



2025-2026 PROGRAM GUIDE:

Master of Public Health, Environmental Systems & Human Health

Information in this document is updated annually. Please refer to the document for the year you entered the program. Student resources, policies, and procedures applicable to all School of Public Health graduate students can be found on the SPH website, www.ohsu-psu-sph.org.

Overview

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ohsu-psu-sph.org/mph-environmental-systems-human-health

The MPH in Environmental Systems & Human Health (ESHH) program offers public health training for students who want to investigate and remediate environmental impacts on human health. Believing that a healthy environment is a cornerstone of preventive medicine, the goal of the program is to produce graduates who will be equipped to analyze and address relationships between human activities, the environment, and human health. The program emphases include environmental (e.g., climate) change and its effect on human health and well-being, environmental pathogens, environmental transport, fate and remediation of chemical contaminants, food web bioaccumulation, wastewater treatment, environmental risk assessment and communication, and social justice issues. Within the program, special attention will be given to mediating and modifying the effects of environmental disruptions on the health of vulnerable populations in a culturally competent, ethical manner.

Per OHSU policy, students have up to 6 years from the date of matriculation to complete their degree.

Program Competencies

- Communicate the relationship between environmental systems and human health, particularly in response to a changing climate.
- Analyze how environmental hazards (chemical, physical and biological) interact with natural and built systems, including the mechanisms of their adverse effects on humans.
- Assess and interpret relevant literature in the area of public health and environmental hazards.
- Evaluate the risk of environmental exposures to human populations through the incorporation of exposure, toxicological, and other relevant data into risk assessment methodology.
- Discuss how federal and state regulatory programs, guidelines and authorities impact environmental and occupational health issues.
- Apply ethical principles that govern the practice of environmental risk assessment, management, and communication.
- Specify approaches for assessing, preventing and controlling environmental and occupational hazards that pose risks to human health and safety.
- Integrate, synthesize and apply theory to practice in the context of a research study, policy consequences, or environmental exposure.
- Explain the general mechanisms of toxicity in eliciting a human health effect in response to various environmental and occupational exposures.



MPH Environmental Systems & Human Health Program of Study

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
Core Required Coursework and Exam (22 Credits) (Common to all MPH Programs)		
BSTA 525	Intro to Biostats	4
EPI 512	Epidemiology I	4
ESHH 511	Concepts of Environmental Health	3
HSMP 574	Health Systems Organization	3
PHE 512	Principles of Health Behavior	3
ESHH 509PE	Practice Experience	4
ESHH 502	Integrative Project	1
Program Required Coursework (26 Credits)		
UNI 504	Qualitative Methods for Health Professionals	2
ESHH 515 – OR – CPH 522	GIS for Public Health - OR - Communicating Public Health Data	3
ESHH 519	Environmental Health in a Changing World	3
ESHH 529	Environmental Toxicology & Risk Assessment	4
ESHH 521	Principles of Occupational Health	4
ESHH 530	Environmental & Occupational Health Chemistry	4
ESHH 532	Ecological Public Health	3
HSMP 573*	Values & Ethics in Health	3
Commonly taken electives (12 Credits)		
<i>ESHH courses</i>		
ESHH 510	Environmental Law for Public Health	3
ESHH 512	Global & Planetary Health Concepts	3
<i>SPH courses</i>		
CPH 531	Social Justice and Public Health	3
CPH 540	Systems Thinking for Public Health	3
CPH 550	Program Planning	3
EPI 513	Epidemiology II (Methods)	4
PHE 510	Risk & Crisis Communication for Public Health	3
PHE 510	Transgender Health	3
PHE 517	Community Organizing	3
PHE 519	Introduction to the Etiology of Disease	3
PHE 541	Media Advocacy & Public Health	3
<i>PSU – Environmental Science & Management & Geography courses**</i>		
ESM 552	Environmental Regulation & Non-Regulatory Approaches	3
ESM 587	Environmental Justice: Theory and Implication	4
ESM 588	Environmental Sustainability	4
GEOG 546	Water Resource Management	4
GEOG 567	Community Resilience in Coupled Socio-Ecological Systems	4
<i>Occupational Health courses**</i>		
PSY 510	Occupational Safety & Health	3
PSY 550	Occupational Health Psychology	3
PSY 510	Work and Well-Being	3
Total Credits		60



SCHOOL OF **PUBLIC HEALTH**

*Students must complete 30 credits before taking HSMP 573

**Courses outside of the School of Public Health require the SPH Special Registration form (<https://ohsu-psu-sph.org/forms/>)



MPH Environmental Systems & Human Health Sample Course Schedules (60 credits)

Below are your recommended schedules. Although other schedules are possible, you should try to adhere to the recommended sequence as much as possible; this assists in resource allocations at the level of the school. Be sure to consult with your Faculty Advisor regarding your program of study to choose the best electives for your educational and professional goals.

If you receive federal financial aid, it is important to be aware of financial aid requirements when planning your schedule. Federal loans require at least 1/2 time enrollment (5 credits). Please refer to the OHSU's "Student Financial Aid Explained" and "Standard Enrollment Plan" documents, paying particular attention to summer term, for more information. These documents can be found on OHSU's Financial Aid website here:

<https://www.ohsu.edu/education/financial-aid>.

