



UNIVERSITY *of* HAWAI'I *at* MĀNOA*

THOMPSON SCHOOL

SOCIAL WORK & PUBLIC HEALTH

OFFICE *of* Public Health Studies

Graduate Program
Information

2025-2026

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ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I

The University of Hawai'i is a postsecondary system comprised of 10 campuses throughout the state of Hawai'i. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, the flagship campus, is located in Mānoa Valley on the island of O'ahu. Founded in 1907 as a land-grant college of agriculture and mechanic arts, the College of Hawai'i moved to its present location in 1912 and with the addition of the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Hawai'i became the University of Hawai'i.

ACCREDITATION

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

ABOUT THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH STUDIES

The Office of Public Health Studies (OPHS) is under the Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health along with the Department of Social Work and the Center on Aging. The shared vision is "achieving social justice and health equity for the people of Hawai'i and citizens in a changing world."

ACCREDITATION

The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) is the national accrediting body for schools and programs in public health. The Office of Public Health Studies has been accredited by CEPH continuously since 2002. Our current seven-year accreditation term extends to December 2030.

PUBLICATION

This publication was prepared to provide information on our graduate program and does not constitute a contract. We reserve the right to change or delete, supplement, or otherwise amend at any time and without prior notice the information, requirements, and policies contained in this publication. This publication is also available at <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/publichealth/>.

PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Office of Public Health Studies is to advance and protect the health and wellbeing of the peoples of Hawai‘i, the Pacific, Asia, and Indigenous peoples, through teaching, discovery, innovation, community engagement, inclusion, and leadership.

PROGRAM VISION STATEMENT

Perpetuate pono¹ living, locally and globally, to prepare advocates and stewards for social justice and health equity.

GOALS

1. To support students' mastery of their degree competencies through quality courses, research opportunities, and relevant practicum experiences.
2. To conduct and disseminate public health research with a focus on Hawai‘i, the Pacific, Asia and Indigenous peoples.
3. To serve the public health workforce, state, federal or international organizations through education, consultation and research.
4. To support program excellence through evaluation, funding, training, and diversity, equity and inclusion towards becoming a Native Hawaiian place of learning².

VALUES

We value:

- Scholarly excellence and integrity
- Respect for people, land, and perspectives
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Collaboration and Community Engagement
- Ho‘olohe³ (listening and responding) to the needs of the community
- Mālama ‘Āina⁴ and Environmental Justice

1 In our unit and in alignment with wehewehe.org, pono is loosely defined as goodness, uprightness, righteous, just, moral qualities, correct or proper procedure, excellence, wellbeing, and “doing what is right”.

2 In alignment with University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa strategic plans – <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/nhpol/>

3 In our unit and in alignment with wehewehe.org, ho‘olohe is loosely defined as listening and responding.

4 In our unit and in alignment with wehewehe.org, mālama is loosely defined as to take care of, tend, care for, preserve, protect, save, and maintain; ‘Āina is loosely defined as nature, environment, land extending from mountain to sea, that which feeds, and that which nourishes.

THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Master's Degrees

The **Master of Public Health (MPH) degree program** provides individuals with a broad background for professional practice in the field of public health at state, national, and international levels.

The **Master of Science (MS) degree program** provides students with a research-oriented education in a specialty area within the broad field of public health.

All master's degree students are required to select one area of specialization. The program currently offers the MPH degree with a specialization in epidemiology, health policy and management, Native Hawaiian and Indigenous health, and social and behavioral health sciences, and the MS degree with a specialization in epidemiology.

Doctoral Degrees

The **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program** in public health prepares students to teach, lead programs, and conduct independent investigations addressing public health topics relevant to culturally diverse groups, especially those in the state of Hawai'i and the Asia-Pacific region. The PhD in Public Health focuses on translational research, and emphasizes community-based participatory research methodologies, reflecting our commitment to working in partnership with people and communities to recognize, quantify, and reduce health disparities.

The **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program** in epidemiology prepares students to teach in academic and other settings, conduct independent and collaborative epidemiologic research, and provide consultative services to academic, not-for-profit, governmental, and private organizations.

