

2026-2027 PROGRAM GUIDE: Master of Public Health, Public Health Practice

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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<https://ohsu-psu-sph.org/degree-programs/master-public-health/mph-php/>

Students in the MPH in Public Health Practice program acquire broad knowledge about and perspectives on public health policy and practice, with particular emphasis on improving primary healthcare accessibility and quality for underserved populations based on the concepts and principles of primary health care defined by the World Health Organization (universal coverage, service delivery, public policy, leadership, and stakeholder participation). To support working and distance students, coursework for the MPH in Public Health Practice program may be completed entirely online. Online MPH students also have the option to complete some of their courses in person. Graduates are employed by state and local government agencies, non-profits, and community organizations.

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

Program Competencies

Students graduating from the MPH in Public Health Practice (PHP) program will be able to:

1. **Design** public health research and practice initiatives in collaboration with communities, policymakers, and leadership, grounded in equity, anti-racism, and social justice.
2. **Evaluate** the implementation and outcomes of public health research and practice for effectiveness, efficiency, and adherence to equity, anti-racism, community engagement, and social justice principles.
3. **Co-create** ethical programs and policies for navigating complex organizational, political, and societal contexts in public health practice settings.
4. **Communicate** complex public health data and concepts effectively to diverse audiences, including policymakers, leadership, and community members.
5. **Apply** advanced grant writing, budgeting, and resource management techniques to secure, lead, and sustain public health initiatives.
6. **Synthesize** diverse sources of scientific literature and data to inform policymakers, leadership, and communities involved in evidence-based decision-making in public health practice.

Competency-based achievement: Competencies consistent with graduate-level education (56 credits total) are achieved through core required courses (21 credits), program required courses (25 credits), and strengthened through elective courses (5 credits), applied practice and integrative learning experiences (5 credits), and an interprofessional requirement (1 credit). Additional information about planning and selection of elective courses can be found at the end of this guide.

Applied practice experience (APEX): Toward the end of their program, students will demonstrate and apply their competency-based learning in a practice setting toward the end of their program. Students should begin planning for the APEX as early as possible, connecting with the APEX Coordinator 2 terms before registration to prepare and submit your Learning Agreement. Students must have completed their core MPH courses (PUBH); completion of

specific courses for the APEx should be discussed with the APEx preceptor. We recommend students start their APEx in winter term of their final year (2 credits) and complete in the spring term (2 credits) if they would like to graduate in the spring term. However, students may register in other terms or complete the APEx in one term (4 credits) depending on their needs. More information may be found on the [Applied Practice Experience](#) website.

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](#).

MPH Public Health Practice 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)		
CPH 521	Social Determinants of Health	3
CPH 528	Quality Improvement and Management in Health Systems	3
CPH 535	Leading People and Teams in Public Health	3
CPH 536	Community Engagement	3
CPH 540	Systems Thinking for Public Health	3
Program Planning and Evaluation Selectives	CPH courses are online and preferred <i>Select one:</i> - CPH 538 Public Health Program Evaluation - HSMP 588 Program Evaluation & Management in Health Services (in person) <i>Select one:</i> - CPH 550 Public Health Program Planning - PHE 550 Program Planning (in person)	3
Topics & Applications Selectives	<i>Select one:</i> - CPH 527 Applied Epidemiology - CPH 531 Social Justice and Public Health - HSMP 581 Population Health: Policy & Practice Implications - HSMP 574 Health Systems Organization	3

	• HSMP 582 Oregon Health Policy: Lessons for State and National Reform • ESHH 515 GIS for Public Health	
Interprofessional requirement (1 credit)		
	Any 500-level course with prefix IPE or UNI other than IPE 501	1
	*Note: if IPE/UNI course is more than 1 credit, you may apply extra credit(s) to elective requirements.	
Culminating Experience (5 credits) – toward the end of the program		
PUBH 590-PHP	Applied Practice Experience (APEX)	4
PUBH 595-PHP	Integrative Learning Experience (ILEX)	1
Electives (5 credits)		
	Any 500-level course with prefix BSTA, CPH, EPI, ESHH, HSMP, PHE, or PUBH (except required courses)	
	Other relevant courses with program approval	
Total Credits Required for MPH		56