Full-time student schedule

Year 1			
Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
ESHH 511 Concepts of Environ Hlth (3 cr.)	BSTA 525 Intro to Biostats (4 cr.)	ESHH 530 Env Hlth Chem (4 cr.)	CPH Exam
Epi 512 Epidemiology I (4 cr.)	PHE 512 Prin Hlth Behvr (3 cr.)	UNI 504 Qual Mthds Hlth (2 cr.)	<u>Summer Offerings:</u> BSTA 525 Intro to Biostats (4 cr.) EPI 512 Epidemiology I (4 cr.) HSMP 573 Val/Ethcs Hlth (3 cr.) HSMP 574 Hlth Sys Org (3 cr.)
ESHH 519 Environ Hlth Changing World (3 cr.)	ESHH 521 Prin Occ Hlth (4 cr.)	HSMP 574 (3 cr.)	Optional: Elective (1-4 cr)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend SPH Fall Welcome Meet with Advisor re: course selection and academic interests & goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with Advisor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with Advisor & Practice Experience coordinator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on PE: Learning Contract (if applicable)
Year 2			
Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
HSMP 573 Values & Ethics in Hlth (3 cr.)	ESHH Practice Experience (2 cr.)*	ESHH Practice Experience (2 cr.)*	
ESHH 529 Env Tox & Risk Assmnt (4 cr.)	ESHH 532 Ecol Pub Hlth (3 cr.)	ESHH Integrative Project (1 cr.)	
ESHH 515 GIS Publ Hlth (3 cr.)	Elective (3-4 cr.) e.g., ESHH 510 Environmental Law for Public Health	Elective (3-4 cr.) e.g., ESHH 512, Glob Plan Hlth Cncpts	
	Elective (2-3 cr.)	Elective (3-4 cr.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend SPH Fall Welcome Meet with Advisor re: PE, career goals, professional development goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with Advisor Apply for spring graduation Submit proposal for Integrative Project paper 		

*4 PE credits can be taken all at once or across terms; can be taken in Winter/Spring or Fall/Winter



Part-time student sample schedule

Year 1			
Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
ESHH 511 Cncpts Environ Hlth (3 cr.)	PHE 512 Prin Hlth Behvr (3 cr.)	ESHH 530 Env Occ Hlth Chem (4 cr.)	Optional: Elective (1-4 cr)
Epi 512 Epidemiology I (4 cr.)	ESHH 521 Prin Occ Hlth (4 cr.)	UNI 504 Qual Mthds Hlth (2 cr.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend SPH Fall Welcome Meet with Advisor re: course selection and academic interests & goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with Advisor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with Advisor 	
Year 2			
Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
ESHH 519 Envir Hlth Chang Wrld (3 cr.)	BSTA 525 Intro to Biostats (4 cr.)	HSMP 574 Hlth Syst Org (3 cr.)	Optional: Elective (1-4 cr)
HSMP 573 Values & Ethics in Hlth (3 cr.)	ESHH 532 Ecol Publ Hlth (3 cr.)	Elective (e.g., ESHH 512 Glob Plan Hlth Cncpts 3 cr.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend SPH Fall Welcome Meet with Advisor re: career goals, professional development goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with Advisor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with Advisor & Practice Experience coordinator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on PE: Learning Contract (if applicable)
Year 3			
Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
ESHH 529 Env Tox & Risk Assmnt (4 cr.)	ESHH 509PE Practice Experience (2 cr.)	ESHH 509 PE Practice Experience (2 cr.)	
ESHH 515 GIS Publ Hlth (3 cr.)	Elective (e.g., ESHH 510 Env Law Publ Hlth 3 cr.)	Elective (1-4 cr.)	
	Elective (1-4 cr.)	ESHH Integrative Project (1 cr.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend SPH Fall Welcome Meet with Advisor re: courses, career goals, PE/IP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit proposal for Integrative Project paper Apply for spring graduation 		



Graduate Student Resources, Policies, and Procedures

Policies and procedures applicable to all School of Public Health graduate students can be found on the SPH website, www.ohsu-psu-sph.org. Please review the student policies and procedures listed there, including but not limited to the following sections:

- ☐ Advising
- ☐ Academic Standing
- ☐ Academic Dismissal
- ☐ Academic Dishonesty
- ☐ Codes of Conduct
- ☐ Educational Records Privacy
- ☐ Minimum Course Grade Requirements
- ☐ Recognition of Prior Earned Credit
- ☐ Course Waiver Policy
- ☐ Incomplete Coursework
- ☐ Course Approvals (Electives)
- ☐ Independent Study
- ☐ International Travel and Coursework
- ☐ Continuous Enrollment
- ☐ Leave of Absence
- ☐ Withdrawal Policy
- ☐ Time Limits
- ☐ Student Complaint Procedure
- ☐ Degree and Certificate Conferral

Resources and support services available to SPH graduate students are listed on the SPH website, www.ohsu-psu-sph.org. Please review the resources listed there.