Laptop Initiative

Universal computing is integrated in public health courses. This means that students in graduate classes should have software and Internet resources at their fingertips during and between instructional times. Instructors can incorporate new learning methodologies, Internet, research etc. in any classroom. Universal computing also improves and increases communication access with fellow students and faculty.

This initiative requires that students enrolled in our graduate programs bring a laptop computer to class (or as directed by instructors). The following software is required:

Office Software Suite (word processor, spreadsheet, presentations)

Adobe Acrobat Reader

Firefox (or alternate web browser)

EndNote

Statistical Software

SAS	STATA
Epidemiology	Health Policy and Management

MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS AND SPECIALIZATIONS

EPIDEMIOLOGY

Specialization Head: Eric Hurwitz, DC, PhD, (808) 956-7425

Email: ehurwitz@hawaii.edu

Overview

Epidemiology is the study of the distributions and determinants of health-related events/outcomes in populations. A basic focus of epidemiology is to investigate the distribution of diseases in different populations. Determining the prevalence and risk factors associated with these events/disease outcomes, as well as measuring the magnitude of such occurrences, is the scientific backbone of public health. An essential part of epidemiological investigation involves the utilization of epidemiologic and biostatistical methods and appropriate research study design to evaluate the effectiveness of disease control measures.

Students enrolled in the epidemiology specialization are required to take advanced level training in chronic and infectious disease epidemiology, advanced biostatistics, and research design. There is opportunity for students to choose from epidemiology electives in the following areas: infectious diseases (e.g. dengue virus, malaria, and HIV/AIDS), nutrition, non-communicable diseases (e.g. diabetes and cardiovascular diseases), obesity, and cancer. Course work in specialized statistical methods and computer applications is also available. Students participate in on-going epidemiological research programs throughout the UH Mānoa system or community during their field practicum assignment.

Degree Programs Offered

Master of Public Health (MPH)

MPH students specializing in epidemiology gain knowledge and skills in research methods, biostatistics, the collection, analysis, and interpretation of epidemiologic data, computer applications, and the epidemiology of chronic and infectious diseases. All MPH students complete the core public health coursework in epidemiology, biostatistics, health promotion theory and methods, health services, program planning, and environmental health. MPH students specializing in epidemiology also complete advanced coursework focused on study design, biostatistics, computer application, and professional skills. The 240-hour practicum allows students to apply knowledge and skills in a community public health setting. During their final semester, students prepare a report on their practicum experience, complete a research-intensive final paper, and deliver a public presentation to demonstrate mastery of program competencies and integration of specialization knowledge, and to present their capstone findings.

The MPH degree program generally requires two academic years of full-time study and the required number of credits for graduation is 42. A minimum of 18 credits must be earned in courses numbered 600-798, including at least one graduate seminar in the major or a related field. No more than 9 credits of PH 699 (directed reading/research) may be applied to meet the degree requirements. Please note that the precise degree requirements for each student will be determined in consultation with his/her advisor and program committee members.

Students with a professional interest in epidemiology should pursue the master of public health (MPH) degree.

Master of Science (MS)

The MS (Thesis, Plan A) degree program generally requires two academic years of full-time study. A minimum of 32 credit hours is required, which must include 18 credits of course work between 6 to 12 hours of thesis research (PH 700). A minimum of 12 credits must be earned in courses numbered 600-798 (excluding 699 and 700), including at least one graduate seminar in the major or a related field. No more than 12 credits (combined total) of PH 699 (directed reading/research) and PH 700 (thesis research) may be applied to meet these minimum requirements. Candidates must complete a thesis as well as a final oral examination. Please note that the precise degree requirements for each student will be determined in consultation with his/her advisor and thesis committee members to meet the student's professional goals.

Students whose objective is research or doctoral study are expected to select the MS Plan A thesis degree program.

Qualifications for Admission

In addition to meeting the general admissions requirements of the University's Graduate Division, individuals applying to the epidemiology specialization will be expected to have the academic background, experience, interests and commitment for professional training in this field. While no specific undergraduate major is specified, candidates should have one year of course work in a biological science, chemistry, and at least one semester of calculus is recommended. Applicants must also have computer skills in word processing, spreadsheet construction, and Internet applications. Experience in an applied health-related field or biomedical research is preferred.

HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Specialization Head: Tetine Sentell, PhD (808) 956-5781

Email: tsentell@hawaii.edu

Overview

The decisions, plans, and actions organizations and governments take to achieve health promotion and care goals are the jurisdiction of health policy and management (HPM). Delivering high quality, cost effective health care and developing policies that lead to health and reduce disparities are complex and dynamic processes that integrate topics from a diversity of disciplines and sub-disciplines including, but not limited to: health administration, economics, evaluation, human rights, ethics, anthropology and sociology, etc. HPM is a diverse specialization that prepares graduates for health-related work across the health services continuum from policy development, program planning, implementation and management, program and policy evaluation, and health systems leadership to achieve intended health outcomes.

The mission of the HPM graduate program is to promote and protect the public's health through the preparation of graduates for careers aimed at leadership in health services policy and management, and to conduct research and disseminate knowledge that will advance the organization, financing, and delivery of health services. HPM courses are designed to develop students' critical thinking and apply problem-solving skills across the public and private sector to address health challenges in the state of Hawai'i, the Asia-Pacific region, and around the world.

Degree Program Offered

Master of Public Health (MPH)

The MPH degree in HPM prepares students for a professional career in health services, policy, and management. All MPH students complete the core public health coursework in epidemiology, biostatistics, health promotion theory and methods, health services, program planning, and environmental health, as well as an integrative seminar, a field practicum, a final scholarly capstone paper, and an oral capstone examination. In addition, students complete the following HPM courses: 1) Advanced Topics in Health Policy; 2) Leading and Managing Health Programs; 3) Health Ethics, Law and Politics; 4) Managing Global Health Service Delivery, and 5) Computer Applications in Public Health.

The MPH degree program generally requires two academic years of full-time study and the required number of credits for graduation is 42. A minimum of 18 credits must be earned in courses numbered 600-798, including at least one graduate seminar in the major or a related field. No more than 9 credits of PH 699 (directed reading/research) may be applied to meet the degree requirements. Please note that the precise degree requirements for each student will be determined in consultation with his/her advisor and program committee members.

Master of Public Health (MPH) – Distance Education (DE)

The MPH (DE) degree specializing in HPM offers the same curriculum as the in-person program, however, the courses have been adapted for asynchronous online delivery with a mandatory 3-day face-to-face orientation at the start of the program and a 3-day face-to-face research showcase at the mid-point of the program. The face-to-face components will be held on the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa campus. Students will be responsible for coordinating their travel and accommodations for the face-to-face elements. **Please note that graduate and employee tuition waivers are not accepted for the asynchronous online MPH.**

Qualifications for Admission

Health policy and management applicants must meet the Graduate Division's admission requirements. Applicants must have computer skills in word processing, spreadsheet construction, and Internet applications. Preference may be given to students with training in health, administration, economics, human services or social science. Work experience in health care or human services is preferred, but not required.

NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND INDIGENOUS HEALTH

Specialization Head: Mapuana Antonio, DrPH (808) 956-2334

Email: antoniom@hawaii.edu

Overview

Indigenous communities, peoples and nations are defined as the first inhabitants of an area and their descendants, who consider themselves distinct from other parts of the present-day societies now residing on their territories. At present, many Indigenous Peoples make up the non-dominant part of society; yet remain determined to preserve, develop, and transmit their ancestral knowledge to future generations.

The Native Hawaiian and Indigenous health (NHIH) specialization is designed to provide students with skills and training necessary to serve Indigenous peoples and to assist in addressing their health and wellness needs. Indigenous peoples throughout the world experience grave health and socioeconomic disparities. Many of these inequities result from historical national and local policies designed to eliminate and/or assimilate Indigenous peoples. Knowledge of history, policy, social determinants of health, and ethics is essential to address and eliminate the inequities experienced by Indigenous peoples.

Degree Program Offered

Master of Public Health (MPH)

The NHIH specialization will prepare students for leadership roles in Indigenous health policy, culturally safe health services, and Indigenous health promotion. Graduates will better meet the social and cultural needs of Indigenous Peoples, thereby enhancing the quality and effectiveness of health services, policies, and health promotion. The improved quality and effectiveness of Indigenous health services contributes to the reduction of Indigenous health disparities and the improvement of Indigenous peoples' health.

