

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) within the Brody School of Medicine (BSOM) at 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, selection of a concentration-specific curriculum, and subsequent completion of requirements for the MPH degree. This degree requires 45 semester hours (SH), of which 24 are core courses, 15 concentration/elective SH, three SH of Applied Practicum Experience and three SH for the professional paper. The program is fully online with some face-to-face core and concentration courses available once per week for three hours. Additional program information can be located through the following link, <https://public-health.ecu.edu/>.

This manual is also a compilation of philosophy, policies, and procedures of the MPH program, which supplements policies, procedures, and requirements of the ECU Graduate School. Although this manual contains the most pertinent information, students must familiarize themselves with the ECU Graduate Catalog, because in case of conflict, policies of the ECU Graduate School take precedence over policies in the MPH manual. Students adhere to the version of the Graduate Catalog in effect at the time of matriculation. The Graduate Catalog information for the MPH program is available [here](#). The DPH reserves the right to add, delete, or modify all provisions in this manual.

1.0 Background and Mission

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 eastern North Carolina (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. In 2003, the MPH program was established in the BSOM Department of Family Medicine. In 2008, the MPH program was moved to the newly established Department of Public Health.

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 impetus for establishing the MPH program in 2003 was based on ENC's 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 to serve health departments, healthcare agencies, and hospitals, particularly in rural communities.

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 advocate for 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.

In the accredited MPH program, we offer three concentrations:

- Community Health & Health Behavior (CHHB),
- Epidemiology (Epi), and
- Health Policy, Administration, and Leadership (HPAL).

Three certificate programs are offered:

- Biostatistics Certificate through the Biostatistics Concentration
- Ethnic Health and Rural Health Disparities Certificate
- Public Health Foundations and Practice Certificate

We also offer a dual MD/MPH degree program. See section 7.0 for more information.

The ECU MPH program is accredited by 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 MPH Program Competencies

The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) requires that accredited MPH programs with concentrations offer and assess foundational and concentration competences. The Foundational Competencies (Exhibit X) are set-forth by CEPH. Concentration-Specific Competencies, also required by CEPH (Exhibit X), are established and assessed by the ECU MPH Program to prepare learners for employment in the public health sector.

Exhibit 1.0 MPH Program Foundational Competencies from the Council on Education for Public Health

Evidence-based Approaches to Public Health
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
Public Health & Health Care Systems
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
Planning & Management to Promote Health
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
Policy in Public Health
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
Leadership
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
Communication
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
Interprofessional Practice
21. Integrate perspectives from other sectors and/or professions to promote and advance population health
Systems Thinking
22. Apply systems thinking tools to visually represent a public health issue other than a standard narrative

https://media.ceph.org/documents/D2_guidance.pdf

Exhibit 1.1 Concentration-Specific Competencies by MPH Course

Community Health & Health Behavior Concentration Competencies	Courses
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
Epidemiology Concentration Competencies	
1. Critically evaluate public health through application of fundamental principles and methods of epidemiology.	MPH 6022
2. Identify and implement appropriate study design, recruitment, data collection, and analysis methods to address an identified public health problem.	MPH 6021
3. Identify and apply statistical methods to calculate appropriate epidemiologic measures of association, including confounders and effect modifiers and their use in multivariable analysis.	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

Health Policy, Administration, and Leadership Concentration Competencies	
1. Address inequities in the prevalence of chronic diseases in rural and minority populations using systems thinking approaches.	MPH 6800 MPH 6810
2. Examine and interpret the impact of health cost, access, and quality policies on rural and/or disadvantaged populations	MPH 6800
3. Cultivate leadership skills in strategic planning/management with a focus on reducing disparities in disadvantaged populations	MPH 6810
4. Perform financial analysis for public health interventions	MPH 6810
5. Develop and apply human resources management skills inclusive of diversity and disadvantaged populations	MPH 7010

1.3 Career Opportunities in 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.

Our MPH program prepares professionals in three basic disciplines of public health. MPH-prepared graduates pursue careers in both the public and private sectors. Common examples include, but are not limited to, the following at the MPH-level:

Community Health & Health Behavior

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

Epidemiology

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

Health Policy Administration & Leadership

- Project manager/director at public health agencies
- Hospital/clinic manager and/or administrator
- Long-term care facility administrator
- Administration of clinical trials, Social Clinical Research Associate.

2.0 Admission to the Graduate School

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

ECU 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. The ECU 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 admission status options noted in Sections 2.1, 2.2., and 2.3 below. Additional admission status information can be found [here](#).

