

# Master of Public Health Student Program Manual

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## Executive Summary

The Master of Public Health (MPH) Program in the Department of Public Health (DPH), at the Brody School of Medicine (BSOM), East Carolina University (ECU), is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). This program manual is intended for use by students as they consider application for admission, select a curriculum, and complete requirements for the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree. This degree requires 45 semester hours (SH), of which 24 are core courses, 15 concentration/elective hours, three semester hours of Applied Practicum Experience (APE) and three semester hours for professional paper.

Additional program information is available in the program page:

<https://public-health.ecu.edu/>

This manual is also a compilation of philosophy, policies, and procedures of the MPH Program. These manual supplements policies, procedures, and requirement of the ECU Graduate School. Applications to this program must be submitted through the ECU Graduate School. Although this manual contains the most pertinent information, students need to be familiar with the ECU Graduate School Catalog because in case of conflict, policies of the ECU Graduate School take precedence over policies in this manual.

The ECU Public Health, MPH Graduate School Catalog is available [here](#).

Students adhere to the version of the catalog in effect at the time of matriculation. The DPH reserves the right to add, delete, or modify all provisions in this manual.

## 1.0 Mission and Background

The mission of the MPH program is to educate, conduct research, provide service, and advocate for improved health of communities emphasizing rural and disadvantaged regions. The MPH program attains its mission by reaching the following goals:

- Provide an educational program for current and future public health professionals responsive to meeting needs in a changing environment, including skills to work in rural and disadvantaged communities
- Educate individuals to apply a collaborative approach of evidence-based prevention to address public health issues and manage programs in various settings
- Increase the quality and quantity of funded public health-related research, including translational research projects that address established regional priorities
- Promote the health of communities, particularly in eastern North Carolina, through community engagement, leadership, advocacy and collaborative efforts with public agencies and other entities

### 1.1 About the MPH Program

The MPH Program at ECU is located within the Department of Public Health in the Brody School of Medicine. The impetus for establishing the program in 2003 was based on eastern North Carolina's (ENC) poor health indicators. For example, the 29-county area of ENC has historically experienced a

higher age-adjusted, all-cause mortality than the remainder of the 71-counties in NC. Our program was founded to train a Public Health workforce serving health departments, healthcare agencies, and hospitals in North Carolina.

A goal of the MPH program is to contribute to improving the health status of the region's population. We actively promote community engagement, community service, and active learning to promote and improve community health. The program incorporates practice-based teaching, competency-based learning, and evidence-based principles.

All MPH courses are offered online. In addition to online, some MPH courses are also offered face-to-face once per week for three hours. Students can progress through the program either on a part- or full-time basis. Faculty members work with each student individually to tailor their educational path for their career goals.

We offer three concentrations: Community Health & Health Behavior (CHHB), Epidemiology (EPI), Health Policy Administration & Leadership (HPAL). We also offer a dual MD/MPH degree program.

The ECU MPH program is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) through 2027. CEPH accredits independent public health programs and schools of public health, as recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

The Interim Chair of the Department of Public Health is Dr. Suzanne Lazorick, MD, MPH. The MPH program director is Dr. Marla Hall, PhD, MCHES.

## **1.2 About Brody School of Medicine**

In 1974, the North Carolina General Assembly appropriated the funds to establish a four-year medical school at ECU to increase the supply of primary care physicians to serve the state, to improve the health status of citizens in ENC, and to enhance the access of minority and disadvantaged students to a medical education. The BSOM is nationally recognized for success in pursuit of its mission. Physician faculty serve as adjunct faculty members in DPH.

## **1.3 What is Public Health?**

As defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), public health is the science of protecting and improving the health of families and communities through promotion of healthy lifestyles, research for disease and injury prevention, and detection and control of infectious disease.

Overall, public health is concerned with protecting the health of populations. Public Health professionals aim to prevent problems from occurring or recurring through implementing educational programs, recommending policies, administering services and conducting research – in contrast to clinical professionals, such as physicians, who focus primarily on treating individuals after they become sick or injured. Public health also works to limit health disparities. A large part of public health is promoting healthcare equity, quality and accessibility.

## **1.4 What are Career Opportunities in Public Health?**

Careers in public health are vast and many. Professionals already employed in various disciplines can enhance their training by obtaining an MPH degree or a public health certificate. Career opportunities

vary by concentration areas in public health. Our MPH program offers training in three basic disciplines of public health. Common examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

### **Community Health & Health Behavior (MPH-level)**

- Educators within a hospital, clinic, health department
- Program administration
- Private, public, and government sector health educators
- Assessment of public health programs

### **Epidemiology (MPH-level)**

- Data analyst
- Field epidemiology investigator
- Research assistant/coordinator for organizations that conduct research (e.g. clinical, surveillance, translational, etc.)

### **Health Policy Administration & Leadership (MPH-level)**

- Project managers/directors at public health agencies
- Hospital/clinic manager/administrators
- Long-term care facility administrators

## **2.0 Admission to the Graduate School**

For details about admission into ECU Graduate School go [here](#).

The University seeks to admit graduate students who show evidence of being able to succeed in and benefit from academic programs of the rigor offered. To qualify for admission to a graduate degree or certificate program (or as non-degree), an applicant must have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited four-year institution. Admissions decisions are based on consideration of undergraduate academic record, graduate record if applicable, admission test scores, written statement of purpose, and letters of recommendation.

The MPH program decides on the admissibility of its students, although Graduate School regulations govern the criteria for the classification of graduate student status. Applicants who are uncertain about the strength of their application or the documents required for admission are advised to consult with the MPH program director about their admissibility. Early contact with the university can be helpful in preparing the application and providing all required information. Applicants who are offered admission to the Graduate School may be admitted under the following admission status.

### **2.1 Regular Admission**

Regular admission indicates that the applicant has met all requirements identified by both the graduate program and the Graduate School.

## 2.2 Admission by Exception

Admission by exception is possible for a limited number of applicants who do not qualify academically for regular admission but have other offsetting strengths. Admission by exception requires the student to earn a minimum 3.0 GPA in the first 9 weeks or more of completed hours to remain in the program. Students admitted by exception can attain full graduate standing after completion of nine or more graduates credit hours with a minimum of a 3.0 GPA.

## 2.3 Provisional Admission

Applicants also may be admitted under provisional admission status. This designation indicates that one or more required final documents has not been received by the Graduate School at time of admission. Please see the ECU Graduate website for details.

## 2.4 Detailed Application Requirements

This section is adapted from the ECU Graduate School application requirements. Questions specific to the MPH Program can be addressed to Dr. Marla Hall, MPH program director.

1. All applicants are required to submit a completed online application with a nonrefundable application fee ([gradschool.ecu.edu](http://gradschool.ecu.edu)).
2. Official score reports are required from a standardized graduate admission exam and must be sent directly to the Graduate School from the testing agencies.
  - a. Some exemptions are available, see "Admission Examination Details", below.
  - b. ECU's Graduate Record Exam (GRE) code is 5180.
  - c. The University will accept examinations taken within the past five years; however, individual programs may have more specific time requirements. Beginning fall semester 2022, the GRE score will not be an application requirement.
3. Official transcripts are required for any earned post-secondary, undergraduate and graduate degrees within five years of the date of the graduate application. Additional transcripts are required for transfer credits in excess of 50% of the credits required for a post-secondary degree (such as general education credits from a Community College). Post-secondary degrees and course work includes all educational work completed at the bachelor's level or higher. An ECU undergraduate can request the transcript be included with the application to the MPH program.
4. Official transcripts are required from all foreign institutions attended.
5. Three letters of reference should be sent from persons who can attest to the applicant's academic competency or ability to do graduate work.
6. A completed Statement of Purpose essay (500 words or less).

Applications are submitted through the ECU Graduate School – NOT the medical school. Applications are first reviewed for completeness by the Graduate School followed by the MPH program admission committee.



## 2.5 Admission Examination Details

For academic year 2021-2022, the GRE or MCAT are required with the MPH application. The application will not be processed through the Graduate School if the GRE, MCA or MCAT is missing, so an admission decision may be delayed.

Exam scores are not required for:

- A. Certificate programs offered by DPH
- B. Non-degree applications
- C. Students seeking admission under the professional admission policy

## 2.6 Professional Admission Policy

Applicants whose undergraduate degree is at least five years old and/or have extensive professional experience related to the intended program of study may be eligible to seek admission through the professional admissions policy upon recommendation of the program director and concentration coordinator. Interested applicants should consult with Dr. Marla B. Hall, MPH program director.

