these should be from people who can attest to your academic abilities.

Deadlines

The deadline by which you must submit your completed SOPHAS application is 5:00pm (EST) December 31. New applications received after this deadline will not be reviewed. All admissions are for the Fall semester. We do not admit students into the PhD program in the Spring or Summer semesters.

Review Process

All completed and verified SOPHAS applications are first reviewed by the Admissions Committees of the major to which an applicant has applied (EPID, OEHS, or SBHS). Candidates that are recommended for admission at this level, are put forth to the SPH Doctoral Admissions Committee, which makes the final decisions on admissions and funding.

Advanced Standing for Applicants with an Approved Master’s Degree

Students who enter the PhD program with an MPH or approved Master's degree are eligible for Advanced Standing. This allows students to complete an abbreviated course of study that takes between 2 and 3 years to complete, depending on the student’s past course work and current interests.

Master of Public Health

Social and Behavioral Sciences Major Competencies

• Recommend interventions
• Practice community engagement principles
• Appraise qualitative and quantitative data
• Develop communication skills
• Employ social behavioral theories & frameworks

Major Requirements

MPH Core Curriculum:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 601</td>
<td>Applied Biostatistics 1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 602</td>
<td>Applied Biostatistics Lab</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 601</td>
<td>Public Health Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPML 601</td>
<td>Foundations of Health Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>OEHS 601</td>
<td>Environmental Health</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SBHS 601</td>
<td>Social and Behavioral Theory</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 696</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar</td>
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Concentration Curriculum:

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>SBHS 610</td>
<td>Public Health Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHS 611</td>
<td>Community Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or SBHS 660</td>
<td>Survey Research Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHS 614</td>
<td>Community-Based Participatory Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or SBHS 615</td>
<td>Intervention Design</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHS 613</td>
<td>Public Health Program Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHS 696</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Practice-based/Culminating Experiences & Electives (14 credits*):

PUBH 622  MPH Practice-Based Experience (3 hours) *

Choose One Option:

Non-Thesis Option

SBHS 629  Capstone Course (2hours) *

Nine Hours of Approved Electives *

Thesis Option*

SBHS 697  Research (1 hour) *
SBHS 698  Thesis or Dissertation (4 hours) *

Six Hours of Approved Electives *

Total Hours 44

SUGGESTED PLAN OF STUDY

First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>BIOS 602</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>HPML 601</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 601</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SBHS 611 or 660</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHS 601</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SBHS 696</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 696</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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11  10

Second Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>SBHS 614 or 615</td>
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<td>Select one of the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>SBHS 610</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SBHS 629</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 622</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SBHS 697 &amp; SBHS 698</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
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<td>Elective</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12  11

Total credit hours: 44

PRACTICE-BASED EXPERIENCE

All students will be required to complete a practice-based experience as part of the SBHS MPH program. The practice-based field experience can be completed following one full year of MPH coursework; when possible, students should have completed the MPH school-level core courses and a minimum of one course required by their departmental discipline. Under certain circumstances, exceptions may be made but only with advance arrangement with and consent of the Instructor, Department Chair, and the student’s Faculty Advisor. The practice-based experience will be a 180-hour placement in an agency or organization that provides an SBHS-focused experience (no less than 4.5 weeks of placement at 40 hours per week, or 9 weeks of placement at 20 hours per week) and will include identification of site preceptor, learning objectives, field reports, and final evaluation.

CULMINATING EXPERIENCE: CAPSTONE COURSE OR THESIS

A primary focus of all culminating experiences is to provide skill building and practical experience in the social and behavioral sciences in most, if not all, of the listed competencies for this degree.

There are two options for the culminating experience, the nature of which would be dependent on the student and available opportunities. These include either a Capstone Course or Thesis (as described below) that focuses on SBHS. The student will be expected to engage in meaningful synthesis and integration of the core and SBHS departmental competencies (Capstone Course) or behavioral sciences research project (Thesis).