Abbreviations of course prefixes: BSTA, Biostatistics; CPH, Public Health Practice; EPI, Epidemiology; ESHH, Environmental Systems and Human Health; HSMP, Health Systems Management and Policy; IPE, Interprofessional Education; PHE, Health Promotion; PUBH, Public Health Core Studies; UNI, University Curriculum.

MPH Public Health Practice Recommended Course Sequencing

Below are recommended course schedules for full and part-time students. Because course scheduling may vary from year to year, and other elective selections and overall schedule configurations are possible, limited modifications to this course plan are possible. Although other schedules may be possible, you should try to adhere to the recommended sequence as much as possible; some core MPH and your required program public health practice classes are offered in specific terms and should be taken in certain sequences. 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 each term, public health courses (CPH prefix) as well as the asynchronous versions of PUBH will first prioritize the registration needs of students in the online Public Health Practice program. However, students in other MPH programs will be able to register for these courses if space remains once priority registration is lifted.

Your Faculty Advisor is an important resource, along with the Program Director. 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 ½ 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>.



MPH Public Health 12 Months: Summer Start Student Schedule

Term	Year 1						
	Course	Credits	Student Actions		Course	Credits	Student Actions
Summer	CPH 535 Leading People and Teams in Public Health	3	• Attend SPH Summer Welcome • Meet with advisor re: course selection and academic interests & goals • You must contact your advisor and Program Director before registering for an elective • Meet with Applied Practice Experience Coordinator and work on Learning Agreement	Spring	PUBH 534 Upstream Public Health & Policy	3	• Meet with advisor to wrap up any academic goals • Apply for graduation, if walking in the spring
	CPH 521 Social Determinants of Health	3			CPH 536 Community Engagement	3	
	CPH 528 Quality Improvement and Management in Health Systems	3			Spring Selective or Elective (see note)	3	
	PUBH 533 Environment & Health	3			PUBH 590-PHP Applied Practice Experience (see note)	2 or 4	
	HSMP 574 Health Systems Organization (Selective) or Elective (see note)	3 or 4			PUBH 595-PHP Integrative Learning Experience, if graduating	1	
	UNI or IPE course (optional)	1 or 2		Summer (if needed)	PUBH 590-PHP Applied Practice Experience (see note)	2	• If needed, finish the APEx in the summer • Apply for graduation, if walking in the summer
					PUBH 595-PHP Integrative Learning Experience	1	
Fall	PUBH 511 Foundations of Public Health	3	• Please contact your advisor and Program Director before registering for an elective • Turn in APEx Learning Agreement and register for APEx (if beginning in Winter)	Note: Meet with the APEx Coordinator 2 terms before you plan to begin your APEx. Your Learning Agreement must be approved <u>the term prior</u> to registration for your APEx.			
	PUBH 521 Analytic Methods 1: Evidence Appraisal & Data Collection	3					
	PUBH 531 Communicating Public Health	3					
	CPH 550 Program Planning	3					
	Fall Selective or Elective (see note)	3 or 4					
	UNI or IPE course (optional)	1 or 2					
Winter	PUBH 522 Analytic Methods II: Applied Analysis	3	• Meet with advisor re: course selection & academic goals • Turn in APEx Learning Agreement (if beginning in Spring) • Submit proposal for Integrative Learning Experience • Please contact your advisor and Program Director before registering for an elective				
	PUBH 532 Public Health Systems and Practice	3					
	CPH 538 Program Evaluation	3					
	CPH 540 Systems Thinking for Public Health	3					
	Winter Selective or Elective (see note)	3 or 4					
	UNI or IPE course (optional)	1 or 2					
	PUBH 590-PHP Applied Practice Experience (see note)	2					