## 2.7 Admission to Certificate Programs

Students apply separately to the certificate programs. The Department of Public Health offers a five-course Certificate in Public Health Foundations & Practice (PHFP) and a four-course Certificate in Ethnic & Rural Health Disparities (ERHD). See section 8.0 in this manual form more information

## 2.8 Administration and Organization

The MPH degree program is administered by the Department of Public Health within the Brody School of Medicine. Dr. Suzanne Lazorick, Interim Department Chair, is responsible for department functions. For MPH degree administration, Dr. Marla Hall serves as program director. You can see a list of DPH Faculty [here](#).

## 2.9 Enrollment Status for Financial Aid

**For Fall and Spring** - A graduate student must be enrolled in at least 5 credit hours to receive financial aid, regardless of course delivery – online or in-person. Enrollment status is the following for graduate students in Fall and Spring semesters.

- A. Full Time = 9 or more hours
- B. Three-Quarter Time = 6-8 hours
- C. Half-Time = 5 Credit Hours
- D. Less than Half-Time = 1-4 credit hours

For summer sessions, 6-week and 11-week, graduate students cannot be enrolled in more than 7 hours in either term. Five hours qualifies for financial aid in summer sessions.

### 3.0 Core Curriculum

#### 3.1 Core Courses

The CEPH-accredited MPH program provides 21 foundational knowledge competencies that are assessed in the core curriculum. Appendix 1 lists the 21 CEPH foundational knowledge competencies. Exhibit 3.1 summarizes course requirements by concentration and semester hours (SH). The MPH program requires eight courses or 24 SH of core curriculum. The core research methods course differs by concentration. The number of SH for concentration specific courses and electives varies by concentration. The four-capstone courses include 6 SH for professional paper (3 SH) and the APE (3 SH). Students select an area of concentration prior to matriculation.

- Community Health & Health Behavior (CHHB)
- Epidemiology (EPI)
- Health Policy Administration & Leadership (HPAL)

**Exhibit 3.1** Summary of Course Requirements by Concentration and Semester Hours

Course Requirements	Concentration		
	Epidemiology (EPI)	Community Health and Health Behavior (CHHB)	Health Policy Administration and Leadership (HPAL)
Core Courses	8 (24 SH)	8 (24 SH)	8 (24 SH)
Concentration-specific courses	4 (12 SH)	2 (6 SH)	3 (9 SH)
Electives	1 (3 SH)	3 (9 SH)	2 (6 SH)
Capstone courses	4 (6 SH)	4 (6 SH)	4 (6 SH)
<b>Total SH for MPH</b>	<b>17 (45 SH)</b>	<b>17 (45 SH)</b>	<b>17 (45 SH)</b>

**Exhibit 3.2** describes the core courses, SH and course name. Each concentration has a core research methods course (MPH 6702, MPH 6020, and MPH 6027).

**Exhibit 3.2.** Core Courses by Concentration (24 SH)

Core Course	Semester Hours	Course Name
<b>All</b>		
BIOS 7021	3	Biostatistics for Health Professionals I
MPH 6000	3	Public Health Practice
MPH 6002	3	Ethics and Law in Public Health
MPH 6010 EHST 6010	3	Fundamentals of Environment Health
MPH 6011	3	Introduction to Epidemiology
MPH 6013	3	Principles of Health Behavior

MPH 6035	3	Interdisciplinary Rural Health
<b>Research Methods Courses</b>		
<b>EPI</b> MPH 6702	3	Epidemiology Methods
<b>HPAL</b> MPH 6020	3	Research Methods
<b>CHHB</b> MPH 6027	3	Mixed-Methods Research

Core courses are described below. All courses listed below except for BIOS 7021 provide CEPH accreditation foundational competencies.

**BIOS 7021 - Biostatistics for Health Professionals.** Introduction to biostatistics at the graduate level.

**MPH 6000 - Public Health Practice.** Foundation for public health administration. Introduces MPH degree program. Applied focus on public health problems, issues, and resources of eastern North Carolina.

**MPH 6002 - Ethics and Law in Public Health.** Core issues and skills for public health administration and practice. Focuses on public health law, ethics, legislation, media relations, human services management, and emergency preparedness.

**MPH 6010/EHST 6010 - Fundamentals of Environmental Health.** Effects of environment on human health with focus on rural environment. Considers water supply and wastewater disposal, water quality, solid and hazardous wastes, air quality, occupational health and safety, food protection, and vector control.

**MPH 6011 - Introduction to Epidemiology.** Introduces methods and concepts of epidemiologic methodology and application of epidemiology in public health

**MPH 6013 - Principles of Health Behavior.** Introduces concepts of role of social factors in health and illness as well as health education/promotion. Overview of relationships between various social factors, with health outcomes. Includes theories and approaches of health education/promotion programs.

**MPH 6035 - Interdisciplinary Rural Health.** Theoretical base and skills for interdisciplinary rural health practice.

The research methods courses are specific to the concentration.

**MPH 6020 - Research Methods.** (*HPAL*) Synthesize material from social and behavioral sciences, biostatistics, and epidemiology to better understand health problems.

or

**MPH 6027 - Mixed-Methods Research.** (*CHHB*) Mixed-methods data collection and analysis, with focus on use of qualitative and quantitative software.

or

**MPH 6702 - Epidemiology Methods.** (*EPI*) explores quantitative research methods, principles and techniques necessary for designing and implementing epidemiological research.

All MPH course descriptions can be found in the ECU Graduate Catalog using this [link](#).

### **3.2 MPH Program Core Courses without MPH prefix**

Some core courses are listed with a course prefix that is not “MPH”. Biostatistics (prefix BIOS) and environmental health (prefix EHST) meet core course requirements.

#### **Biostatistics for Health Professionals I - BIOS 7021**

Biostatistics courses are taught through the Department of Biostatistics in the College of Allied Health Sciences under prefix BIOS. College Algebra is a pre-requisite for BIOS 7021, such as ECU Math 1065, College Algebra.

To register for BIOS courses, students must contact Ms. Rhonda Onorato ([onorator20@ecu.edu](mailto:onorator20@ecu.edu)), the Biostatistics Student Services Coordinator, to enroll in Biostatistics for Health Professionals I and Biostatistics for Health Professionals II (BIOS 7021 and 7022, respectively). Preferences for an in-class or on-line class will be scheduled on a first-come basis via Ms. Onorato.

#### **Environmental Health - EHST 6010**

Fundamentals of Environmental Health is cross listed with the Master of Science Environmental Health (MSEH) program; however, the prefix of the course is EHST. To enroll in EHST 6010, confer with your academic advisor and then contact Dr. Stephanie Richards, environmental health program, to enroll in EHST 6010.

### **4.0 Areas of Concentration and Concentrations Program Plans**

Three concentrations are offered in the MPH Program, which are summarized in the following sections.

- Community Health & Human Behavior (CHHB)
- Epidemiology (EPI)
- Health Policy Administration & Leadership (HPAL)

Concentration areas represent distinct areas of study that prepare learners for careers in each discipline. Courses within the concentration provide CEPH accreditation competencies which are assessed for achievement. **Exhibit 4.1** displays public health competencies by course and concentration.