Option 1:

Non-Thesis/Capstone Course

- The SBHS capstone is the culminating experience for social and behavioral sciences majors in the MPH program and requires students to demonstrate their capacity to synthesize and integrate the core and SBHS departmental competencies via a paper and poster presentation.
**Option 2:**

**Thesis Option**

- The thesis requirement is designed to provide the student with an opportunity to integrate and synthesize the major components of the MPH/SBHS learning experience and to apply the principles of public health by engaging in an applied research project of a specific topic area. The student is expected to demonstrate verbal and technical proficiency in expository writing. The topic must be one of public health significance. Students are required to make an oral proposal and defense, and produce a manuscript of publishable quality that can be submitted to an appropriate peer-reviewed journal mutually agreed upon between the committee Chair(s) and the student.

**Thesis Entry Requirements:**

- Student acceptance into the thesis option depends on the student being able to acquire a committee chair from the SBHS Graduate Faculty and a full committee. Individual thesis committee chairs/members may use a variety of methods for evaluating potential thesis candidates that include, but are not limited to, past academic performance, current academic performance, writing samples, and match between student-faculty research interests.

The MPH degree will be awarded based on successful completion of all academic requirements and demonstrated achievement of competencies. The department chair using a faculty panel will review competency performance evidence and based on the evidence reviewed, determine if the student has achieved the expected competencies. If a determination is made that competencies have not been achieved, the department chair will inform the student what must be accomplished to demonstrate achievement and therefore be recommended for awarding of the MPH degree. This may include taking additional courses.

**Doctor of Philosophy**

**MAJOR REQUIREMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SBHS 601</td>
<td>Social and Behavioral Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHS 610</td>
<td>Public Health Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHS 611</td>
<td>Community Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHS 613</td>
<td>Public Health Program Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHS 701</td>
<td>Public Health Grant Writing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHS 711</td>
<td>Research Translation for Health (Offered only during odd years)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHS 715</td>
<td>Intervention Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHS 760</td>
<td>Survey Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHS 761</td>
<td>Qualitative Research Methods (Offered only during even years)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHS 763</td>
<td>Advanced Evaluation Public Health (Offered only during odd years)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 601</td>
<td>Applied Biostatistics 1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 602</td>
<td>Applied Biostatistics Lab</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 603</td>
<td>Applied Biostatistics 2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 604</td>
<td>Applied Biostatistics 3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 601</td>
<td>Public Health Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C&amp;I 789</td>
<td>Teaching in Higher Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMS 700</td>
<td>Scientific Integrity (and Ethics)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMS 720</td>
<td>Scientific Writing</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 659</td>
<td>Public Health Foundations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate Seminar (taken 3 times for 1 credit)</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHS 796</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation Research</td>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHS 797</td>
<td>Research (Three 1-hour Research Rotations and 15 hours of Dissertation Research)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Qualifying Examination**

**Dissertation Proposal**

**Dissertation Defense**

**Total Hours**

82
PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS ENTERING WITH ADVANCED STANDING

Students entering the SBHS PhD program with advanced standing will complete the minimum program requirements listed below. Additional courses may be needed depending on the student’s degree and prior coursework. Students with advanced standing will need to work with their advisor to determine their ultimate course of study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SBHS 711</td>
<td>Research Translation for Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHS 761</td>
<td>Qualitative Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHS 763</td>
<td>Advanced Evaluation Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHS 701</td>
<td>Public Health Grant Writing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 603</td>
<td>Applied Biostatistics 2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 604</td>
<td>Applied Biostatistics 3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMS 700</td>
<td>Scientific Integrity</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMS 720</td>
<td>Scientific Writing</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>C&amp;I 789</td>
<td>Teaching in Higher Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Seminar (Taken three times for 1 credit each)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHS 796</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation Research</td>
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<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>SBHS 797</td>
<td>Research (Three 1-hour Research Rotations and 15 hours of Dissertation Research)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qualifying Examination</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertation Proposal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertation Defense</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
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<td>54</td>
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</table>

ELECTIVES

Students will complete a minimum of nine credit hours of electives during their Ph.D. program. These may be selected from among the department’s, School of Public Health’s, or university’s many course offerings. These courses will be discussed and approved with the faculty advisor.

