

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH)

Master of Public Health General Requirements

Program Director: Dhitinut Ratnapradipa, PhD

The Master of Public Health (MPH) program is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) with a minimum of 42 credit hours. It is offered fully online (no residency requirement) and includes 21 credit hours of core courses, 15 credit hours in your chosen concentration, 3 credit hours of practice experience and 3 credit hours for a Capstone project. Students choose one of three available areas of concentration: Health Care Ethics, Healthcare Management, or Global Health Promotion. Since the program targets working professionals, most courses are offered as eight-week modules. Students who take one course each term will complete the program in about two-and-a-half years. Students who successfully complete the pre-applied practice experience checklist in the MPH program can enroll in their practice experience. This experience culminates in a Capstone course with a final paper. Students will identify a practice site/agency and will work with a preceptor to develop a master's level project designed to demonstrate mastery of competencies learned in the program.

Master of Public Health Degree Requirements: (42 Credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Core Public Health Knowledge (7 courses; 21 credits)		
IPE 001	Interprofessional Education Passport	0
IPE 500	Introduction to Collaborative Care	0
MPH 601	Organization and Management of Public Health Services	3
MPH 604	Social and Behavioral Aspects of Public Health	3
MPH 605	Epidemiology	3
MPH 606	Environmental Health	3
MPH 609	Introduction to Community-Based Participatory Research	3
MPH 615	Ethical Issues in Population Health: A Global Perspective	3
MPH 707	Introduction to Mixed Methods	3
Applied and Integrative Practice Experience (2 courses; 6 credits)		
MPH 611	Practice Experience	3
MPH 612	Capstone	3
Select one of the following Concentrations:		15
Health Policy and Ethics Concentration		
MHE 600	Scholarly Reading and Writing	
MHE 601	Health Policy	
MHE 602	Research Ethics	
MHE 603	Law and Health Care Ethics	
MHE 604	Social and Cultural Contexts of Health Care	
Healthcare Management Concentration		
MHM 600	Managing Healthcare Organizations	
MPH 608	Health Communication and Informatics	

MPH 633	Health Economics and Finance
MPH 634	Health Planning and Marketing
MPH 635	Public Health Leadership
Global Health Promotion Concentration	
Required	
MPH 607	Biostatistics
MPH 617	Emerging Global Health Issues
MPH 636	Public Health Intervention
MPH 645	Global Health Epidemiology
Elective (select 1 course offered each year: 3 credits)	
MPH 602	Community Health Assessment
MPH 637	Environmental Health Risk Communication
MPH 639	Communicable Disease and Prevention
MPH 640	Planetary Health and Sustainability
MPH 641	Environmental Health Policy
MPH 643	Public Health Grant Writing
Total Credits	42

IPE 001. Interprofessional Education Passport. 0 credits.

The Interprofessional Education Passport consists of student learning activities focused on meeting the core competencies for interprofessional collaborative practice and each profession's interprofessional education accreditation requirements. Interprofessional education is defined as "when students from two or more professions learn about, from and with each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes" (WHO, 2010). As a Creighton health sciences student, you must complete three IPE Passport activities to graduate. Prior to enrollment in the IPE Passport, you must successfully complete IPE 500: Introduction to Collaborative Care. In order for an activity to be approved as part of the IPE Passport, it must meet certain criteria and be approved by the IPE Curriculum Committee. P. IPE 500.

IPE 500. Introduction to Collaborative Care. 0 credits.

This course is an introduction to the concepts of interprofessional collaborative practice preparing students across the health sciences to engage in interprofessional education and practice activities during their tenure at Creighton and beyond. In this course health sciences students will gain knowledge in the Core Competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice, versed in the basics of team work in the context of health care and begin to develop skills in team-based clinical reasoning. IPE 500 is a prerequisite to the IPE 001 IPE Passport. Successful completion of IPE 500 is required to be able to complete the IPE 001 IPE Passport.