#### **Exhibit 4.1 Public Health Competencies by MPH Course and Concentration**

<b>Community Health &amp; Health Behavior Concentration Competencies</b>	<b>Courses</b>
1. Design a logic model to guide intervention development and data collection for program evaluation.	MPH 6605
2. Develop an evaluation plan for health promotion and disease prevention interventions that address the multiple levels of socioecological framework.	MPH 6605
3. Apply qualitative and quantitative data analyses to assess programming needs, evaluation, or public health issues	MPH 6605
4. Formulate a collaborative plan with a community partner to achieve common public health goals.	MPH 6605
5. Design a public health project that includes a detailed itemized budget, timeline, and staff training plan for data collection.	MPH 6600
<b>Epidemiology Concentration Competencies</b>	
1. Critically evaluate public health through application of fundamental principles and methods of epidemiology	MPH 6022
2. Identify and implement appropriate student design, recruitment, data collection, and analysis methods to address an identified public health problem	MPH 6021
3. Cultivate leadership skills in strategic planning/management with a focus on reducing disparities in disadvantaged populations.	BIOS 7022
4. Perform data management, analysis, visualization, and report generation of existing public health data using SAS to inform public health decisions.	MPH 7202
5. Explain epidemiologic results in terms of magnitude, precision, validity, and limitations and identify their relevance to public health guidance.	MPH 7202
<b>Health Policy, Administration &amp; Leadership Concentration Competencies</b>	
1. Address inequities in the prevalence of chronic diseases in rural and minority populations using systems thinking approaches.	MPH 6800
2. Develop an evaluation plan for health promotion and disease prevention interventions that address the multiple levels of socioecological framework.	MPH 6605
3. Apply qualitative and quantitative data analyses to assess programming needs, evaluation, or public health issues.	MPH 6605
4. Formulate a collaborative plan with a community partner to achieve common public health goals.	MPH 6605
5. Design a public health project that includes a detailed itemized budget, timeline, and staff training plan for data collection.	MPH 6600

## 4.1 Community Health & Health Behavior Concentration

The Community Health & Health Behavior (CHHB) concentration offers curriculum in theories of behavior change, program planning, program evaluation and mixed methods research. The goal of the Community Health & Health Behavior concentration is to train students to become health promotion professionals, where they may find employment in governmental, not-for-profit, and for-profit organizations

Health promotion professionals are tasked with the following: (1) conducting community health assessments, (2) planning, implementing, and evaluating health interventions, (3) directing health communication campaigns, (4) building community health coalitions and partnerships, (5) leading quality improvement efforts, and (6) conducting community and behavioral health research.

The coordinator of the CHHB concentration is [Nancy Winterbauer, PhD, MS](#). **Exhibit 4.2** outlines a typical Community Health & Health Behavior course trajectory for a full-time student intending to complete the program in 24 months.

**Exhibit 4.2** Community Health & Human Behavior Course Trajectory in Five Semesters for Full-time, Fall admission

Year 1			Year 2	
Fall 1	Spring 1	Summer 1	Fall 2	Spring 2
<b>MPH 6000</b> Public Health Practice	<b>MPH 6002</b> Ethics and Law in Public Health	<b>MPH/EHST 6010</b> Fundamentals of Environmental Health	<b>MPH 6991</b> Professional Paper I (Capstone)	<b>MPH 6992</b> Professional Paper II (Capstone)
<b>MPH 6011</b> Introduction to Epidemiology	<b>MPH 6027</b> Mixed-Methods Research	<b>MPH 6035</b> Interdisciplinary Rural Health	<b>MPH 6904</b> Introduction to Field Experience	<b>MPH 6905</b> Field Placement (APE)
<b>MPH 6013</b> Principles of Health Behavior	<b>MPH 6605</b> Program Evaluation	<b>Elective 1</b>	<b>Elective 2</b>	
<b>MPH 6600</b> Planning Public Health Programs	<b>BIOS 7021</b> Biostatistics for Health Professionals I		<b>Elective 3</b>	
12 SH	12 SH	9 SH	9 SH	3 SH

**Exhibit 4.3** CHHB Part-time, Eight Semesters, Fall Admission

CHHB Course Plan, Fall Admission (Part-Time)							
Year 1			Year 2			Year 3	
Fall 1	Spring 1	Summer 1	Fall 2	Spring 2	Summer 2	Fall 2	Spring 3
<b>MPH 6000</b> Public Health Practice	<b>MPH 6011</b> Introduction to Epidemiology	<b>MPH 6010/EHST 6010</b> Fundamentals of Environmental Health	<b>MPH 6027</b> Mixed Methods Research	<b>MPH 6605</b> Program Evaluation	<b>Elective 1</b>	<b>MPH 6904</b> Introduction to Field Placement	<b>MPH 6905</b> Field Placement (APE)
<b>MPH 6002</b> Ethics & Law in Public Health	<b>MPH 6013</b> Behavioral Sciences & Health Education	<b>MPH 6035</b> Interdisciplinary Rural Health	<b>MPH 6600</b> Planning Public Health Programs	<b>BIOS 7021</b> Biostatistics for Health Professionals I	<b>Elective 2</b>	<b>MPH 6991</b> Professional Paper 1 (Capstone)	<b>MPH 6992</b> Professional Paper II (Capstone)
						<b>Elective 3</b>	
6 SH	6 SH	6 SH	6 SH	6 SH	6 SH	6 SH	3 SH

## Exhibit 4.4 CHHB Part-time, Eight Semesters, Spring Admission

CHHB Course Plan, Fall Admission (Part-Time)							
Year 1			Year 2			Year 3	
Spring 1	Summer 1	Fall 1	Spring 2	Summer 2	Fall 2	Spring 3	Summer 3
MPH 6000 Public Health Practice	MPH 6010/ EHST 6010 Fundamentals of Environmental Health	MPH 6011 Introduction to Epidemiology	MPH 6605 Program Evaluation	Elective 1	MPH 6027 Mixed Methods Research	MPH 6904 Introduction to Field Placement	MPH 6905 Field Placement (APE)
MPH 6002 Ethics & Law in Public Health	MPH 6035 Interdisciplinary Rural Health	MPH 6013 Behavioral Sciences & Health Education	BIOS 7021 Biostatistics for Health Professionals I	Elective 2	MPH 6600 Planning Public Health Programs	MPH 6991 Professional Paper 1 (Capstone)	MPH 6992 Professional Paper II (Capstone)
						Elective 3	
6 SH	6 SH	6 SH	6 SH	6 SH	6 SH	6 SH	3 SH

Students are assigned one of the following faculty members to guide academic planning and training. CHHB faculty serving as advisors are:

Name	Area of Interest	Email Address
Marla B. Hall, PhD, MCHES, MPH Program Director	Health disparities, cultural competency, chronic disease and self-management, disease prevention	hallmar14@ecu.edu
Stephanie Jilcott Pitts, PhD	Environmental and policy changes to prevent obesity; dietary measurement techniques for public health research	jilcotts@ecu.edu
Nancy Winterbauer, PhD, MS	Engaged scholarship, practice-based research, mixed- methods research, qualitative methods	winterbauern@ecu.edu

Advising Forms for Community Health & Health Behavior concentration can be found in **Appendix 4**.

### 4.2 Epidemiology Concentration

A goal of epidemiology is to understand the frequency, distribution, and causes of disease variation and use this information to design and test interventions to improve the health of populations. Results of epidemiologic studies guide policy development in public health and healthcare. Epidemiology is a quantitative science that blends biological and social sciences to design research and analyze data to solve population health questions.

Careers in epidemiology at the MPH-level require ability to manage and analyze data. Graduates gain employment assisting with clinical research activities in academic settings and consulting firms. State and local health departments often hire MPH-prepared epidemiologists for program coordination or basic data analysis. The coordinator of the Epidemiology Concentration is [Suzanne Lea, PhD, MPH](#).

**Exhibit 4.5** outlines a typical epidemiology course trajectory for a full-time student intending to complete the program in five to six semesters. At the time of matriculation, each student should work with their academic advisor to plan their course of study. The most efficient use of time is to matriculate in fall semester due to courses that have two-parts offered in fall and spring, respectively.

**Exhibit 4.5** Epidemiology Course Trajectory in Five to Six Semesters, Full-time, Fall Admission.

<b>Epidemiology Course Plan, Fall Admission (9-hour plan)</b>					
<b>Year 1</b>			<b>Year 2</b>		
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Summer</b>	<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Summer</b>
<b>MPH 6000</b> Public Health Practice	<b>MPH 6002</b> Ethics and Law in Public Health	<b>MPH 6013</b> Behavioral Sciences and Health Education	<b>EHST 6011 (or MPH 6010)</b> Fundamentals of Environmental Health	<b>MPH 6904</b> Intro Field Placement	<b>MPH 6992</b> Professional Paper II
<b>MPH 6011</b> Introduction to Epidemiology	<b>MPH 6702</b> Epidemiologic Methods	<b>MPH 6035</b> Interdisciplinary Rural Health	<b>MPH 7202</b> Public Health Data Analysis	<b>MPH 6021</b> Chronic Disease Epi	<b>MPH 6905</b> Field placement
<b>BIOS 7021</b> Biostatistics for Health Professionals I	<b>BIOS 7022</b> Biostatistics for Health Professionals II		<b>MPH 6022</b> Infectious Disease Epi	<b>Elective Course</b> Options: MPH 7201, HIMA 6060, MPH 6007, MPH 6005, MPH 6008.	
				<b>MPH 6991</b> Professional Paper I	
9 SH	9 SH	6 SH	9 SH	9 SH	3 SH