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

The Qualifying Examination is the capstone experience for Ph.D. program coursework. Successful completion of the examination signifies competence in the field of public health sciences and indicates readiness to engage in independent research. The Qualifying Examination consists of both a written and oral component. Qualifying exams should not include testing on content of the dissertation. The oral defense of the dissertation proposal will serve that purpose. The Qualifying Examination is planned and administered by the five-member dissertation committee, under the direction of the committee chairperson. If necessary and at the discretion of the Program Director, another faculty member may be appointed to serve on the committee.

The oral portion of the exam cannot be attempted until the written component is completed and must be attempted within two academic weeks of the written component. Students are expected to take the qualifying exam during the summer sessions between their fourth and fifth academic semesters. However, the written component must be completed no later than the second week in July. Students are not eligible to begin their dissertation or enroll in dissertation hours until they have successfully completed the Qualifying Examination.

RESEARCH

Students will participate in three research rotations during their first year, meeting and working with research faculty with similar interests in order to develop mentorships for dissertation research.

THE DISSERTATION PROPOSAL, DEFENSE, AND APPROVAL

Having received guidance from the dissertation committee, the formal research proposal can be developed and completed after all course work and Qualifying Examinations have been successfully completed, normally during year 3 in the program for students not on advanced standing and during year 2 in the program for students on advanced standing. Successful passage of the dissertation research proposal constitutes admission to candidacy.

Although students may choose to pursue a traditional dissertation format, the majority of Ph.D. students format their dissertation using the Three Journal Article Format (JAF). The decision of which format to use is something that students should discuss with chairperson of their dissertation committee. As a reminder, students will not be allowed to defend their dissertations until they have at least one first-authored publication in any form of acceptance, based on their Ph.D. dissertation, in a peer-reviewed journal by the time of the dissertation defense. Note: This required publication does not necessarily need to be one of the three articles generated through the JAF dissertation format.
# PLAN OF STUDY

Upon matriculating into the PhD program, students should contact the SBHS PhD Program Coordinator, or their advisor if already identified, to discuss the course requirements and to develop a plan of study (POS) to meet their individual needs. Below is a suggested POS with the minimum requirements for students entering the program with a BA/BS. Note: Research credits show below reflect the minimum requirements. Students may enroll in additional research credits as necessary to achieve the degree competencies.

## SUGGESTED PLAN OF STUDY

### First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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Total credit hours: 82

## Major Learning Goals

### SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Social and Behavioral Sciences MPH Major Competencies

- Recommend interventions
- Practice community engagement principles
- Appraise qualitative and quantitative data
- Develop communication skills
- Employ social behavioral theories & frameworks

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Program Competencies
• Develop effective strategies for teaching in higher education
• Review and synthesize pertinent literature and formulate focused research questions that address identified knowledge gaps
• Design and conduct original research that uniquely contributes to the public health scientific knowledge
• Disseminate research findings through appropriate peer-reviewed publications and presentations, and to other public health community audiences

Major Competencies

• Display broad knowledge and application of relevant public health social and behavioral theories to health promotion and disease prevention strategies
• Demonstrate rigorous understanding of methodological and statistical principles that enhance research in the public health sciences
• Review and synthesize pertinent behavioral literature and formulate focused specific aims and research questions that address identified knowledge gaps
• Design and conduct original research that uniquely contributes to social and behavioral science knowledge base
• Disseminate research findings through appropriate peer-reviewed publications and presentations and to other appropriate public health community audiences

COURSES

SBHS 601. Social and Behavioral Theory. 3 Hours.
The focus of this course is on the role of individual behavior in attaining health. Integration of the concepts of health education and behavioral science to facilitate changes in health behavior is addressed.