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 (AE) is possible for a limited number of applicants who do not qualify academically for regular admission but have other offsetting strengths. AE classification 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 graduate credit hours with a minimum of a 3.0 GPA.

2.3 Provisional Admission

Provisional admission status indicates that one or more required final documents have not been received by the Graduate School at time of admission, and future registration is restricted until pending materials are received.

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 through the ECU Graduate School ([here](#)).
2. 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 courses completed at the bachelor's level or higher. An ECU undergraduate can request their transcript be included with the application to the MPH program.
3. Official transcripts are required from all foreign institutions attended.
4. Three letters of recommendation should be sent from persons who can attest to the applicant's academic competency or ability to do graduate work. This is limited to an academic advisor, professor, and/or supervisor.
5. A completed Statement of Purpose essay (ideally, 500 words or less).

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

2.5 Admission Examination Details

For the current academic year, the GRE and/or MCAT are not required with the MPH application.

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. DPH offers a five-course Certificate in Public Health Foundations & Practice (PHFP) and a four-course Certificate in Ethnic & Rural Health Disparities (ERHD). See section 7.0 in this manual for 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 departmental 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 semester hours to receive financial aid, regardless of course delivery (i.e., online or in-person). Enrollment status includes the following for graduate students in Fall and Spring semesters:

- Full Time = 9 or more semester hours
- Three-Quarter Time = 6-8 semester hours
- Half Time = 5 semester hours
- Less than Half Time = 1-4 semester hours

For summer sessions, 5-week and 11-week, graduate students cannot be enrolled in more than 7 hours in either term. Five semester hours qualifies for financial aid in summer sessions.

3.0 Core Curriculum

3.1 Core Courses

The CEPH-accredited MPH program provides 22 foundational knowledge competencies that are assessed in the core curriculum. **Exhibit 1** lists the 22 CEPH Foundational Knowledge Competencies. **Exhibit 3.1** summarizes core course requirements by concentration and semester hours (SH). The core curriculum is 24 semester hours (8 core courses). The number of SH for concentration-specific courses and electives varies by concentration as well. The four-capstone courses include 6 SH for professional paper (3 SH) and the Applied Practicum Experience (APE) (3 SH). **Exhibit 3.2** describes the core courses, SH, and course names. Each concentration has a core research methods course (i.e., EPI, MPH 6702; HPAL MPH 6020, and CHHB, MPH 6027). Students select an area of concentration prior to matriculation.

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

Course Requirements	MPH Concentrations		
	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 (professional paper & APE)	4 (6 SH)	4 (6 SH)	4 (6 SH)
Total SH for MPH	17 (45 SH)	17 (45 SH)	17 (45 SH)

Exhibit 3.2 MPH Core Courses (24 SH)

Core Course	Semester Hours	Course Name
All		
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
Core Research Methods Courses		
EPI MPH 6702	3	Epidemiology Methods
HPAL MPH 6020	3	Research Methods
CHHB MPH 6027	3	Mixed-Methods Research

MPH core courses are listed below.

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 and include the following options:

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

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

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

Two 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 under prefix BIOS. College Algebra, such as ECU MATH 1065, is a pre-requisite for BIOS 7021. BIOS 7021 is offered online and in-person (Tuesday/Thursday). To register for BIOS courses, students must contact Ms. Rhonda Onorato (onorator20@ecu.edu), who coordinates registration for biostatistics courses.

Environmental Health - EHST 6010. Fundamentals of Environmental Health is cross listed with the Master of Science in Environmental Health (MSEH) program. However, the prefix of the course is EHST. To enroll in EHST 6010, rather than MPH 6010, confer with your academic advisor and then contact Dr. Stephanie Richards (MSEH Program Director) for registration.

4.0 MPH Areas of Concentration and Concentration 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. See Exhibit 1.2 for concentration-specific competencies. The academic advisor sets up a Course Plan in

“Degree Works”, a curriculum tracking platform, based on an initial advising session with the student. The course plans for full time, fall matriculation are listed in each concentration section. Each concentration requires at least one elective. Electives may be any 6000 or 7000-level course approved by the academic advisor.

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 CHHB 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 and programs, (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. [CHHB Concentration](#) requires program planning and program evaluation, MPH 6600 and MPH 6605, to be completed during the first two semesters.

The coordinator of the CHHB concentration is [Nancy Winterbauer, PhD, MS](#). **Exhibit 4.1** outlines a typical CHHB course trajectory for a full-time student intending to complete the program in 24 months. Additionally, Appendix 3 outlines part-time curriculum completion and can be found [here](#).