\*Required concentration courses are: BIOS 7022; MPH 7202, Public Health Data Analysis; MPH 6022, Infectious Disease Epidemiology; MPH 6021, Chronic Disease Epi; Electives: MPH 7201, Survey Methods; HIMA 6060; MPH 6005, MPH 6007, MPH 6008



**Exhibit 4.6.** Epidemiology Course Trajectory in Eight Semester, Six hours per semester

Epidemiology Course Plan, Spring Admission (6-hour Plan)							
Year 1			Year 2			Year 3	
Spring 1	Summer 1	Fall 1	Spring 2	Summer 2	Fall 2	Spring 3	Summer 3
Any 2 of following	Any 2 of following						
<b>MPH 6000</b> Public Health Practice	<b>MPH 6000</b> , Public Health Practice	<b>MPH 6011</b> Introduction to Epidemiology	<b>MPH 6702</b> Epidemiologic Methods, required by concentration	Any core course not taken	<b>MPH 6022</b> Infectious Disease Epi	<b>MPH 6021</b> Chronic Dis Epi	<b>MPH 6992</b> Pro Paper 2
<b>MPH 6013</b> Behavioral Sciences and Health Education	<b>MPH 6013</b> Behavioral Sciences and Health Education	<b>BIOS 7021</b> Biostatistics for Health Professional, part 1	<b>BIOS 7022</b> Biostatistics for Health Professionals, part 2	<b>Elective</b>	<b>MPH 7202</b> Public Health Data Analysis	<b>MPH 6991</b> Pro Paper 1	<b>MPH 6905</b> Field Placement (APE)
<b>MPH 6035</b> Interdisciplinary Rural Health	<b>MPH 6035</b> Interdisciplinary Rural Health					<b>MPH 6904</b> , Introduction Field Experience	
<b>MPH 6002</b> Ethics and Law in Public Health	<b>MPH 6002</b> Ethics and Law in Public Health						
<b>MPH 6010</b> Fundamentals of Environmental Health	<b>MPH 6010</b> Fundamentals of Environmental Health						
6 SH	6 SH	6 SH	6 SH	6 SH	6 SH	6 SH	3 SH
*Required concentration courses are BIOS 7022 (not offered in fall semester); MPH 7202, Public Health Data Analysis; MPH 6022, Infectious Disease Epidemiology; MPH 6021, Chronic Disease Epi; Electives: MPH 7201, Survey Methods; HIMA 6060; MPH 6005, MPH 6007, MPH 6008							

Students are assigned one of the following faculty members to guide academic planning and training. Epidemiology faculty serving as advisors are:

Name	Area of Interest	Email Address
Aaron Kipp, PhD, MSPH	Infectious Diseases, Retention in Care, Stigma	kippa19@ecu.edu
C. Suzanne Lea, PhD, MPH	Cancer epidemiology, Environmental epidemiology	leac@ecu.edu
Ann Rafferty, PhD, MS	Survey Methods, Diabetes	raffertya@ecu.edu
Kristina Simeonsson, MD, MSPH	Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Disease in children	simeonssonk@ecu.edu

Advising Forms for Epidemiology concentration can be found in **Appendix 6**.

### 4.3 Health Policy, Administration & Leadership Concentration

Health Policy, Administration & Leadership (HPAL) prepares students for management and leadership careers in the health industry. This concentration prepares graduates for a broad range of careers in the health and related organizations including public health agencies, hospitals, health systems, physician offices, long-term care facilities, consulting firms, insurance companies, and pharmaceutical companies. HPAL curriculum includes courses on current economic, social, policy and practice issues in the healthcare system. HPAL emphasizes the conceptual, analytical, and applied skills required for health administration, policy analysis, management, and leadership careers. The MPH HPAL concentration has a long-term care focus resulting in federal and state licensure as a long-term care administrator. Dr. Ruth Little can provide explicit guidance on this focus. The coordinator of the HPAL Concentration is [Huabin Luo, PhD.](#)

**Exhibit 4.7** outlines a proposed Health Policy, Administration & Leadership course trajectory for a full-time student intending to complete the program in five semesters. At the time of matriculation, each student should work with their academic advisor to plan their course of study.

**Exhibit 4.7:** Health Policy, Administration & Leadership Course Trajectory in five semesters for full-time, fall and spring admission.

HPAL Course Plan, Fall Admission (Full-time)				
Year 1			Year 2	
Fall 1	Spring 1	Summer 1	Fall 2	Spring 2
<b>MPH 6000</b> Public Health Practice	<b>MPH 6002</b> Ethics & Law in Public Health	<b>MPH/EHST 6010</b> Fundamentals of Environmental Health	<b>MPH 6810</b> Strategic & Financial Management of Health Care Organizations	<b>MPH 6800</b> Health Policy and Politics
<b>MPH 7021</b> Biostatistics for Health Professionals I	<b>MPH 6011</b> Introduction to Epidemiology	<b>MPH 6904</b> Introduction to Field Placement	<b>MPH 7010</b> Human Resources Management and Leadership	<b>MPH 6905</b> Field Placement (APE)
<b>MPH 6013</b> Behavioral Sciences & Health Education	<b>MPH 6020</b> Research Methods	<b>MPH 6040</b> Long Term Care Administration	<b>MPH 6700</b> Health Economics or Elective	<b>MPH 6992</b> Professional Paper II (Capstone)
	<b>MPH 6035</b> Interdisciplinary Rural Health		<b>MPH 6991</b> Professional Paper 1(Capstone)	

HPAL Course Plan, Fall Admission (Part-time)								
Year 1			Year 2			Year 3		
Fall 1	Spring 1	Summer 1	Fall 2	Spring 2	Summer 2	Fall 2	Spring 3	Summer 3
MPH 6000 Public Health Practice	MPH 6020 Research Methods	MPH 6013 Behavioral Sciences & Health Education	MPH 6010/ERST 6010 Fundamentals of Environmental Health	MPH 6800 Health Policy and Politics	MPH 6040 Long Term Care Administration or Elective	MPH 6810 Strategic & Financial Management of Health Care Organizations	MPH 6991 Professional Paper 1(Capstone)	MPH6905 Field Placement (APE)
MPH 7021 Biostatistics for Health Professionals I	MPH 6002 Ethics & Law in Public Health		MPH 6011 Introduction to Epidemiology	MPH 6035 Interdisciplinary Rural Health	MPH6904 Introduction to Field Placement	MPH 6700 Health Economics or Elective	MPH 7010 Human Resources Management and Leadership	MPH 6992 Professional Paper II Capstone

Students are assigned one of the following faculty members to guide academic planning and training. HPAL faculty serving advisors are:

Name	Area of Interest	Email Address
Rashmita Basu, PhD, MHA	Economics of aging and long-term care, health policy, health economic evaluations	basur19@ecu.edu
Ruth Little, EdD, MPH	Public health administration, long-term care administration, cultural/organizational competency, community engagement	littlena@ecu.edu
Huabin Luo, PhD	Methods, Financial Management	luoh@ecu.edu

Advising Forms for HPAL concentration can be found in **Appendix 7**.

#### 4.4 Changing Concentrations

Students may change concentrations within their first 12 semester hours after consultation with their academic advisor and the coordinator of the concentration to which they wish to transfer. The student's advisor will assist in facilitating this process. Should a student wish to change concentration, one could expect completing extra courses, perhaps extending the program an extra semester, depending on if the student is part- or full-time. Forms can be found [here](#):

##### Guide to changing concentrations

- Request an appoint with academic advisor
- Discuss reasons for change in concentration with academic advisor.
- Students must complete the "Change in Concentration Request Form" and "Change in Academic Advisor Request Form." Both require signature of student and advisor.

#### 5.0 Concentration-Specific Courses and Electives

Concentration-specific core courses are required:

- CHHB - 2 courses (6 SH)
- EPI - 4 courses (12 SH)
- HPAL - 3 courses (9 SH)

In addition to concentration-specific courses, students complete electives. Most graduate level university courses (6000 or above) approved by the student's academic advisor for which the Instructor grants permission to enroll may be considered as an elective. Academic advisors work with students to choose electives that best prepare them for career goals.