All MPH students complete the core public health coursework in epidemiology, biostatistics, health promotion and theory and methods, health services, program planning, and environmental health. MPH students specializing in NHIH also complete: 1) Indigenous Health Seminar; 2) Native Health Ethics, Law and Policy; 3) Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, Environment & Health; and 4) Indigenous Applied Research Methods, and 5) Survey Methods for Indigenous Peoples. The 240-hour field practicum is required which allows students to apply knowledge and skills in a community public health setting. During their final semester, students prepare a report on their practicum experience, complete a research-intensive final paper, and deliver a public presentation to demonstrate mastery of program competencies and to present their capstone findings. The capstone includes a final oral examination where students demonstrate mastery of program competencies and integration of specialization knowledge. A student-selected advisor and program committee guides the student's course of study, practicum experience, capstone, and research paper.

The MPH generally requires two academic years of full-time study and 42 credits for graduation. A minimum of 18 credits must be earned in courses numbered 600-798, including at least one graduate seminar in the major or related field. No more than 9 credits of PH 699 may be applied to meet degree requirements. The precise degree requirements for each student will be determined in consultation with his/her advisor and program committee members.

Qualifications for Admission

In addition to meeting the general admission requirements of the University's Graduate Division, individuals applying to the NHIH specialization are expected to have the academic background, experience, interest, and commitment for professional training in public health. While no specific undergraduate major is specified, candidates should have completed course work in the social sciences or humanities such as mathematics or statistics, public policy or political science, and psychology or sociology. Applicants must also have computer skills in word processing, spreadsheet construction, and Internet applications. Experience in an applied health/social sciences field or in health/social sciences research which serves an Indigenous population is preferred.

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SCIENCES

Specialization Head: Jane Chung-Do, DrPH, (808) 956-4548

Email: chungjae@hawaii.edu

Overview

Over the last century, chronic diseases have replaced infectious diseases as the leading causes of death and, despite advances in medicine and technology, health disparities continue to persist. Unhealthy lifestyle behaviors such as tobacco use, lack of physical activity, poor nutrition, unsafe sexual practices, substance abuse, and overexposure to the sun are major contributors to disability and death. Social determinants of health, such as discrimination, poverty, dangerous living and working environments, and unequal distribution of resources (including health care resources), also affect health status. MPH students specializing in social and behavioral health sciences (SBHS) gain knowledge and skills to assess community health needs and strengths, tailor programs to fit communities, write grants to garner funding and resources for public health interventions, evaluate the effectiveness of programs, communicate health information, and conduct health promotion research.

Course assignments provide students with opportunities to apply knowledge, to practice skills, and enhance computer literacy. Students also are provided opportunities to participate in university-based projects and/or collaborate with non-profit organizations, governmental agencies, and community groups to promote wellness in Hawai'i's diverse communities.

Degree Programs Offered

Master of Public Health (MPH)

All MPH students complete the core public health coursework in epidemiology, biostatistics, health promotion theory and methods, health services, program planning, and environmental health. MPH students specializing in SBHS also completed advanced and elective course work focused on health communication, research methods, grant writing, and evaluation. The 240-hour practicum allows students to apply knowledge and skills in a community public health setting. During the final semester, students prepare a report of their practicum experience, complete a research-intensive final paper, and deliver a public presentation to demonstrate mastery of program competencies and integration of specialization knowledge, and to present their capstone findings.

The MPH generally requires two academic years of full-time study. The required number of credits for graduation is 42. A minimum of 18 credits must be earned in courses numbered 600-798, including at least one graduate seminar in the major or related field. No more than 9 credits of PH 699 may be applied to meet degree requirements. Please note that the precise degree requirements for each student will be determined in consultation with his/her advisor and program committee members.