Exhibit 4.1 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
MPH 6000 Public Health Practice	MPH 6002 Ethics and Law in Public Health	MPH/EHST 6010 Fundamentals of Environmental Health	MPH 6991 Professional Paper I (Capstone)	MPH 6992 Professional Paper II (Capstone)
MPH 6011 Introduction to Epidemiology	MPH 6027 Mixed-Methods Research	MPH 6035 Interdisciplinary Rural Health	MPH 6904 Introduction to Field Experience	MPH 6905 Field Placement (APE)
MPH 6013 Principles of Health Behavior	MPH 6605 Program Evaluation	Elective 1	Elective 2	
MPH 6600 Planning Public Health Programs	BIOS 7021 Biostatistics for Health Professionals I		Elective 3	
12 SH	12 SH	9 SH	9 SH	3 SH

Exhibit 4.2 Community Health & Health Behavior Concentration-Specific Courses

(*denotes requirement)

<p>*MPH 6600 - Planning Public Health Programs (3 SH) Development and delivery of public health programs. Prerequisites: Principles of Health Behavior (MPH 6013)</p>
<p>*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>
<p>MPH 6670 - Public Health Perspectives on Maternal and Child Health (3 SH) 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>MPH 7031 - Topics in Public Health (3 SH) 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>MPH 7201 - Introduction to Survey Methodology (3 SH) 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>

Students are assigned to 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	hallmarl14@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

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, analyze data, and recommend interventions 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 contract research firms. State and local health departments often hire MPH-prepared epidemiologists for program coordination or basic data analyses. The coordinator of the Epidemiology concentration is [Suzanne Lea, PhD, MPH](#).

Exhibit 4.3 outlines a typical epidemiology course trajectory for a full-time student matriculating in fall semester intending to complete the program in five to six semesters. At the time of matriculation, each student

works 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. Appendix 4 provides other course plan trajectories and can be found [here](#).

Exhibit 4.3 Epidemiology Course Trajectory in Five to Six Semesters, Full-time, Fall Admission.

Epidemiology Course Plan, Fall Admission (9-hour plan)*					
Year 1			Year 2		
Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer
MPH 6000 Public Health Practice	MPH 6002 Ethics and Law in Public Health	MPH 6013 Behavioral Sciences and Health Education	EHST 6011 (or MPH 6010) Fundamentals of Environmental Health	MPH 6904 Intro Field Placement	MPH 6992 Professional Paper II
MPH 6011 Introduction to Epidemiology	MPH 6702 Epidemiologic Methods	MPH 6035 Interdisciplinary Rural Health	MPH 7202 Public Health Data Analysis	MPH 6021 Chronic Disease Epi	MPH 6905 Field placement
BIOS 7021 Biostatistics for Health Professionals I	BIOS 7022 Biostatistics for Health Professionals II		MPH 6022 Infectious Disease Epi	Elective Course Options: MPH 7201, HIMA 6060, MPH 6007, MPH 6005, MPH 6008.	
				MPH 6991 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 4.4 displays four required epidemiology concentration-specific courses (MPH 6021, MPH 6022, MPH 7202, and BIOS 7022). One elective is selected in consultation with faculty advisor, such as MPH 6007 or MPH 7200. See the [Epidemiology Concentration](#) link.

Exhibit 4.4 Epidemiology Concentration-Specific Courses (*denotes requirement)

<p>*BIOS 7022 - Biostatistics for Health Professionals II (3 SH) 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>MPH 6007 - Global Public Health: A Global Perspective Explores the issues related to the fields of medical anthropology and public health leading toward developing global health interventions.</p>
<p>*MPH 6021 - Epidemiology of Chronic Disease (3 SH) Epidemiologic measures, statistical methods, and quantitative models specific to chronic disease epidemiology.</p>

<p>Prerequisites: Public Health Practice (MPH 6000), Introduction to Epidemiology (MPH 6011), or consent of instructor</p>
<p>*MPH 6022 - Epidemiology of Infectious Disease (3 SH) 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>MPH 7200 - Principles of Public Health Surveillance (3 SH) 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>*MPH 7202 - Introduction to Public Health Data Analysis (3 SH) 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>

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

Name	Area of Interest	Email Address
James S. Clifford, PhD, MS	Genetic Epidemiology, Tobacco Cessation,	cliffordj22@ecu.edu
Aaron Kipp, PhD, MSPH	Infectious Diseases, Retention in Care,	kippa19@ecu.edu
C. Suzanne Lea, PhD, MPH	Cancer epidemiology, Environmental	leac@ecu.edu
Kristina Simeonsson, MD, MSPH	Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Disease in children	simeonssonk@ecu.edu

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 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. Additionally, 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 4.5 outlines a proposed HPAL course trajectory for a full-time student intending to complete the program in five semesters. At the time of matriculation, each student works with their academic advisor to plan their course of study. Additional course trajectories are in the Appendix. [HPAL Concentration](#) requires three concentration courses and two electives from the list provided in Exhibit 4.5. Appendix 5 provides other course plan trajectories and can be found [here](#).