##### Exhibit 5.1 Community Health & Health Behavior Concentration-Specific Courses

**MPH 6600** - Planning Public Health Programs (3 SH)  
Development and delivery of public health programs. Prerequisites:  
Principles of Health Behavior (MPH 6013)

**MPH 6605** - Evaluating Public Health Programs (3 SH)  
Evaluation of public health programs, including formative, process, impact, and outcome evaluation. Prerequisites:  
Principles of Health Behavior (MPH 6013), Planning Public Health Programs (MPH 6600)

<p><b>MPH 6670 - Public Health Perspectives on Maternal and Child Health (3 SH)</b>          Introduces students to maternal and child health (MCH), with primarily a domestic focus. Emphasis on understanding the role policies and programmatic issues play in MCH. Students will gain an understanding of key issues for MCH populations.</p>
<p><b>MPH 7031 - Topics in Public Health (3 SH)</b>          May be repeated up to 6 SH with change of topic.          Prerequisites: Readings and discussion related to contemporary issues and emerging topics in public health. Consent of instructor or Program Director.</p>
<p><b>MPH 7201 - Introduction to Survey Methodology (3 SH)</b>          Overview of principles and practices of population-based survey research, including methods, sampling designs, questionnaire development, sources of error, and analysis of survey data.          Prerequisites: Research Methods (MPH 6020), Biostatistics for Health Professionals I (BIOS 7021), or consent of instructor. In addition to BIOS 7021, students should have taken one of the three concentration Research Methods core courses.</p>

**Exhibit 5.2 Epidemiology Concentration-Specific Courses**

<p><b>BIOS 7022 - Biostatistics for Health Professionals II (3 SH)</b>          Topics include ANOVA for multi-factor designs and analysis of single degree of freedom contrasts; randomized block and repeated measures designs; nonparametric methods for standard designs; multiple linear and logistic regression; and chi-square analysis of contingency tables.          Prerequisites: Biostatistics for Health Professionals I (BIOS 7021) with a grade of B or better or consent of instructor. Continuation of BIOS 7021.</p>
<p><b>MPH 6007 - Global Public Health: A Global Perspective</b>          Explores the issues related to the fields of medical anthropology and public health leading toward developing global health interventions.</p>
<p><b>MPH 6021 - Epidemiology of Chronic Disease (3 SH)</b>          Epidemiologic measures, statistical methods, and quantitative models specific to chronic disease epidemiology.          Prerequisites: Public Health Practice (MPH 6000), Introduction to Epidemiology (MPH 6011), or consent of instructor</p>
<p><b>MPH 6022 - Epidemiology of Infectious Disease (3 SH)</b>          Provides concepts involved in understanding causes, transmission, and control of infectious disease as well as policies, methods, and tools employed in surveillance, detection, investigation, control, and prevention of disease outbreaks.          Prerequisites: Public Health Practice (MPH 6000), Introduction to Epidemiology (MPH 6011), or consent of instructor</p>
<p><b>MPH 7200 - Principles of Public Health Surveillance (3 SH)</b>          Public health surveillance as a fundamental epidemiologic activity applied to infectious and non-infectious conditions affecting human populations.          Prerequisites: Biostatistics for Health Professionals I (BIOS 7021), Introduction to Epidemiology (MPH 6011), or consent of instructor</p>
<p><b>MPH 7202 - Introduction to Public Health Data Analysis (3 SH)</b>          Basic instruction in public health data analysis using core features of SAS Software.          Prerequisites: Biostatistics for Health Professionals I (MPH 7021), Introduction to Epidemiology (MPH 6011), or consent of instructor.</p>

**Exhibit 5.3 Health Policy Administration & Leadership Concentration-Specific Courses**

<p><b>MPH 6040 - Long Term Care Administration (3 SH)</b>          Overview of delivery of long-term care services with an emphasis on the knowledge and skills needed for effective leadership. Prerequisites: Consent of Instructor</p>
<p><b>MPH 6700 - Health Economics (3 SH)</b>          Application of economic analysis tools to health decision-making at the individual-level and in health care and public health systems. Prerequisites: ECON 2113 or equivalent.</p>
<p><b>MPH 6800 - Health Policy and Politics (3 SH)</b>          Examines the health policy formation context as a component of the environment of public health administration and practice and roles of public health and healthcare professionals.</p>
<p><b>MPH 6810 - Strategic and Financial Management of Healthcare Organizations (3 SH)</b>          Provides a framework for understanding strategic and financial management of healthcare organizations.</p>
<p><b>MPH 7010 - Human Resource Management and Leadership for Health Administration (3 SH)</b>          Provides the essential knowledge and skills for management of human resources in a health services organization and a foundation in leadership theory, skills and applications.</p>

## 6.0 Applied Practice Experience

The Applied Practice Experience (APE) is a term that can also mean the “internship” or “field experience” or “field practicum”. An APE consisting of 240 contact hours is required of all students. The field experience or APE offers students the opportunity to integrate and demonstrate the application of academic knowledge with learned public health core competencies in a professional setting.

- MPH 6904 (1 SH) is Introduction to Pre-field experience. MPH 6904 is required for students who do not have substantial public health experience. During MPH 6904, the field experience preceptor is identified, the proposal is developed with the preceptor, and other details of APE implementation are developed. Each concentration has an instructor for MPH 6904. MPH 6904 is offered fall, spring, and summer semesters.

Field placement is one of the capstone experiences whereby the student and preceptor agency work together within the course structure on a project that is mutually beneficial to the agency and the student. The preceptor is required to have substantial experience in public health leadership.

Preceptor availability often varies by time of year. The ECU MPH program has affiliation agreements with many agencies. Students may suggest an agency, but a University Affiliation Agreement (UAA) is required with the agency and may take two or more months to establish between the agency and the University. For more information on field placement go [here](#).

- MPH 6905 (2 SH) is the applied practice experience. MPH 6905 is offered online fall, spring, and 11-week summer session. A mid-term and final evaluation are required in conjunction with preceptor and instructor. Students should complete a majority of their core requirements before beginning an APE. Most students enroll in MPH 6904 and next semester enroll in MPH 6905, but consecutive enrollment is not required.
- MPH 6903 (3 SH), Comprehensive Field Placement, combines MPH 6904 and MPH 6905 into one course. Typically, medical professionals and learners with extensive public health

practice enroll in MPH 6903 with consent of advisor. All activities that are required as part of MPH 6904 are included within MPH 6903; therefore, the timeline for implementation is compressed compared to MPH 6904 and MPH 6905.

## 7.0 Integrative Learning Experience

The APE and the Integrative Learning Experience (ILE) in combination is sometimes referred to as the “Capstone”. The ILE, alone, is referred to as the “Professional Paper”. The ILE is a two-semester course during which students demonstrate and synthesize their knowledge and skills acquired in core and concentration courses by conducting a research project, writing a professional paper, and presenting the results in an oral presentation. Dr. Ann Rafferty (fall 2021) and Dr. Rashmita Basu (spring 2022) are the coordinator for the two courses, Professional Paper I and II. (MPH 6991 and MPH 6992, respectively).

The professional paper consists of two linked courses (MPH 6991 Professional Paper I and MPH 6992 Professional Paper II).

- Professional Paper I (MPH 6991, 2 SH) is a course in which students develop a well-constructed proposal for a research project that can be completed in MPH 6992. If the student proposes a project that includes human subjects, an IRB application must be completed during the Professional Paper I semester.
- Professional Paper II (MPH 6992, 1 SH) is a one-semester hour course in which students carry out the proposal developed in Professional Paper I by conducting the research project, writing up the results in a professional paper, and presenting a poster describing their completed project.

Students typically take Professional Paper I and II during the last two semesters of the MPH program.

### Professional Paper Process

1. Students should talk with several faculty members about possible topics that are of interest to them, and then choose one faculty member and ask them if they would be willing to serve as their Primary Professor (advisor and mentor for Professional Paper I and II). A list of potential professional paper topics and faculty interests is on the DPH professional paper [webpage](#).
2. Before registering for MPH 6991, students should set up an initial meeting with their Primary Professor to finalize their topic. At that meeting virtual or in person, the student and their Primary Professor should complete the Integrated Learning Experience (ILE) Agreement and Concept Form. The Primary Professor will then submit the completed form to the Student Services Coordinator.
3. Students should find out what section of MPH 6991 their Primary Professor is teaching and register for that section.
4. Students will work with their Primary Professor over two semesters to complete their professional paper project.
5. MPH 6991 and 6992 cannot be taken concurrently in the same semester without

approval.