Qualifications for Admission

In addition to meeting the general admissions requirements of the University's Graduate Division, individuals applying to the SBHS specialization will be expected to have the academic background, experience, interests, and commitment for professional training in public health. While no specific undergraduate major is specified, candidates should have course work in mathematics or statistics, biology or human development, and sociology or psychology. Applicants must have computer skills in word processing, spreadsheet construction, and Internet applications. Experience in an applied health/social sciences field or in health/social sciences research is preferred, especially with communities in Hawai'i, such as Native Hawaiian, Asian, or Pacific Islander populations. Successful applicants possess a strong academic record with particular emphasis on health behavior theory, community engagement and research skills, which are reflected in transcripts, GRE scores, and professional recommendation letters.

DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAMS AND SPECIALIZATIONS

PHD IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Graduate Chair: Kathryn Braun, DrPH, (808) 956-5768

Email: kbraun@hawaii.edu

Overview

The PhD in Public Health focuses on Community-Based and Translational Research. Translational research is the investigation of how to successfully transform scientific discoveries arising from laboratory, clinical, or population studies into community applications to reduce incidence, morbidity, and mortality. Community-based participatory research (CBPR) in health is a collaborative approach to research that equitably involves investigators and members of the community in the research process and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings. This approach increases the likelihood that interventions will be embraced by the community and that community members will gain knowledge, skills, and other benefits from the research.

Degree Program Offered

PhD in Public Health

The PhD program specializing in community-based and translational research prepares students to teach, lead programs, and conduct independent investigations addressing public health topics relevant to culturally diverse groups and communities, with a special focus on those in the state of Hawai'i and the Asia-Pacific region. Candidates who successfully complete the PhD program will be able to collaborate with community partners to identify and address public health issues, conduct independent research, and train public health workers.

All PhD students complete doctoral seminars, mentored teaching and research practica, and course work in research methods (quantitative, qualitative, and community-based), evidence-based public health, policy and leadership, and cultural competency. We use the three-paper dissertation format, reinforcing expectations that PhD students master qualitative and quantitative skills, publish their work in peer-reviewed journals, and present at national and international forums.

It is expected that students accrue 35 or more credits prior to graduation from the PhD in Public Health program.

Qualifications for Admission

In addition to meeting the general admission requirements of the University's Graduate Division, individuals applying to the PhD in Public Health program must have either a master's degree in public health or a graduate degree in an allied profession.

EPIDEMIOLOGY

Graduate Chair: Eric Hurwitz, PhD, (808) 956-7425

Email: ehurwitz@hawaii.edu

Overview

The PhD in epidemiology is comprised of graduate faculty from the Office of Public Health Studies, University of Hawai'i Cancer Center, Department of Tropical Medicine, Medical Microbiology and Pharmacology, Department of Microbiology, and the Pacific Basin Research Center, thus offering training opportunities in multiple disciplines critical to public health and disease control and prevention. Candidates for the PhD in epidemiology collaborate on projects with the Hawai'i Department of Health, Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research, HMSA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other agencies and organizations, attaining experience and expertise invaluable for their future careers as well as for the health and wellbeing of Hawai'i's residents. Graduates of the program are employed in the U.S. and around the world in national, state and local departments of health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as educators and researchers at colleges, universities and research institutions, and as investigators in the biomedical, pharmaceutical, and insurance industries, and at international health agencies.

Degree Program Offered

PhD in Epidemiology

Candidates who successfully complete the doctoral program in epidemiology will be prepared to teach in academic and other settings, conduct independent and collaborative epidemiologic research, and provide consultative services to academic, not-for-profit, governmental, and private organizations.

Qualifications for Admission

Although applicants to the PhD program are not required to have a master's degree in epidemiology or a closely related field, all applicants are expected to have a master's degree and a strong background in the natural and/or social sciences. The program encourages applications from candidates who are committed to epidemiologic research and practice, and have past research and related work experience. Applicants should also have well-focused research interests and career goals. A prospective epidemiology applicant is expected to communicate with a faculty member in his/her area of interest or with the program's chair prior to seeking admission. The faculty member involved will serve as the advisor upon the individual's admission into the PhD program.

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Office of Public Health Studies (OPHS) graduate degree programs, like all other University graduate degree programs, operate within the broad policies and specific regulations established by the Graduate Division. Accordingly, certificate, master's and doctoral degree candidates should inform themselves of all applicable academic requirements in the current *University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Catalog*. The *Catalog* is available online at <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/catalog/>. Regulations and procedures governing admission to the Graduate Division at the University of Hawai'i are subject to change without prior notice. Please consult the most current *Catalog* before applying for admission.