Exhibit 4.5 Health Policy, Administration & Leadership Course Trajectory in five semesters for full-time, fall admission

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

* Please consult with your academic advisor

Students are assigned to 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, healthcare financial management, health economic evaluations	basur19@ecu.edu
Doyle "Skip" Cummings, PharmD	Rural Health, diabetes, obesity, hypertension/cardiovascular disease	cummingsd@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, Strategic Management	luoh@ecu.edu

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 in Appendix 1 [here](#).

Guide to changing concentrations

- Request an appointment with your academic advisor.
- Discuss reasons for change in concentration with academic advisor.
- Discuss change with new potential advisor in preferred concentration.
- Students must complete the "Change of Concentration Request Form" and "Change of Academic Advisor Request Form". Both require signature of student, former advisor, and new advisor. Forms are located [here](#).

5.0 Applied Practice Experience

The Applied Practice Experience (APE) is a term that can also mean the “internship”, “field experience”, or “field practicum”. An APE consisting of 240 contact hours is required of all students. The APE offers students the opportunity to integrate and demonstrate the application of academic knowledge with learned public health foundational and concentration competencies in a professional setting. At least two non-academic work products documented through a portfolio approach provides evidence of competency proficiency.

- MPH 6904 (1 SH) is Introduction to Field Placement. During MPH 6904, the field experience preceptor is identified, the proposal is developed in collaboration with the preceptor, and other details of APE implementation are approved. 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 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 Applied Field Placement. MPH 6905 is offered online fall, spring, and 11-week summer session. A minimum of two non-academic work products are documented using an online portfolio. A mid-term and final evaluation are required in conjunction with the preceptor and instructor. Students should complete most 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 their 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.

6.0 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”. **Exhibit 6.1** displays courses for the ILE and APE. 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. Rashmita Basu is the coordinator for the two courses, Professional Paper I and II (MPH 6991 and MPH 6992, respectively).

The [Professional Paper \(MPH 6991 and MPH 6992\)](#) (see link) 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.

6.1 Professional Paper Process

- Students should converse 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 (i.e., 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](#).
- 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 must complete the ILE Agreement and Concept Form Part I [here](#). The Primary Professor will then submit the completed form to the Student Services Coordinator.
- Students should find out which section of MPH 6991 their Primary Professor is teaching and register for that section.
- Students will work with their Primary Professor over two semesters to complete their professional paper project.
- MPH 6991 and 6992 cannot be taken concurrently in the same semester without prior approval.
- A paper and a poster and/or PowerPoint presentation are required for completion of MPH 6992.
- 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.

- If students wish to change their primary advisor for the Professional Paper, they must complete the “Student Request - Change of Professional Paper Advisor” form documented in **Appendix 2** and located [here](#).

Exhibit 6.1 Summary of Capstone Courses

<p>MPH 6904 - 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.</p>
<p>MPH 6905 - 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)</p>

MPH 6991 - 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.

MPH 6992 - 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.

7.0 Certificate Programs in the Department of Public Health

The DPH offers three certificate programs:

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

7.1 Certificate in Biostatistics

The Biostatistics Concentration offers a Certificate in Biostatistics. This certificate program is intended primarily for graduate students pursuing a degree in one of the health sciences but would benefit anyone who plans on a career that involves analyzing data. Students who complete this certificate will be able to analyze many types of health science data. Admission to the certificate program requires a baccalaureate degree and both an overall GPA and a math-science GPA of 3.0 or higher. Applicants need to submit official undergraduate and graduate transcripts. The contact for the certificate program is Paul Vos, PhD (Vosp@ecu.edu).