6. A paper and a poster presentation are required for completion of MPH 6992.

7. For more details, please refer to the Professional Paper [Website](#):

Students receive a **S** for “Satisfactory” or a **U** for “Unsatisfactory” for both classes. Unsatisfactory represents a failure to pass. To progress to Professional Paper II, a student must receive a **S** for Professional Paper I. Upon successful completion of Professional Paper II, a student will be awarded a **S**. Credits from MPH 6991 are not assigned until completion of MPH 6992. If a U is conferred to either course, the course must be retaken.

### Exhibit 7.1 Summary of Capstone Courses

<b>MPH 6904</b> - Introduction to Field Placement (1 SH) Introduces the student to leaders from different healthcare entities; providing information and discussion on both field placement and career ladder opportunities in their specific health care domains.
<b>MPH 6905</b> - Applied Field Placement (2 SH) Demonstration of academic knowledge with learned public health core competencies in professional public health practice settings. 240-hour field placement. Prerequisites: Introduction to Field Placement (MPH 6904)
<b>MPH 6991</b> - MPH Professional Paper I (2 SH) May be repeated. Only 3 SH may count towards the degree. Includes applied learning exercise on the implementation of public health and epidemiologic research methodology. Students develop a research proposal (MPH 6991); implement their proposal, analyze their results, and write a public health research article (MPH 6992) that is ready for submission to a peer-reviewed scientific journal.
<b>MPH 6992</b> - MPH Professional Paper II (1 SH) May be repeated. Only 3 SH may count towards the degree. Includes applied learning exercise on the implementation of public health and epidemiologic research methodology. Students develop a research proposal (MPH 6991); implement their proposal, analyze their results, and write a public health research article (MPH 6992) that is ready for submission to a peer-reviewed scientific journal. Prerequisites: MPH 6991.

## 8.0 Certificate Programs

ECU MPH’s program offers two certificate programs:

- [Public Health Foundations and Practice \(PHFP\)](#)
- [Ethnic and Rural Health Disparities \(ERHD\)](#)

### 8.1 Graduate Certificate in Public Health Foundations and Practice (PHFP)

The goal of the Graduate Certificate in Public Health Foundations and Practice (PHFP) is to prepare students with the fundamental core principles and concepts associated with public health. The five-course certificate is designed for individuals either currently working in public health or those with no public health experience, who are considering the MPH degree (prior to a full commitment). The PHFP certificate program addresses public health from a practice-based perspective, placing emphasis on core factors that influence adverse health outcomes among underserved populations. Program Director is [Lok Pokhrel, MS, PhD](#).

The certificate is open to students enrolled in graduate and medical degree programs as well as non-degree applicants holding a baccalaureate degree with an undergraduate GPA of 2.5 or greater. Students currently enrolled in the MPH program are not eligible to earn the public health foundations and practice certificate.

A student must complete five certificate courses with a 3.0 GPA or better. Courses in this certificate program may be transferred into the MPH program with a grade of “B” or better and upon meeting the department’s academic admission requirements for the MPH program.

If a student does not have a former health related degree, the student will be required to take Public Health Practice (MPH 6000) before registering for another course. A student’s successful completion of 15 SH (**Exhibit 8.1**) results in award of the certificate.

**Exhibit 8.1** Sequence of courses are as follows:

Course Number	Course Name (All Distance Education)	Credits
MPH 6000	Public Health Practice (waived with Permission)	3
MPH 6010	Fundamentals of Environmental Health	3
MPH 6011	Introduction to Epidemiology	3
MPH 6013	Principles of Health Behavior	3
BIOS 7021	Biostatistics for Health Professionals I	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>15</b>

## 8.2 Graduate Certificate in Ethnic and Rural Health Disparities (EHRD)

The Certificate in Ethnic and Rural Health Disparities (ERHD) prepares professionals to identify, analyze and develop culturally competent projects for specific ethnic and rural communities in the United States and global communities.

This four-course online certificate program provides students with specific public health skills that will assist health researchers and public health professionals in working with and developing culturally competent health care programs for ethnic and health disparity populations. Program Director is [Eric Bailey, PhD, MPH](#).

### 8.2.1 Program Objectives

The major program objectives for this online Ethnic Health and Health Disparities Certificate program are:

1. Identify and assess the major health issues associated with specific ethnic and health disparity populations in eastern North Carolina, North Carolina and the United States;
2. Explore ethnic health and health disparity issues, including its unique and cultural health features;
3. Examine health, illness and disease processes from a bio-psycho-sociocultural (BPSC) perspective.



4. Apply principles and strategies derived from public health and medical anthropology toward planning, implementing and evaluating specific ethnic health and health disparities intervention programs;
5. Develop culturally competent understanding, appreciation, and respect of ethnic and health disparity differences and similarities within, among and between groups;
6. Develop assessment tools that are unbiased, culturally sensitive and advocacy-oriented;
7. Develop specific public health skill sets that will better assist health professionals in working with ethnic and health disparity groups; and
8. Provide an online, 12 semester hour certificate program for public health professionals and graduate students that can be completed within one year.

### 8.2.2 Program Description

The 12-semester hour Graduate Certificate in Ethnic Health and Health Disparities is designed for public health professionals working in public health agencies and graduate students in Public Health, Allied Health, School of Nursing or School of Medicine programs.

Completion of the certificate requires completion of approved coursework with an overall GPA of 3.0 ("B"). A student may earn only 3 SH with grade of "C". Transfer hours are not accepted into the certificate program.

The certificate may create a pathway to a MPH Degree at ECU. However, it is of import to note that completion of the certificate does not guarantee admission into a graduate degree program.

Application to the graduate degree program must be made separately.

Applicants must meet ECU admission requirements for admission into certificate: an earned baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university with a GPA of 2.5 or above and acceptable scores on an approved standardized exam such as the GRE or GMAT. Admissions to the Ethnic Health and Health Disparities Certificate Program are semi-annual.

The courses in sequence are shown in **Exhibit 8.2**.

**Exhibit 8.2** Sequence of courses are as follows

Course Number	Course Name (All Distance Education)	Credits
MPH 6005	African American Health	3
MPH 6007	Global Public Health	3
MPH 6008	Ethnic Health and Health Disparities	3
MPH 6009	Capstone Experience in Ethnic Health & Health Disparities	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>12</b>

## 9.0 Enrolled Student Actions

### 9.1 Registering for Courses

Registration for the upcoming semester occurs in October for spring and in March for summer and fall. Students register for courses themselves. At the beginning of the program, student meets with the academic advisor to develop a course plan based on student's anticipated graduation date. The student services coordinator emails the student (copies academic advisor) the MPH course schedule prior to Early Registration each semester. The student confers with academic advisor and self-registers for courses. Faculty may choose to document all enrollment and advising activities in Degree Works.

Please refer to the [Academic Calendar](#) for last date of registration and drop date.

### 9.2 Continuous Enrollment (or Registration)

Graduate students who have previously registered for all credits in a graduate degree program but who have not completed all requirements (e.g., thesis, professional paper, APE, etc.) must continue to register each semester (except summer terms) until all degree requirements are completed and filed with the registrar. Students must be enrolled for at least one credit hour during the semester of graduation except summer, if registered for the prior spring semester.

### 9.3 Break in Enrollment - Withdraw, Leave of Absence, and Readmission

MPH students can request a withdrawal one of two ways: 1) send an email to the Office of the Registrar website ([regis@ecu.edu](mailto:regis@ecu.edu)), or 2) complete a term withdrawal form via Formstack. The form can be found on the Registrar's webpage. Utilizing the withdrawal form is the most efficient and quickest way to request a term withdrawal.

The Academic Calendar lists dates and times for withdrawal deadlines for each semester in the academic year. When a graduate student drops all university courses in a semester in which he or she is enrolled, the student must officially withdraw from the university. Students seeking to withdraw for reasons other than extenuating circumstances must notify the Office of Registrar of their official withdrawal ([REGIS@ecu.edu](mailto:REGIS@ecu.edu)). A graduate student withdrawing from the university by the last day for graduate students to drop courses without grades will not receive grades in those courses for the semester in which the withdrawal occurred.

A graduate student withdrawing after the last day for graduate students to drop courses without grades will receive a grade of "F" for all university classes which he or she is failing at the time. The last day for a graduate student to drop a class without grades will be 5:00 PM on the class day after 60% of the class days are completed for the term. No retroactive withdrawals will be granted after classes have ended for the semester in which the student was enrolled.

