



2026-2027 PROGRAM GUIDE: Master of Public Health – Health Promotion

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

Program Director: Lynne Messer (lynne.messer@pdx.edu)

<https://ohsu-psu-sph.org/mph-health-promotion/>

The Health Promotion program is an interdisciplinary course of study providing students with specialized training in public health promotion and education. Through coursework and community-based experiences, students learn to address factors in the broader social, economic, policy, and built environments to improve the health of populations. In this track students build practice and research skills for population-level intervention, including program development, implementation, and evaluation. The curriculum further offers opportunities to focus on health across the lifespan. Graduates of the Health Promotion track will be able to effectively recognize and assess health disparities, communicate health information, promote health equity, and mobilize resources for social change.

Program Competencies

Students graduating from the MPH: Health Promotion (HP) degree program will be able to:

1. Design theory-informed, evidence-based health promotion interventions and initiatives.
2. Critically evaluate public health programs or policies with an equity lens and analysis of power dynamics.
3. Analyze the role of ethical principles and social justice in health promotion practice.
4. Collaborate with communities in the design and implementation of sustainable initiatives to advance health equity.
5. Formulate strategic health communications that are evidence-based, culturally responsive, and theory informed.

Competency-based achievement: Competencies consistent with graduate-level education (56 credits total) are achieved through core required courses, program required courses, and strengthened through elective courses, applied practice and integrative learning experiences, and an interprofessional requirement. Additional information about planning and selection of elective courses can be found at the end of this guide.

GPA and grade requirements: Minimum overall GPA of 3.0; minimum grade of “B-” in required courses and “C” in elective courses; no more than two grades lower than “B-” can be applied to the degree. More information may be found on the [Graduate Student Policies and Procedures](#) website.

Academic support and resources: [Academic resources](#) and [student support services](#) available to SPH graduate students are listed on the SPH website, www.ohsu-psu-sph.org. Please review the resources listed there.

Meeting basic needs and resources: Referrals (for [OHSU](#) and [PSU](#) students specifically) and resources are available to SPH graduate students for personal, physical, emotional challenges and [meeting basic needs](#).

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



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MPH: Health Promotion Program of Study

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
MPH Core (21 credits)		
PUBH 511	Foundations of Public Health	3
PUBH 521	Analytic Methods 1: Evidence Appraisal & Data Collection	3
PUBH 522	Analytic Methods 2: Applied Analysis	3
PUBH 531	Communicating Public Health	3
PUBH 532	Public Health Systems & Practice	3
PUBH 533	Environment & Health	3
PUBH 534	Upstream Public Health & Policy	3
Program Required Coursework (25 credits)		
PHE 512	Principles of Health Behavior	3
PHE 517	Community Organizing	3
PHE 519	Etiology of Disease	3
PHE 541	Media Advocacy and Public Health	3
PHE 550	Program Planning	3
Interprofessional Course	Any 500-level course with prefix IPE or UNI (other than IPE 501). Some example courses include: - UNI 504 Qualitative Methods for Health Professionals - IPE 523 Climate Change & Human Health - IPE 525 Relational Leadership - UNI 502 Conversations in Global Health - UNI 511 Data Equity for Health Professionals - Other courses with IPE or UNI prefix (other than IPE 501)	1*
Program Evaluation Selectives (pick one - 3 credits of the 25 required credits)		
HSMP 588	Program Evaluation & Management (Fall, Spring)	3
CPH 538	Public Health Program Evaluation (Winter)	3
PHE Program Selectives (pick two - 6 credits of the 25 required credits)		
PHE 520	Qualitative Research Design (Fall)	3
PHE 522	Health and Social Inequalities (Fall)	3
PHE 534	Social Epidemiology Methods and Theory (Spring)	3
PHE 542	Science Fiction and Public Health (Fall)	3
PHE 555	Decolonizing Public Health Research (Winter)	3
Culminating Experience (5 credits)		
PUBH 590	Applied Practice Experience	4
PUBH 595	Integrative Learning Experience	1
Elective Courses (5 Credits)		
	Any 500-level course with prefix BSTA, CPH, EPI, ESHH, HSMP, PHE, OR PUBH (except required courses)	5
	Other relevant courses with program approval	
Total credits required for MPH		56



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Some IPE courses are more than 1 credit. Students who take an IPE course that is greater than 1 credit can have the additional credits applied towards their elective requirement (9 cr.).

MPH Health Promotion: Recommended Course Sequence

Below are recommended course schedules for **full-time students**. Although other schedules are possible, please 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.

In a given term, CPH prefix courses as well as the asynchronous versions of PUBH will first prioritize the registration needs of students in the online Public Health Practice program, however, student in the MPH Health Promotion program will be able to register for these courses if space remains once priority registration lifts.

The program director holds quarterly group advising sessions that are an excellent opportunity to hear program updates, reminders on recommended course sequence, and to get answers to your emerging questions. In addition, your Faculty Advisor is an important resource. We recommend consulting with your Faculty Advisor quarterly regarding your program of study and course selection to determine the schedule that fits best for you.

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>. Dual degree MPH-HP/MSW and MPH/MURP students should consult [PSU's Office of Financial Aid](#) instead.

