

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Department of Behavioral & Community Health

Dennis L. Thombs, PhD, FAAHB
Department Chair
UNT Health Science Center
School of Public Health
Education & Administration Bldg-709N
817-735-5439
dennis.thombs@unthsc.edu

MPH in Community Health Academic Year 2012-2013

The Masters of Public Health degree program prepares students to address the following core competencies while advancing their knowledge of public health:

- 1. **Public Health Knowledge and Skills**-The MPH student will apply basic knowledge and skills of the core public health sciences that include: biostatistics, epidemiology, health management and policy, behavioral and community health, and environmental and occupational health, to the prevention of illness and injury and the promotion of population health.
- 2. **Integration of Theory and Practice**-The MPH student will demonstrate the effective integration of theory and practice related to public health issues that affect diverse populations, through a thesis or comprehensive examination and a practice experience.
- 3. **Communication and Informatics**-The MPH student will gather, organize, and manage data and information effectively to address public health issues through oral and written communications to diverse professionals and lay audiences.
- 4. **Diversity and Culture**-The MPH student will demonstrate the ability to interact with both diverse individuals and communities to produce or impact an intended public health outcome.
- 5. **Professionalism**-The MPH student will apply ethical principles to the practice of public health in a variety of settings, demonstrating personal integrity while embracing diverse communities.

The community health concentration prepares professionals from a variety of backgrounds (nursing, medicine, dentistry, allied health, social work, health education, nutrition, psychology, anthropology, sociology) for public health careers. This concentration uses a multidisciplinary approach to identify community, family, social, and behavioral factors in both the onset of and solution to public health problems through disease prevention, health promotion, or health care. Community health contributes to the development, implementation, and evaluation of programs and policies that promote healthy environments and healthy lives for individuals and populations. Students will learn social and behavioral theories and methodologies that are used to plan, implement, and evaluate health promotion and disease prevention programs and interventions. Students will also be prepared to perform community-based research, communicate findings to the public and policymakers, and advocate for evidence-based programs and policies. Traditionally, program graduates have assumed positions in public health departments, health and human service agencies, and other health care settings. Students in the community health concentration will complete a minimum of 48 semester credit hours to earn the MPH degree. By the conclusion of the MPH program, a student in the community health concentration will be able to:

- 1. Identify theories, concepts and models from a range of social and behavioral disciplines that are used in the solution of public health problems affecting the health of populations and individuals.
- 2. Identify and apply methods from a range of social and behavioral disciplines that are used in the solution of public health problems affecting the health of populations and individuals. These methods include qualitative and quantitative approaches.
- 3. Identify needs and assets for social and behavioral science interventions, including analyses of relevant stakeholder and policymaker priorities.
- 4. Analyze social and behavioral factors contributing to disparities in population health.
- 5. Apply evidence-based approaches in planning, implementing, and evaluating community health programs and policies in culturally diverse settings and populations.

- 6. Specify multiple targets and levels of intervention for community health programs and policies.
- 7. Interact sensitively, effectively, and professionally with persons from diverse cultural, socioeconomic, educational, and professional backgrounds and with persons of all ages.
- 8. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for public health advocacy, including the ability to describe the merits of social and behavioral science interventions.
- 9. Apply social justice and human rights principles and values when addressing community needs and use collaborative methods to achieve organizational and community health goals.

Community Health Curriculum (48 Semester Credit Hours)

BACH 5300 Theoretical Foundations of Individual & Community Health 3 SCH BIOS 5300 Biostatistics for Public Health 1 3 SCH EOHS 5300 Environmental Health 3 SCH EPID 5300 Principles of Epidemiology 3 SCH HMAP 5300 Introduction to Health Management and Policy 3 SCH REQUIEND COURSES: 12 SCH BACH 5310 Community Assessment 3 SCH BACH 5312 Community Program Planning 3 SCH BACH 5314 Social and Behavioral Research Methods 3 SCH BACH 5316 Community Program Evaluation and Interventions 3 SCH BACH 5316 Community Program Evaluation and Interventions 3 SCH BACH 5319 Public Health Practice Experience 3 SCH BACH 5397 Public Health Practice Experience 3 SCH BACH 5319 Tobacco Control and Prevention 3 SCH BACH 5321 Injury and Violence Prevention 3 SCH BACH <th colspan="5">CORE COURSES:</th>	CORE COURSES:				
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EPID	5310	Intermediate Epidemiology	3 SCH
EPID	5318	Chronic Disease Epidemiology	3 SCH
EPID	5320	Infectious Disease Epidemiology	3 SCH
HMAP	5312	Health Politics and Policy	3 SCH
HMAP	5320	Health Services Management	3 SCH
HMAP	5324	Strategic Management and Marketing	3 SCH
HMAP	5328	Human Resource Management	3 SCH
HMAP	5340	Public Health Law	3 SCH
HMAP	5350	Health Economics	3 SCH

- Students may substitute an elective course not on this list with prior approval of their advisor.
- Courses not approved as substitutes will not be applied toward the degree plan.
- For the Texas Mexico Border Health Issues course EOHS 5320, all students must have a Passport prior to taking this course, and international students must also have a US multi-entry Visa and purchase a travel visa for Mexico prior to taking this course.

CULMINATING EXPERIENCE:			0 SCH
PHED	5000	Certified in Public Health Examination	0 SCH
BACH	5001	MPH Comprehensive Examination	0 SCH

• Upon approval by the student's advisor and the department chair, students may elect to complete a Thesis for the culminating experience. In this case, students will take 12 SCH of "ELECTIVE" coursework and 6 SCH of Thesis.