

ANN & ROBERT H. LURIE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF CHICAGO ONSITE DEPAUL UNIVERSITY MPH PROGRAM COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MPH 501: INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC HEALTH (ONLINE)

This course introduces students to the basic tenets of public health, its focus on the prevention of disease and illness, and the promotion of the health and well-being of all people. The course provides a brief history of public health, an introduction to the five core disciplines of public health (epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental health, social and behavioral health, and health policy and management), and an overview of the field's core functions such as assessment, policy development, and assurance.

MPH 513: PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

This course considers the conceptual and theoretical foundation underlying managerial decision-making. The course introduces students to such basic managerial tools as basic accounting, cost-benefit analysis, budgeting, and marketing. Principles of strategic planning and forecasting are examined. The course goes on to examine the legal framework that governs public health practice, organizations, human resources, research activities, and community as well as individual patient intervention efforts.

MPH 511: HEALTH AND BEHAVIOR THEORY (ONLINE)

This course will examine various theories and models that have been developed to identify the range of psychosocial factors that impact participation in both health-threatening and health-enhancing behaviors, and provide guidance for the modification of such behaviors. The theories and models will be explored from multidisciplinary perspectives and will be applied to an array of health issues. Practical applications of these theories to the development and implementations of theory-based public health interventions that can be applied with multiple populations (e.g., women, adolescents, elderly, people of color) within multiple settings (e.g., communities, schools, health care settings) at various levels of change (e.g., individual, community, social, policy) will also be explored.

MPH 595: SPECIAL TOPICS IN PUBLIC HEALTH: QUALITATIVE METHODS (ONLINE)

This course will focus on the theory and application of qualitative inquiry. This course covers a variety of qualitative approaches including depth interviewing, focus groups, and photovoice. It also guides students through the process of designing a qualitative study, including: developing data collection instruments, managing data collection, analyzing qualitative data, and disseminating findings.

MPH 502: INTRODUCTION TO EPIDEMIOLOGY

This course will focus on the theories and methods used in the field of epidemiology to study the occurrence, distribution and determinants of infectious and non-infectious diseases, other forms of illness (particularly those impacted by social and environmental forces), and injury in human populations. The focus will be on determining the impact, magnitude, and patterns of disease/illness/injury frequency so that causal agents can be identified and effective prevention, treatment and control measures can be designed and implemented. The course will explore variations of disease/illness/injury in relation to such factors as age, sex, race/ethnicity, occupational and social characteristics, place of residence, social inequality, susceptibility, exposure to specific agents, and other pertinent characteristics. Also of concern will be the temporal distribution of disease, examination of trends, cyclical patterns, and intervals between exposure to causative factors and onset of disease.

MPH 503 INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (ONLINE)

Study of the environment factors that influence health. Topics include air and water pollution, global population and local community dynamics, toxicology, infectious and chemical agents, radiation, and management.

MPH 512: RESEARCH METHODS

This course will provide a critical examination of the relative strengths and limitations of various research designs, data collection methods, and types of existing data. Students will develop an understanding of (a) the relative contributions of a mixed-methods approach to public health research, (b) basic issues related to the measurement of public health concepts, and (c) the relative strengths and limitations of various analytic approaches to studying public health problems. Students will familiarize themselves with peer-reviewed journals, how to search for material on specific topics, how to develop a critical reader's eye, and how to summarize and draw evidence-based conclusions from multiple studies.

MPH 541 BIOSTATISTICS

This course emphasizes the application of statistical methods to problems of human health and disease. It covers parametric and nonparametric statistical inferential methods for univariate and bivariate situations using SPSS. Specific topics include but are not limited to the following: Interpretation of graphic and descriptive statistics for both quantitative and categorical data, confidence interval estimation and hypothesis testing methods, linear and multiple regression logistic regression, analysis of categorical data and ANOVA. Course emphasizes the statistical interpretation of the literature and analytic projects based on large data sets from published studies, the internet, or the student's workplace.

MPH 552 MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH (ONLINE)

This course will utilize a life course perspective to examine contemporary health issues affecting women and children. Students will examine health disparities and social determinants of health, and engage in discourse on a variety of health topics from a social justice framework. Course exercises and assignments will focus on building skills in community assessment, program planning, evaluation, advocacy and policy development, as they apply to maternal and child health.

MPH 522: PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND GRANT WRITING

This course is designed to provide students with the background and skills to develop and evaluate community public health programs in a variety of settings. Students will work individually and as members of teams to design measurable goals, objectives, action plans, timelines, and evaluation indicators of community-based public health programs. Application of methods to logic modeling, proposal writing, budget planning, project management, and data management will be examined throughout the course.

MPH 602: COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT (HYBRID)

This course is the first of a three-course sequence. Students are expected to use multiple methods to obtain and synthesize data pertaining to their practicum organization and the communities served. They will apply these skills to community health practice in their practicum agency, and to the development of preliminary chapters in the academic capstone.

MPH 525: PROGRAM EVALUATION

This course will provide students with a comprehensive theoretical, methodological and ethical foundation for conducting public health program evaluation. Students will experience the practice aspects of evaluation including communicating and negotiating with stakeholders, conducting an evaluability assessment, developing logic models and evaluation questions, identifying appropriate data collection methods, gathering reliable and valid evaluation data that are appropriate to the selected design and analysis methods, analyzing data, reporting evaluation results, and ensuring evaluation use. The instructor will facilitate a learning and skill-building environment, drawing on personal experiences and the expertise of others in the field.

MPH 603: COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT DESIGN (HYBRID)

This is the second course of the three-course sequence. Students are expected to assess and incorporate findings from their community health profile and organizational assessment to design a public health project plan that meets the needs of the community served by their practicum agency, and to further develop the academic capstone.

MPH 604: CAPSTONE SEMINAR IN COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH (HYBRID)

This is the third course of the three-course sequence. Students are expected to describe and distill outcomes from their practicum project, and synthesize the meaning of these outcomes within a broader public health context. They will produce the final chapters of the academic capstone, submit the finalized capstone for review, and create a professional poster presentation.