SBHS 610. Public Health Research Methods. 3 Hours.
Provide students with the practical skills necessary to read, understand, critique, and contribute to the public health literature. Emphasis is placed on common research methods used in public health research.

SBHS 611. Community Assessment. 3 Hours.
This course is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to conduct meaningful community health assessments using direct observations, secondary data sources, key informants and public documents, integrating community perceptions and published evidence.

SBHS 613. Public Health Program Evaluation. 3 Hours.
Examination of research design, methods, and practices in the assessment and evaluation of public health programs; emphasis on practical applications of program evaluation to change behavior, allocate funds, build and strengthen programs.

SBHS 614. Community-Based Participatory Research. 3 Hours.
This course focuses on initiating and conducting research projects in meaningful partnership with communities, including human research ethics and community-based participatory research elements, principles, and theories via a combination of readings, lectures, videos, and exercises.

SBHS 615. Intervention Design. 3 Hours.
PR: SBHS 601 and SBHS 610 or consent. This course will provide students with the conceptual and practical tools used in planning, designing, implementing, and evaluating health promotion programs. Through reading, cooperative learning, and discussing, students will gain experience in these four areas. Students will also apply information learned in foundation courses.

SBHS 626. Internship. 1-5 Hours.
(May be repeated for a maximum of 5 credit hours.) The internship provides students the opportunity to develop their practical skills and enhance professional competencies by applying the knowledge and techniques gained from their MPH coursework to public health practice.

SBHS 627. Practicum Proposal. 2 Hours.
Students develop a proposal for a discipline-specific practicum project (applied/research-based) integrating public health skills, theory and knowledge as the first part of the culminating experience supported by a faculty-review/mentoring process.

SBHS 628. Practicum. 3 Hours.
PR: SBHS 627 or consent. Culminating Experience: Students implement the substantive public health project (planned in proposal course) under the mentorship of faculty/preceptors. Results are reported through a formal paper and a poster presentation to faculty, students and guests.

SBHS 629. Capstone Course. 2 Hours.
This is the culminating experience for social and behavioral sciences majors in the MPH program and requires students to demonstrate their capacity to synthesize and integrate the core and SBHS departmental competencies via a paper and poster.

SBHS 630. Foundations of Wellness. 3 Hours.
Wellness is examined as a component of health promotion. A wellness lifestyle is fundamental to promoting a holistic wellness concept. Quality-of-life issues and programs are explored for a variety of audiences.

SBHS 633. Women and Violence. 3 Hours.
This course examines the issue of violence in the lives of women across the lifespan and from a sociocultural perspective. Implications for health concerns and educational interventions will be addressed.
SBHS 634. Issues in Women's Health. 3 Hours.
This course examines a broad array of health issues and causes of illness that shape and define women's access and understanding of health concerns across the lifespan, which includes examination of cultural diversity.

SBHS 660. Survey Research Methods. 3 Hours.
This course presents scientific knowledge and practical skills used in survey research. Focus is on question construction and development, questionnaire design, sampling and surveying modes, interviewing techniques, and survey data analysis.

SBHS 661. Qualitative Research Methods. 3 Hours.
Introduces students to qualitative research methods and study designs. Includes critiques of qualitative study literature, student-driven studies using various types of study designs and how to analyze and report the results of qualitative studies. (Also listed as SBHS 761 - students may not count both this course and 761 toward degree requirements.).

SBHS 662. Issues in Men's Health. 3 Hours.
Men are markedly at risk for specific health problems and complications. This course will provide skills for student to research and develop educational programs to improve health and well-being of men.

SBHS 663. Advanced Evaluation in Public Health. 3 Hours.
PR: (BIOS 601 and SBHS 613 and EPID 617) or consent. Advanced topics will include the use of logic models, innovative approaches in evaluation, analyzing and interpreting evaluation data, the role of evaluation in shaping policy, and developmental evaluation. Didactic instruction and experiential learning will be emphasized.