In special circumstances, students may request a **leave of absence** from their program of study. Students enrolled in graduate degree programs who take a leave of absence of one or more semesters (excluding summer terms) must notify the MPH program director and file a readmission

application prior to returning. During a leave of absence students will not be permitted to utilize university resources.

Students who take a leave of less than three years may file an application for readmission online at [www.ecu.edu/gradschool/](http://www.ecu.edu/gradschool/). Students who take a leave of absence of three or more years must submit a new complete application to be considered for admission to their former program.

#### **9.4 Application for Graduation**

The Application for graduation should be completed in Banner Self-Service at least one semester prior to completion of the requirements of the degree. More on ECU graduation is [here](#)

#### **9.5 Probation and Termination Policy**

To remain in good academic standing, graduate students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all coursework related to their program of study once they have a total of nine credit hours attempted\* and any additional or higher academic standards established by their program of study. Students who fail to meet their MPH program criteria may be placed on probation or dismissed from the program. A probationary period lasts for the term(s) in which the next nine credit hours are attempted.

Enrollment in the Graduate School will be automatically terminated for students who fail to correct their academic deficiencies by the end of the probationary period. Graduate students will not be allowed to take classes and subject to immediate dismissal once it becomes mathematically impossible to achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all coursework related to their program of study by the end of the remaining probationary period.

Students may appeal dismissal decisions by following the process outlined in the Graduate School Appeals Procedure.

\*Total credit hours attempted is the sum of credit hours for all graduate courses in which a graduate student is enrolled as of the tenth day of each semester (*the Official University Enrollment Report Date or "Census Date"*). *Courses with a grade of "I" (incomplete) or dropped after census date are included in the calculation of credit hours attempted.*

#### **9.6 Student Code of Conduct**

All students are expected to abide by the ECU Code of Student Conduct. Plagiarism, cheating, and other misconduct are not expected among our students and will be dealt with according to the ECU Code of Conduct. Details of Brody BSOM at East Carolina University MPH Code of Student Conduct can be found [here](#).

#### **9.7 Course Attendance**

Course attendance, online or in-person, is expected of all students. Faculty members have the right to establish attendance and participation requirements in each of their courses.

Course requirements (e.g., examinations, oral presentations, laboratory experiments, participation in discussion) are in no sense waived due to absence from class. Instructors may establish

penalties when excessive absences would seriously hinder achievement in any course. It is the instructor's discretion as to how absences will be handled.

### **9.8 Course Load**

No more than 15 semester hours of course work may be taken in any fall or spring semester without the written permission of the department or college and the dean of the Graduate School. A student is considered to be enrolled full-time when registered for a minimum of nine semester hours during a regular semester. Full time enrollment is six hours for a 11-week summer session. The minimum course load to be eligible for financial aid in any semester is five SH.

### **9.9 Credit**

The MPH program operates on the semester system. The fall and spring semesters are each approximately 14 weeks in length, plus one additional week for final examinations. The summer session is divided into two equal terms of approximately five and one-half weeks each. Most MPH courses are offered during an 11-week summer session.

The university is in session five and one-half days each week. MPH-prefix courses are numbered 6000 or higher. Graduate degree credit can be earned only at the standard of a minimum of 750 scheduled minutes of instructional time or the equivalent per credit hours, as stated in the UNC Policy Manual.

### **9.10 Schedule Changes**

A graduate student may add a course or courses through the last day to register for the semester (fall/spring semesters this is the 5th class day at 5PM), also called the course adjustment period. A graduate student may drop a course via Self-Service Banner, if dropped by the last day of the course adjustment period.

No course is officially dropped or added until all appropriate approvals are obtained from the advisor and/or the Graduate School. Please see the Academic Calendar for the last day to drop, add, or withdraw from courses.

### **9.11 Grading System**

The course syllabus contains the grading scale. The instructor sets the points associated with the grades. For example, an "A" can be 92 or higher compared to 90 and higher. In the Graduate School, grades consist of A, AU, B, C, F, I, NR, S, U, and W.

#### **Definition of Grades**

1. **A** (Excellent)
2. **AU** (Audit)
3. **B** (Good)
4. **C** (Passed)
5. **F** (Failure)
6. **I** (Incomplete) The grade of "I" is given for a deficiency in the quantity of work done in a course, as opposed to quality of work done in a course. It may only be awarded in extenuating circumstances. A student must have completed a substantial proportion of the

course work and be passing the class. The grade is considered temporary. "I" grades must be resolved within one calendar year, or a grade of "F" will be automatically assigned; instructors have the prerogative to require a shorter period of time to complete the remaining requirements. No student will be allowed to graduate with an incomplete on his or her record. The grade of "I" cannot be given for theses or dissertations. No exceptions to this policy will be granted.

**7. NR** (Not reported by faculty)

**8. S** (Satisfactory progress) A special grade reserved for thesis and dissertation research, APE, practica, and similar courses. The grades in these courses are not included in meeting the cumulative GPA of 3.0 required for graduation.

**9. U** (Unsatisfactory progress) A special grade reserved for thesis and dissertation research, APE, practica, and similar courses. The grades in these courses are not included in meeting the cumulative GPA of 3.0 required for graduation.

**10. W** (Withdrawn)

## 10.0 Frequently Asked Questions about the ECU MPH program

### 1. How many credit hours are required for graduation?

45 semester hours.

### 2. Are all students required to complete an Applied Field Practicum (APE) in public health?

Yes. The APE is an integral component of the MPH Program. Students are eligible to commence their APE once the foundational (MPH core classes comprised of 24 credit hours) are completed.

### 3. How long will it take to complete the degree requirements?

It depends on whether you pursue this on a full-time basis or part-time. Students can complete the program in two to four years.

### 4. Can I transfer courses from another Master of Public Health program or graduate school?

With approval of the program director and Dean of the Graduate School, up to 12 credit hours from a CEPH accredited MPH program may be transferred, depending on how well a course matches the ECU MPH course substituted and accreditation standards. The student should provide the syllabus of the course(s) which are being requested to transfer prior to enrollment.

### 5. Are courses offered in in face-to-face format?

Face-to-face format is at discretion of instructor and can vary by semester. All MPH courses are offered online.

### 6. How do I apply?

Through an application to the ECU graduate school at [Applying to Graduate School](#). All supplemental materials will need to be sent to the Graduate School.

### 7. What is the application deadline?

Deadlines for submission of admission applications are April 15 for fall semester and October 15 for spring semester. Applicants considering entry into Epidemiology Concentration during spring semester should contact the epidemiology concentration coordinator. **Prospective students are strongly urged to apply well before the deadline.** Late admission will be considered based on program capacity.

### 8. Are students accepted only for fall admission?

No, the MPH Program admits students for the spring semester as well.

### 9. What is the minimum GPA required?

The minimum standards of the ECU graduate school apply - a minimum overall undergraduate GPA of 2.7 or a senior year GPA of 3.0. College Algebra is required on undergraduate transcript to take biostatistics.

### 10. What entrance exams and scores are required? Get new GRE scores?

The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is used as one gauge of an applicant's ability to successfully complete the program. We require applicants to take the GRE. A combined GRE score of 309 or greater is desirable. Beginning in academic year 2022-2023, the GRE is waived.

**11. Must I take the Graduate Record Exam if I have already completed a graduate degree?**

It depends on what the graduate program was, how recently you completed it, and what your grades were in the program. If you are interested in waiving the GRE, you must receive written consent from the MPH Program Director **BEFORE** the application deadline.

**12. How do I find more about the Graduate Record Exam (GRE)?**

Go to <http://www.ets.org/gre>. The GRE will not be required for academic year 2022-2023.

**13. Is there any financial aid?**

ECU Financial Aid information can be found at <http://www.ecu.edu/financial/>

**14. Is the program accredited?**

ECU is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges. The MPH Program was accredited in 2020 for seven years by Council on Education for Public Health.