MPH Public Health Practice: Full-time (FT) Summer Start Student Schedule

Term	Year 1			Year 2		
	Course	Credits	Student Actions	Course	Credits	Student Actions
Summer	CPH 535 Leading People and Teams in Public Health	3	- Attend SPH Summer Welcome - Meet with advisor re: course selection and academic interests & goals	Optional Elective (see note)	3 to 4	- Meet with APEX Coordinator and work on Learning Contract - Please contact advisor and Program Director before registering for an elective
	CPH 521 Social Determinants of Health	3		Optional Missed Core	3	
	CPH 528 Quality Improvement and Management in Health Systems	3		Optional UNI or IPE	1 to 2	
Fall	PUBH 511 Foundations of Public Health	3	- Attend SPH Fall Welcome - Meet with advisor re: course selection and academic interests & goals	CPH 550 Program Planning	3	- Meet with advisor re: course selection & academic interests - Turn in APEX Learning Agreement and register for APEX - Please contact advisor and Program Director before registering for an elective
	PUBH 521 Analytic Methods 1: Evidence Appraisal & Data Collection	3		Fall Selective or Elective (see note)	3 or 4	
	PUBH 531 Communicating Public Health	3		Fall Selective or Elective (see note)	3 or 4	
	UNI or IPE course (optional)	1 or 2		UNI or IPE course (optional)	1 or 2	
Winter	PUBH 522 Analytic Methods II: Applied Analysis	3	Meet with advisor and decide if you would like to stay in the MPH CPH track or consider another path	CPH 538 Program Evaluation	3	- Meet with advisor re: career goals, professional development - Submit proposal for Integrative Learning Experience - Turn in APEX Learning Agreement and register for APEX (if completing as 4 credits in the spring)
	PUBH 532 Public Health Systems and Practice	3		CPH 540 Systems Thinking for Public Health	3	
	PUBH 533 Environment & Health	3		UNI or IPE course (optional)	1 or 2	
	UNI or IPE course (optional)	1 or 2		PUBH 590-PHP Applied Practice Experience (see note)	2	
Spring	PUBH 534 Upstream Public Health & Policy	3	- Meet with advisor re: course selection and academic interests & goals - Please contact your advisor and Program Director before registering for an elective	Spring Selective or Elective (see note)	3 or 4	- Meet with advisor to wrap up any academic goals - Please contact advisor and Program Director before registering for an elective - Apply for graduation
	CPH 536 Community Engagement	3		PUBH 590-PHP Applied Practice Experience	2 or 4	
	Spring Selective or Elective (see note)	3 or 4		PUBH 595-PHP Integrative Learning Experience	1	
	UNI or IPE course (optional)	1 or 2		UNI or IPE course (optional)	1 or 2	

Note: Meet with the APEX Coordinator 2 terms before you plan to begin your APEX. Your Learning Agreement must be approved the term prior to registration for your APEX.