SBHS 664. Public Health Advocacy. 3 Hours.
The course will introduce students to advocacy as an important tool to mobilize social and organizational change through education and community support. The course will train students to develop effective advocacy strategies, present those strategies through written and oral communication, and refine their professional skills. This course requires some amount of travel for course related activities.

SBHS 665. Grant Writing for Public Health Practice. 3 Hours.
PR: SBHS 601 and (SBHS 613 or SBHS 612). This course addresses skills and techniques necessary for writing successful grant proposals for professionals in public health agencies. This is a writing intensive course focused on grant writing and evaluation of social and behavioral based health promotion and disease prevention programs and interventions and is specifically tailored for the public health practice workforce.

SBHS 691A-B. Advanced Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation of advanced topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

SBHS 693A-B. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
A study of contemporary topics selected from recent developments in the field.

SBHS 695. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours.
Faculty-supervised study of topics not available through regular course offerings.

SBHS 696. Graduate Seminar. 1 Hour.
PR: Consent. Each graduate student will present at least one seminar to the assembled faculty and graduate student body of his or her program.

SBHS 697. Research. 1-15 Hours.
PR: Consent. Research activities leading to thesis, problem report, research paper or equivalent scholarly project, or a dissertation. Grading will be S/U.

SBHS 698. Thesis or Dissertation. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. This is an optional course for programs that believe that this level of control and supervision is needed during the writing of the students’ reports, theses, or dissertations.

SBHS 701. Public Health Grant Writing. 3 Hours.
PR: SBHS 601. This course addresses various components of the grant writing process, including collaboration, funding sources, proposal preparation, and grants management for health professionals. Students will benefit from having a research methods course.

SBHS 711. Research Translation for Health. 3 Hours.
PR: SBHS 610. Principles, theories, and evidence-based methods of knowledge and research translation for health are discussed to facilitate student competence for translating research discoveries into policies and practices that promote health and prevent disease.

SBHS 715. Intervention Design. 3 Hours.
PR: SBHS 601 and SBHS 610. This course will provide students with the conceptual and practical tools used in planning, designing, implementing, and evaluating health promotion programs. Through reading, cooperative learning, and discussing, students will gain experience in these four areas. Students will also apply information learned in foundation courses.

SBHS 760. Survey Research Methods. 3 Hours.
This course presents scientific knowledge and practical skills used in survey research. Focus is on question construction and development, questionnaire design, sampling and survey modes, interviewing techniques, and survey data analysis. (Also listed as SBHS 660. Students may not count both SBHS 760 and SBHS 660 toward degree requirements.).
SBHS 761. Qualitative Research Methods. 3 Hours.
This course will introduce students to qualitative research methods, including the various types of study design. The course will include critiques of qualitative studies in the relevant research literature as well as student-driven studies using various types of study designs. Students will also learn about analyzing and reporting the results of qualitative studies.

SBHS 763. Advanced Evaluation Public Health. 3 Hours.
PR: BIOS 601 and SBHS 613 or consent. Application of scientific public health program evaluation methods. Students will learn about theory and methods of program evaluation, identification of stakeholders, data collection, preparation, analysis, reporting and conclusion.

SBHS 790. Teaching Practicum. 1-3 Hours.
PR: Consent. Supervised practice in college teaching of SBHS. Note: This course is intended to insure that graduate assistants are adequately prepared and supervised when they are given college teaching responsibility. It also provides a mechanism for students not on assistantships to gain teaching experience.

SBHS 791A. Advanced Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation in advanced topics that are not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

SBHS 795. Independent Study. 1-9 Hours.
PR: Consent. Faculty-supervised study of topics not available through regular course offerings.

SBHS 796. Graduate Seminar. 1 Hour.
PR: Consent. Each graduate student will present at least one seminar to the assembled faculty and graduate student body of his or her program.

SBHS 797. Research. 1-15 Hours.
PR: Consent. Research activities leading to thesis, problem report, research paper or equivalent scholarly project, or a dissertation. (Will be graded S/U).