Exhibit 7.1 Courses in Biostatistics Certificate

Course Number	Course Name	Semester Offered
<i>Required 9 SH</i>		
BIOS 7021	Biostatistics for Health Professionals I. Prerequisite: MATH 1065 or consent of instructor. Applies statistical methods to health sciences. Types, organization, and display of data; elementary probability; parametric and nonparametric techniques when dealing with one or two samples (matched and independent); one way ANOVA; and simple linear regression.	Fall and Spring
BIOS 7022	Biostatistics for Health Professionals II. Prerequisite: BIOS 7021 with a grade of B or better or consent of instructor. Continuation of BIOS 7021. 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.	Spring ONLY
BIOS 7600	Advanced Statistical Modeling. Prerequisite: BIOS 7021 and 7022 with a grade of B or better, or consent of instructor. Survival analysis and generalized linear models including logistic regression and Poisson regression. Topics may include ordinal regression and aspects of linear mixed models.	Fall or Spring
<i>Elective 3 SH</i>		

BIOS 7501	Experimental Design Prerequisite: BIOS 7021 or equivalent with a grade of B or better or consent of instructor. Experimental designs and their analysis. Topics include completely randomized, randomized block, Latin square, and split-unit designs; factorial treatment structures and repeated measures designs; multiple comparison procedures; tests of normality and homogeneity of variance; measures of effect size; and power considerations.	Fall or Spring
BIOS 7550	Applied Multivariate Analysis. Prerequisite: BIOS 7021 or equivalent with a grade of B or better or consent of instructor. Overview of the most commonly used multivariate statistical techniques.	Fall ONLY
MPH 7202	Introduction to Public Health Data Analysis. Prerequisite: MPH 6011, Introduction to Epidemiology.	Fall or Spring
PUBH 8025	Quantitative Research Methods	Spring ONLY

Faculty in the Biostatistics Concentration are:

Name	Area of Interest	Email Address
Paul Vos, PhD, Concentration Coordinator	Statistical Methods for Medicine	vosp@ecu.edu
Xiangming Fang, PhD	Additive Models, Spatial Statistics, Longitudinal Data Analysis, Applications in Ecology	fangx@ecu.edu
Suzanne Hudson, PhD	Bootstrap Methods and Permutations, Statistical Methods for discrete and conditional distributions	hudsons@ecu.edu
Kevin O'Brien, PhD	Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome, Radio-Sensitivity and Radio-Protection	obrienk@ecu.edu
Qiang Wu, PhD	Multivariate Data Analysis, Model-Based Clustering, Application in Neurobiology	wuq@ecu.edu

7.2 Certificate in Public Health Foundations and Practice

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, PhD, MS](#).

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 PHFP 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. With a GPA of 3.0, the applicant must also meet the department's academic admission requirements for the MPH program.

If a student does not have a prior 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 7.2** results in award of the certificate.

Exhibit 7.2 Foundations and Practice Sequence of Courses

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
Total Credits		15

7.3 Certificate in Ethnic and Rural Health Disparities

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 globally. This popular certificate program enrolls learners from the MPH program, MD, and DMD candidates. This four-course (12 SH) 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](#).

Program Objectives and application information is located [here](#).

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

Applicants must meet ECU admission requirements for admission into the certificate, which includes: 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. Transfer hours are not accepted into the certificate program. Completion of the certificate requires fulfillment of approved coursework with an overall GPA of 3.0 ("B"). The courses, each 3 credit hours, taken sequentially, are shown in **Exhibit 7.3**.

Exhibit 7.3 Ethic and Rural Health Disparities Sequence of Courses

Course Number	Course Name (All Distance Education)	Sequential Semester Offered
MPH 6007	Global Public Health	Fall
MPH 6008	Ethnic Health and Health Disparities	Spring
MPH 6005	African American Health	Summer Session 1 (5 ½ weeks)
MPH 6009	Capstone Experience in Ethnic Health & Health	Summer Session 2 (11 weeks)
Total Credits		12

8.0 Enrolled Student Actions

8.1 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 will meet 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 the early registration date for each semester. The student confers with their 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.

8.2 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), must continue to register each semester (excluding summer terms) until all degree requirements are completed and filed with the Office of 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.

8.3 Break in Enrollment - Withdraw, Leave of Absence, and Readmission

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 the Registrar of their official withdrawal (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 university courses for the semester.

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.

Students withdrawing for extenuating circumstances must apply for an extenuating circumstances withdrawal to the Office of the Dean of Students (<https://deanofstudents.ecu.edu/home/withdrawals/>). No retroactive extenuating circumstances withdrawals will be granted after classes have ended for the semester in which the student was enrolled, except in the case of extraordinary medical, personal or family emergency, in the judgment of the Dean of the Graduate School.

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. Readmission to a graduate program is not guaranteed.