MPH Public Health Practice: Full-time (FT) Fall Start Student Schedule

Term	Year 1			Year 2		
	Course	Credits	Student Actions	Course	Credits	Student Actions
Summer				Optional Elective (see note)	3 to 4	• Please contact advisor and Program Director before registering for an elective • Meet with APEx Coordinator and work on Learning Contract
				Optional Missed Core	3	
				Optional UNI or IPE	1 to 2	
Fall	PUBH 511 Foundations of Public Health	3	• Attend SPH Fall Welcome • Meet with advisor re: course selection and academic interests & goals	CPH 550 Program Planning	3	• Meet with advisor re: course selection & academic interests • Please contact advisor and Program Director before registering for an elective • Turn in APEx Learning Agreement and register for APEx (if beginning in winter)
	PUBH 521 Analytic Methods 1: Evidence Appraisal & Data Collection	3		CPH 535 Leading People and Teams in Public Health	3	
	PUBH 531 Communicating Public Health	3		Fall Selective or Elective (see note)	3 or 4	
	UNI or IPE course (optional)	1 or 2		UNI or IPE course (optional)	1 or 2	
Winter	PUBH 522 Analytic Methods II: Applied Analysis	3	• Meet with advisor and decide if you would like to stay in the MPH CPH track or consider another path	CPH 538 Program Evaluation	3	• Meet with advisor re: career goals, professional development • Submit proposal for Integrative Learning Experience • Turn in APEx Learning Agreement and register for APEx (if beginning in spring)
	PUBH 532 Public Health Systems and Practice	3		CPH 540 Systems Thinking for Public Health	3	
	PUBH 533 Environment & Health	3		CPH 528 Quality Improvement and Management in Health Systems	3	
	UNI or IPE course (optional)	1 or 2		UNI or IPE course (optional)	1 or 2	
				PUBH 590-PHP Applied Practice Experience*	2	
Spring	PUBH 534 Upstream Public Health & Policy	3	• Meet with advisor re: course selection and academic interests & goals	Spring Selective or Elective (see note)	3 or 4	• Meet with advisor to wrap up any academic goals • Please contact advisor and Program Director before registering for an elective • Apply for graduation, if walking in the spring
	CPH 536 Community Engagement	3		PUBH 590-PHP Applied Practice Experience*	2 or 4	
	CPH 521 Social Determinants of Health	3		PUBH 595-PHP Integrated Learning Experience (if graduating in spring)	1	
	UNI or IPE course (optional)	1 or 2				

Note: : Meet with the APEx Coordinator 2 terms before you plan to begin your APEx. Your Learning Agreement must be approved the term prior to registration for your APEx.

*Summer (If needed)	PUBH 590-PHP Applied Practice Experience	2	• Apply for graduation, if walking in the summer
	PUBH 595-PHP Integrative Learning Experience	1	



MPH Public Health Practice: Part-time (PT) Summer Start Student Schedule

Term	Year 1			Year 2			Year 3		
	Course	Credits	Student Actions	Course	Credits	Student Actions	Course	Credits	Student Actions
Summer Options (3-6 credits)	CPH 528 Quality Improvement, Management in Health Systems*	3	• *Register for CPH 528 in summer • Attend SPH Summer Welcome • Meet with advisor re: course selection and academic interests & goals	Optional Missed Core or Elective (see note)	3 to 4	• Please contact advisor and Program Director before registering for an elective	Selective or Elective if applicable	3 or 4	• Meet with advisor re: career goals, professional development • Check with advisor before registering for elective • Submit proposal for Integrative Learning Experience • Apply to graduate (if graduating in the summer)
	CPH 535 Leading People and Teams in Public Health	3		Optional Missed Core	3		Selective or Elective if applicable	3 or 4	
	CPH 521 Social Determinants of Health	3		Optional UNI or IPE	1 to 2		PUBH 590-PHP Applied Practice Experience*	2 or 4	
Fall	PUBH 511 Foundations of Public Health	3	• Meet with advisor re: course selection and academic interests & goals	CPH 550 Program Planning	3	• Meet with advisor re: course selection & academic interests • If you have not taken CPH 535 Leading People, take CPH 535 this term instead • Meet with APEx Coordinator and work on Learning Contract	PUBH 590-PHP Applied Practice Experience*	2 or 4	• Apply to graduate (if graduating in the fall)
	PUBH 521 Analytic Methods 1: Evidence Appraisal & Data Collection	3		PUBH 531 Communicating Public Health or CPH 535 (see note)	3		PUBH 595-PHP Integrative Learning Experience	1	
		UNI or IPE course (optional)		1 or 2	UNI or IPE course (optional)		1 or 2	Note: Meet with the APEx Coordinator 2 terms before you plan to begin your APEx. Your Learning Agreement must be approved <u>the term prior</u> to registration for your APEx.	
Winter	PUBH 522 Analytic Methods II: Applied Analysis	3	• Meet with advisor and decide if you would like to stay in the MPH CPH track or consider another path	CPH 538 Program Evaluation	3	• Turn in APEx Learning Agreement and register for APEx			
	PUBH 532 Public Health Systems and Practice	3		CPH 540 Systems Thinking for Public Health	3				
	UNI or IPE course (optional)	1 or 2		UNI or IPE course (optional)	1 or 2				
Spring	PUBH 534 Upstream Public Health & Policy	3	• Meet with advisor re: course selection and academic interests & goals • *Take CPH 536 or CPH 521, depending on what you took in the summer	Spring Selective or Elective (see note)	3 or 4	• Meet with advisor re: course selection & academic interests • Please contact advisor and Program Director before registering for an elective			
	CPH 536 Community Engagement or CPH 521 Social Determinants of Health*	3		CPH 536 Community Engagement	3				
	UNI or IPE course (optional)	1 or 2		UNI or IPE course (optional)	1 or 2				