MHE 600. Scholarly Reading and Writing. 3 credits.

The course will build on and improve existing writing skills. Students and faculty are all members or a larger writing community in which everyone contributes to an on-going dialogue. The course assumes one's writing can always improve. The specific aims of the course are: 1) to produce clear and precise writing and 2) to accurately credit and incorporate the others' scholarly work. The course includes recognizing, attributing and summarizing existing scholarship. The course also stresses responses to existing work, distinguishing response types, anticipating arguments or objections, and tying it all together. Concrete templates and rhetorical moves are employed to enhance reasoning and organizational abilities. Students incorporate detailed instructor feedback in multiple writing assignments. The course assumes understanding of the rules of English grammar, spelling, syntax, and punctuation.

MHE 601. Health Policy. 3 credits.

MHE 601 explores health policy and its development, emphasizing social justice and human rights. Students consider institutional, local, regional, national, and international approaches to public health, health systems, and priorities for research and development. American health systems - operations, processes, successes, and failures - are extensively analyzed. Students consider processes for and challenges in making health policy at institutional, state, and federal levels. Past and current attempts at health systems reform are reviewed, stressing 2010 U.S. healthcare reform.

MHE 602. Research Ethics. 3 credits.

This course will enhance students' understanding of core ethical issues in biomedical research and improve their ability to analyze, explain, and justify relevant cases, arguments, positions, and policies. The focus is biomedical research involving human participants. A stress is investigation involving populations and communities with vulnerability. Study of historically pivotal cases leads to review of ethical, policy, and programmatic responses. Students also study ethical factors in community-based research, informed consent, multinational research, genomics, and neuroscience. Discussions develop collective inquiry related to core topics. Individual papers also develop students' knowledge and aim to enhance their analytical and compositional skills.

MHE 603. Law and Health Care Ethics. 3 credits.

This course explores the crucial connection between health law and health care ethics. The course focuses on major ethical themes that have emerged in the law and highlights specific interconnections of doctrines that have come out of landmark cases. The course will also examine the significant and fundamental differences between health care ethics and health law.

MHE 604. Social and Cultural Contexts of Health Care. 3 credits.

This class introduces the student to the various contexts of personal and social experience that construct and interpret bioethics. Participants consider identity and autonomy as embedded in social matrices ranging from the body itself to global configurations. Various power dynamics of class, legitimacy, and ideology are considered. Participants analyze the culture of the biomedical project and the challenge of finding one's voice within it.

MHM 601. Human Resources for Healthcare Managers. 3 credits.

This course approaches human resources in healthcare organizations from a strategic perspective. It is designed to equip human resource managers and those acting in that capacity with an understanding of how human resource practices need to align with the strategic plan and mission of the organization. We will cover key human resources aspects: 1) job analysis, 2) recruitment and selection, 3) managing a diverse workforce, 4) performance management, 5) rewards and compensation, 6) organizational development and learning, and 7) quality improvement in human resources. In addition, we will discuss the legal contexts around human resource management and the broader labor market.

MPH 601. Organization and Management of Public Health Services. 3 credits.

This course examines the organization, delivery, and financing of health care services from a managerial and policy perspective. Specific focus will be given to the role, responsibilities, and functions of public health services; the integral relationship of public health within the larger health system; and management principles and practices applicable to public health organizations.

MPH 602. Community Health Assessment. 3 credits.

This course examines the concepts, methods and practices for assessing the health of a community. Topics include measuring community health status, developing community health profiles, identifying the determinants of health, and the utilization of community health assessment in developing public health interventions.

MPH 604. Social and Behavioral Aspects of Public Health. 3 credits.

This course is an exploration of concepts and methods of social and behavioral sciences relevant to the identification and solution of public health problems. This course will focus on the basic set of competencies that is central to the field, including identifying theories, concepts, and models from a range of social and behavioral disciplines that are used in public health research and practice.

MPH 605. Epidemiology. 3 credits.