## Appendix 1 - CEPH MPH Foundational Knowledge Competencies

<b>Evidence-based Approaches to Public Health</b>
1. Apply epidemiological methods to the breadth of settings and situations in public health practice
2. Select quantitative and qualitative data collection methods appropriate for a given public health context
3. Analyze quantitative and qualitative data using biostatistics, informatics, computer-based programming and software, as appropriate
4. Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy or practice
<b>Public Health &amp; Health Care Systems</b>
5. Compare the organization, structure and function of health care, public health and regulatory systems across national and international settings
6. Discuss the means by which structural bias, social inequities and racism undermine health and create challenges to achieving health equity at organizational, community and societal levels
<b>Planning &amp; Management to Promote Health</b>
7. Assess population needs, assets and capacities that affect communities' health
8. Apply awareness of cultural values and practices to the design or implementation of public health policies or programs
9. Design a population-based policy, program, project or intervention
10. Explain basic principles and tools of budget and resource management
11. Select methods to evaluate public health programs
<b>Policy in Public Health</b>
12. Discuss multiple dimensions of the policy-making process, including the roles of ethics and evidence
13. Propose strategies to identify stakeholders and build coalitions and partnerships for influencing public health outcomes
14. Advocate for political, social or economic policies and programs that will improve health in diverse populations
15. Evaluate policies for their impact on public health and health equity
<b>Leadership</b>
16. Apply principles of leadership, governance and management, which include creating a vision, empowering others, fostering collaboration and guiding decision making
17. Apply negotiation and mediation skills to address organizational or community challenges
<b>Communication</b>
18. Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors
19. Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation
20. Describe the importance of cultural competence in communicating public health content
<b>Interprofessional Practice</b>
21. Integrate perspectives from other sectors and/or professions to promote and advance population health
<b>Systems Thinking</b>
22. Apply systems thinking tools to a public health issue



**Appendix 2 - Student Request- Change of Academic Advisor and/or Concentration**  
**MPH Student Request Change of Academic Advisor and/or Concentration**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Banner ID \_\_\_\_\_

Date Change Requested \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Student's Current MPH Concentration  Epidemiology  Health Policy Administration & Leadership  
 Community Health & Health Behavior

Student's Current Academic Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Requested Academic Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Requested Concentration  Epidemiology  Health Policy Administration & Leadership  
 Community Health & Health Behavior

Student's reason for requesting a change of Academic Advisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Student's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Current Academic Advisor's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Requested Academic Advisor's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Appendix 3 - Student Request- Change of Professional Paper Advisor**  
**MPH Student Request Change of Professional Paper Advisor**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Banner ID \_\_\_\_\_

Date Change Requested \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Student's Current MPH Concentration  Epidemiology  Health Policy Administration & Leadership  
 Community Health & Health Behavior

Student's Current Professional Paper Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Requested Professional Paper Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

Student's reason for requesting a change of Professional Paper Advisor

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**Student's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

**Current Professional Paper Advisor's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

**Requested Professional Paper Advisor's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

## Appendix 4 - Advising Form Community Health & Health Behavior Concentration (CHHB)

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Banner ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Admission Status     Regular Admit         Special Admit (may need Student Services Consult)

Academic Year Entered \_\_\_\_\_

Time Frame for Graduation     2 years     2.5 years         3 years         Other \_\_\_\_\_

Core Courses	Community Health & Health Behavior Concentration	SH	Year Term	Final Grade
MPH 6000	Public Health Practice	3		
MPH 6002	Ethics and Law Public Health	3		
MPH 6010	Fundamentals of Environmental Health	3		
MPH 6011	Introduction to Epidemiology	3		
MPH 6013	Behavioral Sciences and Health Education	3		
MPH 6027	Mixed Methods Research	3		
MPH 6035	Interdisciplinary Rural Health	3		
BIOS 7021	Biostatistics for Health Professionals I	3		
<b>Concentration Core Courses (Required)</b>				
MPH 6600	Planning Public Health Programs	3		
MPH 6605	Evaluating Public Health Programs	3		
<b>Concentration Electives</b>				
MPH 6670	Public Health Perspectives on Maternal and Child Health	3		
MPH 7201	Introduction to Survey Methods	3		
See below	See bundle of courses to equal 3 SHs	3		
<b>Application Courses</b>				
MPH 6904	Introduction to Field Placement	1		
MPH 6905	Applied Field Placement	2		
MPH 6991	Professional Paper I	2		
MPH 6992	Professional Paper II	1		
<b>Required Hours</b>		<b>45</b>		

**Notes** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**High Recommendation - Bundle 3 SH of electives**

**MPH 7031 - Topics in Public Health**

Grant Writing | Social Media and Health Improvement | Quality Improvement | Surveys Using Qualtrics |  
 Qualitative Methods Overview | Building Partnerships and Coalitions | Community Supported Agriculture

## Appendix 5 - Advising Form Epidemiology Concentration (EPI)

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Banner ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Admission Status     Regular Admit         Special Admit (may need Student Services Consult)

Academic Year Entered \_\_\_\_\_

Time Frame for Graduation     2 years     2.5 years         3 years         Other \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Core Classes</b>	<b>Epidemiology Concentration</b>	<b>SH</b>	<b>Year Term</b>	<b>Final Grade</b>
MPH 6000	Public Health Practice	3		
MPH 6002	Ethics and Law in Public Health	3		
MPH 6011	Intro to Epidemiology	3		
MPH 6013	Principles of Health Behavior	3		
MPH 6035	Interdisciplinary Rural Health	3		
<i>MPH 6702</i>	<i>Epidemiology Methods</i>	3		
MPH/EHST 6010	Fundamentals of Environmental Health	3		
BIOS 7021	Biostatistics for Health Professionals I	3		
<b>Concentration Courses</b>				
<i>MPH 7202</i>	<i>Public Health Data Analysis</i>	3		
<i>BIOS 7022</i>	<i>Biostatistics for Health Professionals II</i>	3		
<i>MPH 6021</i>	<i>Chronic Disease Epidemiology</i>	3		
<i>MPH 6022</i>	<i>Infectious Disease Epidemiology</i>	3		
MPH 7200	Principles of PH Surveillance	3		
MPH 6007	Global Public Health (6 wk)	3		
<b>Electives that may serve as concentration courses with approval</b>				
MPH 6036	Fundamentals in Agromedicine	3		
MPH 7201	Survey Methodology	3		
HIMA 6060*†	Theories and Applications for Health Informatics	3		
<b>Capstone - APE Applied Practice Experience</b>				
MPH 6904	Introduction to Field Placement	1		
MPH 6905	Applied Field Placement	2		
<b>Capstone - ILE Integrative Learning Experience</b>				
MPH 6991	Profession Paper I	2		
MPH 6992	Professional Paper II	1		

**Footnotes**

*Italics, required courses in Epi Concentration*

\* HIMA 6060—Theoretical and practical foundations of health informatics for clinical, managerial, community health, and public health services

\*\* Students may take courses that match their career goals consistent with the Graduate Catalog and with approval of academic advisor.

† Requires Instructor Consent—Pre-requisites required. Student should look up course in BANNER and determine who is teaching it and contact instructor for permission (i.e., to inform Professor s/he is in the MPH program).

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix 6 - Advising Form Health Policy, Administration & Leadership (HPAL)

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Banner ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Admission Status     Regular Admit     Special Admit (may need Student Services Consult)

Academic Year Entered \_\_\_\_\_

Time Frame for Graduation     2 years     2.5 years     3 years     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Core Courses	Health Policy Administration & Leadership Concentration	SH	Year Term	Final Grade
MPH 6000	Public Health Practice	3		
MPH 6002	Ethics and Law Public Health	3		
MPH 6010	Fundamentals of Environmental Health	3		
MPH 6011	Introduction to Epidemiology	3		
MPH 6013	Behavioral Sciences and Health Education	3		
MPH 6020	Research Methods	3		
MPH 6035	Interdisciplinary Rural Health	3		
BIOS 7021	Biostatistics for Health Professionals I	3		
<b>Concentration Core Courses (Required)</b>				
MPH 6800	Health Policy and Politics	3		
MPH 6810	Strategic and Financial Management of Healthcare Organizations	3		
MPH 7010	Human Resource Management and Leadership for Health Administration	3		
<b>Concentration Electives (Choose 2)</b>				
MPH 6040	Long-term Health Administration	3		
MPH 6700	Health Economics	3		
COHE 6100	Community Health Administration	3		
COHE 6630	Quality Management in Health Care	3		
HIMA 6060	Health Informatics	3		
<b>Application Courses (Required)</b>				
MPH 6904	Introduction to Field Placement	1		
MPH 6905	Applied Field Placement	2		
MPH 6991	MPH Professional Paper I	2		
MPH 6992	MPH Professional Paper II	1		
<b>Required Hours</b>		<b>45</b>		

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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