MPH Public Health Practice: Part-time (PT) Fall Start Student Schedule

Term	Year 1			Year 2			Year 3		
	Course	Credits	Student Actions	Course	Credits	Student Actions	Course	Credits	Student Actions
Su				Missed Core or Elective (see note)	3 to 4	• Please contact advisor and Program Director before registering for an elective	Missing Core, if applicable	3 or 4	• Meet with advisor re: career goals, professional development • Check with advisor before registering for elective
				Missed Core	3		Selective or Elective if applicable	3 or 4	
				UNI or IPE course (optional)	1 or 2		UNI or IPE (optional)	1 or 2	
Fall	PUBH 511 Foundations of Public Health	3	• Attend SPH Fall Welcome • Meet with advisor re: course selection and academic interests & goals	CPH 550 Program Planning	3	• Meet with advisor re: course selection & academic interests	Remaining Fall PUBH or CPH course	3	• Meet with advisor to wrap up academic goals • Check with advisor before registering for elective • Submit proposal for Integrative Learning Experience • Apply to graduate (if graduating in the summer)
	PUBH 521 Analytic Methods 1: Evidence Appraisal & Data Collection	3		PUBH 531 Communicating Public Health	3		Remaining Fall Selective or Elective	3 or 4	
	UNI or IPE course (optional)	1 or 2		UNI or IPE course (optional)	1 or 2		PUBH 590-PHP Applied Practice Experience*	2 or 4	
Win	PUBH 522 Analytic Methods II: Applied Analysis	3	• Meet with advisor and decide if you would like to stay in the MPH CPH track or consider another path	CPH 538 Program Evaluation	3	• Meet with APEx Coordinator and work on Learning Contract	CPH 528 Quality Improvement, Management in Health Systems	3	• Apply to graduate (if graduating in the fall)
	PUBH 532 Public Health Systems and Practice	3		CPH 540 Systems Thinking for Public Health	3		PUBH 590-PHP Applied Practice Experience*	2 or 4	
	UNI or IPE course (optional)	1 or 2		UNI or IPE course (optional)	1 or 2		PUBH 595-PHP Integrative Learning Experience	1	
Sp	PUBH 534 Upstream Public Health & Policy	3	• Meet with advisor re: course selection and academic interests & goals	Spring Selective or Elective (see note)	3 or 4	• Meet with advisor re: course selection & academic interests • Please contact advisor and Program Director before registering for an elective • Turn in APEx Learning Agreement and register for APEx (for fall start)	Note: Meet with the APEx Coordinator 2 terms before you plan to begin your APEx. Your Learning Agreement must be approved <u>the term prior</u> to registration for your APEx.		
	CPH 536 Community Engagement or CPH 521 Social Determinants of Health	3		CPH 536 Community Engagement or CPH 521 Social Determinants of Health	3				
	UNI or IPE course (optional)	1 or 2		UNI or IPE course (optional)	1 or 2				



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