This course offers a foundation for the study of the distribution, history, and determinants of disease and disability in human populations. In addition to examining the biological basis of health, the course will explore social epidemiology and the interrelationship between the social and biological determinants of health.

MPH 606. Environmental Health. 3 credits.

This course examines the environmental factors that impact population health. This course focuses on the biological, physical and chemical agents affecting human health. Additional topic areas that will be explored include the regulatory framework for environmental health, workplace health, and contemporary issues in environmental justice.

MPH 607. Biostatistics. 3 credits.

This course focuses on descriptive and inferential statistical concepts, methods, and the applications of statistical methods in the analysis and assessment of population health.

MPH 608. Health Communication and Informatics. 3 credits.

This course provides a foundation for understanding the concepts and best practices in health communication and for developing skills in building effective communication campaigns with multiple and culturally diverse audiences. Recognizing the importance of informatics in health communication, this course will also address skills in the use of information technology for the retrieval, management and dissemination of information that promotes population health.

MPH 609. Introduction to Community-Based Participatory Research. 3 credits.

This course provides an introduction to Community-based Participatory Research (CBPR). This course is NOT a methodology course; CBPR is an approach to conducting research that can be used with many research designs and methodologies. It is intended to provide students a grounding in the goals and application of CBPR; the theoretical background that informs CBPR; an introduction to theories of race, ethnicity, power, difference, gender and sexuality; the formation and maintenance of community partnerships; the use of CBPR to promote health equity and social justice; and the introduction of CBPR techniques to institutional review boards and funders.

MPH 610. Pre-Practice Preparation. 1 credit.

Opportunity to establish site, preceptor and focus of the practice experience. Complete site requirements and learning contract prior to beginning MPH 611. P. MPH 601, MPH 602, MPH 604, MPH 605, MPH 606, MPH 607, MPH 608, MPH 609.

MPH 611. Practice Experience. 3 credits.

Opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills acquired through core courses and elective/area of concentration under the supervision of a qualified preceptor who is a public health professional. P. Completion of pre-applied practice experience checklist (P-APEX).

MPH 612. Capstone. 3 credits.

In this final required course of the degree program, students are expected to integrate insights gained and competencies acquired throughout the program. Applying methods of scholarly inquiry and composition, students will synthesize insights and findings from their practice experience in a publishable-quality article or commentary and will present the findings to fellow students and faculty. P. MPH 611.

MPH 615. Ethical Issues in Population Health: A Global Perspective. 3 credits.

This course provides students with a foundational understanding of the ethical issues related to public health as a discipline and to its practice. The course will emphasize the global dimension of these issues along with their national and local repercussions. While students will explore the theoretical issues with the discipline itself (in regards to the ethical framework best fits population health enterprise), there will also be a more in-depth study of concrete cases that will highlight the multiple and global dimensions of health and healthcare. Global public health ethical issues will be explored within the context of the social and systemic factors that affect population health across the globe. Concrete cases that will be explored may include (but will not be restricted to): globesity, pandemics and vaccination, disasters and humanitarian aid, conflict of interest in screening and medical guidelines, medical research agenda and global justice, and healthcare professionals' education and migration.

MPH 617. Emerging Global Health Issues. 3 credits.

This course presents an overview of global health issues through examination of major determinants of health and key areas of disease burden. Student will be introduced to the complex tapestry of social, economic, political, and environmental factors that affect the health of populations globally.

MPH 633. Health Economics and Finance. 3 credits.

The course examines fundamental theories in health economics and health care finance and the application of these theories in public health administration. The course emphasizes and understanding of economic issues within the larger social and political context in which public health operates. Economic and finance theories and practices pertinent to the public health sector as well as concepts and practices in financial management that support the successful leadership and administration of public health organizations will be explored in this course.

MPH 634. Health Planning and Marketing. 3 credits.