Part-time students will work closely with their advisors to ensure that all requirements for graduation are met in alignment with each student's needs and goals. Some courses are only offered once per year, so it is critical to work with your advisor to ensure you can complete them on the schedule that works for you without any lags in your progress

MPH Health Promotion: Full-time (FT) SUMMER Start Student Schedule

YEAR 1				YEAR 2		
Term	Course	Credits	Student actions	Course	Credits	Student actions
Summer	PHE 512 Principles of Health Behavior	3	Meet with Advisor re: course selection and academic interests & goals	Optional Electives	0 to 4	Work on APEx Learning Contract (if applicable)
	PHE 519 Etiology of Health and Disease	3		Optional Missed Core	3	
	Elective or PUB 533 Environment & Health	3		Optional IPE	1 to 2	
Fall	PUBH 511 Foundations of PH	3	- Attend SPH Fall Welcome - Attend group advising - Meet with Advisor to decide if you would like to stay with the MPH HP track or would like to consider another path	HSMP 588 Program Evaluation or CPH 538 Program Evaluation (in Winter)	3	- Attend SPH Fall Welcome - Attend group advising - Meet with Advisor re: APEx, career goals, professional development - Submit PE learning agreement
	PUBH 521 Analytic Methods 1	3		PHE Selective	3	
	PUBH 531 Communicating PH	3		IPE course	1	
Winter	PUBH 522 Analytic Methods II	3	- Attend group advising - Meet with Advisor - Meet with Practice Experience Coordinator	PHE 541 Media Advocacy	3	- Attend group advising - Meet with Advisor - Apply for Spring graduation - Submit proposal for Integrative Project
	PUBH 532 Systems and Practice	3		PHE 550 Program Planning	3	
	PUBH 533 Environment & Health or Elective	3		PUBH 590 APEx*	2	
Spring	PUBH 534 Upstream PH	3	- Attend group advising - Meet with Advisor - Meet with Practice Experience Coordinator	PHE Selective or Elective	3	- Attend group advising - Meet with Advisor - APEx presentation
	PHE 517 Community Organizing	3		PUBH 590 APEx*	2	
	PHE Selective or Elective	3		PUBH 595 ILE	1	

* PUBH 590 (Practice Experience) credits can be taken in a single term or across two terms, which is recommended. You will want to meet with the Practice Experience Coordinator at least one term before you plan to begin your APEx, although earlier (two terms) is better. Your Learning Agreement must be approved the term prior to registration for your PE.

REMINDER: students take **1** Program Evaluation Selective (3 credits), **2** PHE Selectives (6 credits) and **~2** Electives (5 credits)



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MPH Health Promotion: Full-time (FT) FALL Start Student Schedule

Term	YEAR 1			YEAR 2		
	Course	Credits	Student actions	Course	Credits	Student actions
Summer				Optional Electives	0 to 4	Work on APEx Learning Contract (if applicable)
				Optional Missed Core	3	
				Optional IPE	1 to 2	
Fall	PUBH 511 Foundations of PH	3	- Attend SPH Fall Welcome - Attend group advising - Meet with Advisor to decide if you would like to stay with the MPH HP track or would like to consider another path	HSMP 588 Program Evaluation or CPH 538 Program Evaluation (in Winter)	3	- Attend SPH Fall Welcome - Attend group advising - Meet with Advisor re: APEx, career goals, professional development - Submit PE learning agreement
	PUBH 521 Analytic Methods 1	3		PHE Selective or Elective	3	
	PUBH 531 Communicating PH	3		PHE Selective or Elective IPE course	3 1	
Winter	PUBH 522 Analytic Methods II	3	- Attend group advising - Meet with Advisor - Meet with Practice Experience Coordinator	PHE 541 Media Advocacy	3	- Attend group advising - Meet with Advisor - Apply for Spring graduation - Submit proposal for Integrative Project
	PUBH 532 Systems and Practice	3		PHE 550 Program Planning	3	
	PUBH 533 Environment & Health	3		PHE Selective or Elective PUBH 590 APEx*	3 2	
Spring	PUBH 534 Upstream PH	3	- Attend group advising - Meet with Advisor - Meet with Practice Experience Coordinator	PHE 517 Community Organizing	3	- Attend group advising - Meet with Advisor - APEx presentation
	PHE 512 Principles of Health Behavior	3		PHE Selective or Elective		
	PHE 519 Etiology of Health and Disease	3		PUBH 590 APEx* PUBH 595 ILE	2 1	

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REMINDER: students take **1** Program Evaluation Selective (3 credits), **2** PHE Selectives (6 credits) and **~2** Electives (5 credits)



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Graduate Student Resources, Policies, and Procedures

[Policies and procedures](https://ohsu-psu-sph.org/graduate-students-policies-and-procedures/) applicable to all School of Public Health graduate students can be found on the SPH website at <https://ohsu-psu-sph.org/graduate-students-policies-and-procedures/>. 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
- ☐ Grievance Resolution
- ☐ Degree and Certificate Conferral

[Academic resources](#) and [student support services](#) available to SPH graduate students are listed on the SPH website, www.ohsu-psu-sph.org. Please review the resources listed there.