Students who take a leave of less than three years may file an application for readmission online [here](#). Students wishing to change graduate degree or certificate programs after a leave of absence must submit a new admissions application.

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 or any other graduate program within the university. Students readmitted after a leave of absence of three years or more will be required to meet new or changed degree requirements. ECU course credit will be evaluated for applicability towards degree requirements in accordance with established time limits.

8.4 Application for Graduation

The application for graduation should be completed in [PiratePort](#) (the ECU Meta-Database) at least one semester prior to completion of the requirements of the degree. More on ECU graduation can be found [here](#).

8.5 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.*

8.6 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](#).

8.7 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 at the instructor's discretion as to how absences will be handled.

8.8 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.

8.9 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.

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 System Policy Manual.

8.10 Schedule Changes

A graduate student may add a course(s) through the last day to register for the semester (for fall/spring semesters, this is the 5th class day at 5:00 PM), also called the course adjustment period. A graduate student may drop a course via Pirate Port, 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.

8.11 Grading System

The course syllabus contains the grading scale. The instructor sets the points associated with the grades. 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. "I" grades must be resolved within one calendar year, or a grade of "F" will be automatically assigned. No exceptions to this policy will be allowed. No student will be allowed to graduate with an incomplete in their program of study. The grade of "I" cannot be given for the Professional Paper. 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)

9.0 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 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 as well.

7. What is the application deadline?

Deadlines for submission of admission applications are April 15 for the fall semester and October 15 for the 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.**

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. This includes a minimum overall undergraduate GPA of 2.7 or a senior year GPA of 3.0. In addition, college-level algebra is required on the undergraduate transcript to register for BIOS 7021.

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

Beginning in academic year 2022-2023, the GRE is waived for MPH admissions.

11. Is there any financial aid?

ECU Financial Aid information can be found [here](#).

12. Is the program accredited?

ECU is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The MPH program was last accredited in 2020 for seven years by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).

13. How much does the program cost?

The MPH program is classified as Distance Education (DE) for purposes of tuition. Please see the link below for costs per credit hour. A DE student may take one on-campus course per semester without paying fees associated with on-campus courses. Please see DE link: [Tuition and Fees](#)

Appendix 1 - 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 2 - 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

Student's Signature _____ **Date** ____/____/____

Current Professional Paper Advisor's Signature _____ **Date** ____/____/____

Requested Professional Paper Advisor's Signature _____ **Date** ____/____/____

Appendix 3 - CHHB Course Plans

3.1 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 3	Spring 3
MPH 6000 Public Health Practice	MPH 6011 Introduction to Epidemiology	MPH 6010/ EHST 6010 Fundamentals of Environmental Health	MPH 6027 Mixed Methods Research	MPH 6605 Program Evaluation	Elective 1	MPH 6904 Introduction to Field Placement	MPH 6905 Field Placement (APE)
MPH 6002 Ethics & Law in Public Health	MPH 6013 Behavioral Sciences & Health Education	MPH 6035 Interdisciplinary Rural Health	MPH 6600 Planning Public Health Programs	BIOS 7021 Biostatistics for Health Professionals I	Elective 2	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

3.2 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

Appendix 4 - Epidemiology Course Plan

4.1 Epidemiology Course Trajectory, Spring Admission, in Eight Semesters, 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						
MPH 6000 Public Health Practice	MPH 6000 , Public Health Practice	MPH 6011 Introduction to Epidemiology	MPH 6702 Epidemiologic Methods, required by concentration	Any core course not taken	MPH 6022 Infectious Disease Epi	MPH 6021 Chronic Dis Epi	MPH 6992 Professional Paper 2
MPH 6013 Behavioral Sciences and Health Education	MPH 6013 Behavioral Sciences and Health Education	BIOS 7021 Biostatistics for Health Professionals I	BIOS 7022 Biostatistics for Health Professionals II	Elective	MPH 7202 Public Health Data Analysis	MPH 6991 Professional Paper 1	MPH 6905 Field Placement (APE)
MPH 6035 Interdisciplinary Rural Health	MPH 6035 Interdisciplinary Rural Health					MPH 6904 Introduction Field Experience	
MPH 6002 Ethics and Law in Public Health	MPH 6002 Ethics and Law in Public Health						
MPH 6010 Fundamentals of Environmental Health	MPH 6010 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

Appendix 5 - HPAL Course Plan

5.1 Health Policy, Administration & Leadership Course Trajectory, Five semesters, Part-time Fall Admission.

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 3	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