This course focuses on the understanding and application of health planning and health care marketing models and practices. The course encompasses a range of health planning and marketing models, methods and applications including health systems planning, strategic planning and marketing, program planning and social marketing for public health services. Recognizing the integral role of program evaluation in the planning process, this course will also review best practices for the integration of program evaluation as a component of the overall plan.

MPH 635. Public Health Leadership. 3 credits.

The purpose of this course is to explore leadership theories, identify leadership challenges, and analyze best practices in public health leadership. Emphasis is given to reflection and self-development of decision-making and leadership styles in assuming leadership roles within public health organizations.

MPH 636. Public Health Intervention. 3 credits.

In this course, students will explore critical foundation concepts of public health promotion and intervention, including the use of behavior-oriented theories and environment-oriented theories. Students will discuss how to apply these theories in a systematic step-by-step process for intervention development called intervention mapping.

MPH 637. Environmental Health Risk Communication. 3 credits.

This course covers key concepts of risk communication theory as well as their practical application to the collection and sharing of information in support of individual and community decision-making about public health issues. Emphasis in the course is on professional best practices especially in regard to how to communicate with the general public, special populations, and the news media. Use of social media, especially for disaster communication and response will also be explored. Challenges in communicating with underserved and non-English speaking populations will be discussed.

MPH 639. Communicable Disease and Prevention. 3 credits.

This course takes a comprehensive look at the history, theory and practical aspects of public health and communicable diseases. An overview will be given of critical topics related to the identification, control, and prevention of newly emerging, as well as long recognized infectious diseases with public health importance. The clinical presentation, modes of transmission, geographic distribution and prevention of these infections will be considered from an epidemiologic perspective. This course provides foundational knowledge that help prepare public health and healthcare professionals to work in the prevention and control of infectious diseases. Selected communicable disease control programs and policies will be assessed for their strengths and weaknesses.

MPH 640. Planetary Health and Sustainability. 3 credits.

This course will provide students with a big picture perspective of planetary health, research, policy, and practice issues related to it, and the implications and opportunities related to planetary health for public and population health globally. A key theme throughout will be consideration of health and social equity issues and the differential impacts of climate and other environmental changes on populations in light of these issues.

MPH 641. Environmental Health Policy. 3 credits.

This course provides an overview of the development, structure, function, and implementation of environmental health policy at local, national, and global scales.

MPH 643. Public Health Grant Writing. 3 credits.

Grant funding is critical to develop public health knowledge and infrastructure. organizations, such as community-based agencies may write grants to obtain funding to improve the health of their community, and other organizations, such as universities, may write grants to conduct research. Through this course, students will learn major grant writing aspects: developing an idea for a project, writing a succinct and impactful one page summary of an idea, considering potential funding sources, and writing a grant application. This course presents a step-by-step approach to writing grants. Throughout this course, students will develop an idea into a written grant proposal. The course culminates in this draft proposal, not an actual grant submission. However, submission may be possible with further development.

MPH 645. Global Health Epidemiology. 3 credits.

This course focuses on the studies of the classic functions of field epidemiology and the application of epidemiological methods to unexpected global health issues. Students will examine global health interventions to understand features of successful programs. P. MPH 605.

MPH 707. Introduction to Mixed Methods. 3 credits.

This course provides an overview and introduction to mixed methods research, which involves collecting, analyzing, and integrating both quantitative and qualitative research in a study. After a brief review of the similarities and distinctions between quantitative and qualitative research, this introduction consists of defining mixed methods research and its foundations. We will then examine the types of mixed methods designs available and discuss the process of research as it relates to each of these designs. Throughout the course, we will cover the components of rigorous mixed methods.

MPH 795. Selected Topics MPH Pre-Practicum. 1-3 credits.

Students will complete the necessary pre-practicum requirements for their practicum placement in MPH 611. To achieve a successful practicum placement, MPH 795 Selected Topic Pre-Practicum requires the student to work in collaboration with their practicum course director and practicum course instructor.