

Description of Courses

PUBH 201 – Behavioral and Social Sciences in Public Health

Psychological and social concepts and models relevant to population health are reviewed and critiqued. The course will enable students to describe core theoretical perspectives from each of the social science disciplines of psychology, sociology, and anthropology. Students will learn how to select and apply appropriate social and behavioral models to the design of public health interventions and policies. The course will also cover the critical interrelationships among social determinants, environmental influences, behavioral risk factors, and health disparities.

PUBH 202 – Ecological Determinants of Human Health

This course will explore both natural and built environments and their impact and consequences on human health. It will examine the social, structural & political determinants affecting ecology, examining social & environmental justice. An emphasis will be placed on unintentional consequences of human interactions with respect to their physical environment. The course will examine current national and international issues in environmental health, including but not limited to anthropogenic climate change, biodiversity loss, ocean acidification, and carbon foot printing.

PUBH 203 – Public Health Management and Leadership

This course examines the role of management and leadership practices in public health organizations and draws on theory to explore the role of public health leaders in planning, budgeting, staffing, and controlling performance. Students will explore relevant leadership topics such as organization development, employee motivation, and emotional intelligence. The nuances of leading in a government agency are also considered. These topics are set in the context of ethical management and leadership practices.

PUBH 204 – Healthcare Systems, Structures, and Policies

This course explores health care systems from a macro perspective, including historical development, information technology, healthcare policy and resource allocation, the healthcare workforce, issues surrounding access to healthcare, prevention in healthcare, population health and medicine, various delivery models, and public health's partnership with healthcare. Comparisons are made between the US health care system and other nations in relation to costs and quality.

PUBH 207A – Health Research Methods and Analysis

Introduces students to the fundamentals of research methodology in applied epidemiology, biostatistics and evaluation research. Students learn quantitative, qualitative, mixed method and participatory approaches to research, as well as ethical behavior in conducting research. Through the mix of texts, articles from the public health literature and course work, students will build skills for conducting research and analysis across a variety of public health applications.

PUBH 207B - Health Research Methods and Analysis

Explores intermediate and advanced research methods in applied epidemiology, biostatistics and evaluation research. Students learn about tools for describing central tendency and variability in data, methods for performing inference on population parameters via sample data, statistical hypothesis testing and its application to group comparisons, issues of power and sample size in study design, and sampling techniques. Students will also examine common research methods used in program evaluation.

PUBH 220 – Health Policy Analysis

Students develop strategies for the analysis of health policy issues and learn to communicate effectively in the policy environment. Students gain a local, state, and federal perspective on the historical and political context of health policy and its effects on public health and health care systems, with an emphasis on population health outcomes.



PUBH 221 – Strategies for Community Engagement

Students master the concepts and practices of community engagement, including defining a community, developing community coalitions, forming multi-sector partnerships, social network theory, community-based participatory research, the community engagement continuum of impact, trust, and readiness, models of community change/intervention, community psychology, and community organizing. Students will apply these concepts in a culminating semester project that includes developing a community engagement strategy to address a health issue. Ethics in community engagement underlies the basic approach taken throughout the course.

PUBH 222 – Methods of Health Promotion

Explores theories of health communication, teaching and learning, marketing and advertising, and health behavior to prepare students to design effective health promotion interventions. Students will learn to utilize multiple methods of health promotion, including presentation planning, social marketing, material design, and mediated communication. This course also emphasizes the importance of public engagement and the development of effective communication with public health stakeholders including consumers, community groups, policy makers, health care providers, news media, and the general public.

PUBH 223 – Leadership in Public Health Practice

Examines the role of leadership in public health practice at the program, agency, and community-organization level, with an emphasis on leading community health improvement efforts. Students become aware of their leadership style through assessment and experiential activities, while learning to adapt their approach to leading across multiple settings. Particular emphasis is placed on leading groups and teams in practice settings often encountered by public health professionals.

PUBH 224 – Program Planning and Evaluation

Covers the essential elements of planning, implementing, and evaluating a health promotion program. Aspects of the course include the application of health behavior theory and program planning models, consideration of the social and physical determinants of health, structural influences on personal health status, and the influences of social and health policy on communities.

PUBH 225 – Topics in Public Health Seminar

Introduces students to a variety of pressing issues impacting current public health practice and provides an opportunity to explore one or more of those issues in greater depth. Students conduct research using multiple sources on a variety of topics, present findings to the class, and create a solution-centered project with potential applications for practice.

PUBH 295 – Public Health Practicum

Provides students with an in-depth, supervised experience in an applied practice setting. Students explore broad areas of public health practice and conduct supervised field research on a specific area of professional interest. Students further develop expertise in an area of interest by providing consultation and technical assistance to a project or organization engaged in public health work.

PUBH 500 – Public Health Capstone

Guides students through a culminating experience in the Master of Public Health program. Seminars discuss and review the integration of core public health concepts and concentration competencies. Students create materials that demonstrate the analysis, synthesis, and intersection of course work, while demonstrating mastery of the broad field of public health.