Admission Requirements for Master's Degree

An applicant for admission to the master's degree program must hold or expect to hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. college or university or its equivalent from a recognized institution of higher learning (visit the Graduate Division website at <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/graduate/admissions-requirements/> for detailed information). The standards of the degree in question must be equivalent in both the distribution of academic subject matter and the scholarship achievement requirements to those maintained at the University of Hawai'i. Professional degrees, such as the MS, DVM, and DDS, that are equivalent in depth to a U.S. bachelor's degree also qualify an applicant for consideration.

At a minimum, all applicants need to demonstrate above average academic performance (B average or its equivalent) for his or her undergraduate course work and for any post-baccalaureate or graduate course work.

Admissions Requirements for the Doctoral Degree Program

Applicants to the PhD in Public Health must have either a master's degree in public health or a graduate degree in an allied health-related profession.

Applicants to the PhD in epidemiology must have a master's degree and a strong background in the natural and/or social sciences.

At a minimum, doctoral degree applicants must demonstrate above average academic performance (B average or its equivalent) for his or her undergraduate course work and for any post-baccalaureate or graduate course work.

Documentation for Admission to the Master's and Doctoral Degree Programs

All applicants must submit the following (see Application Requirements below for specific instructions):

1. Completed Graduate Admissions application
2. Completed Public Health application
3. Statement of objectives
4. Application fee
5. Official transcript from each post-secondary institution attended
6. Official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test score (optional for Fall 2025 applicants unless it is required by the Graduate Division see <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/graduate/standardized-exams/>)
7. Three letters of recommendation and three letters of recommendation forms* (applicants with three or more years of work experience may submit two letters of recommendation and two letter of recommendation forms.)

*Students seeking admission to the NHIH specialization must provide one letter from Indigenous community in which the applicant has an established history of service. This letter serves as an opportunity to demonstrate established relationships and/or service in communities. Examples include, but are not limited to a letter from an Indigenous community member or leader who can write on your ability to 1) engage in community and/or cultural events or activities, 2) perform service activities in the community or through organizational work, and/or 3) engage in community and/or cultural protocol, etiquette, and/or practices. Please contact the NHIH specialization head if additional clarification is needed.

In addition, select applicants may be required to submit the following:

- Residency Declaration Form (for applicants claiming Hawai'i residency for tuition purposes)
- Official TOEFL or IELTS scores for applicants whose native language is not English
- Confidential Financial Statement form (international applicants)
- Writing sample that demonstrates aptitude for scholarly writing (PhD in Public Health applicants only)

Selection and Notification

Completed applications are reviewed by public health faculty in January for fall admission. An admission decision is generally reached through comparison of the relative merits of all applicants and the availability of faculty to guide the student in his/her area of interest. Selection is made without regard to the applicant's age, sex, race, creed, or national origin.

Public health faculty make recommendations for admission to the Graduate Division who makes the final admission decision. The Graduate Division notifies each applicant of the decision on the application. Official notification of acceptance or denial is by mail only and the admissions decision letter is generally mailed between March and June, depending on when the application was completed and when the decision was reached. Incomplete applications are not considered for admission. Applicants should receive a formal notice of acceptance from the Graduate Division before coming to Hawai'i.

Application Requirements

Applicants should note that application materials must be submitted to two (2) separate offices.

The following should be sent directly to:

Graduate Division
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
2540 Maile Way, Spalding 354
Honolulu, HI 96822

1. Graduate admissions application (apply online at <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/graduate/submitting-your-application/>);
2. Application fee;
3. Transcripts from each institution attended;
4. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test scores (optional for Fall 2025 applicants unless it is required by the Graduate Division see <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/graduate/standardized-exams/>);

International applicants must also submit:

5. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or IELTS;
6. Complete information on financial status

The Graduate Division Student Services Office sends notification of graduate admissions application receipt and status by email or by mail. Therefore, applicants should be sure to provide a valid email and/or mailing address on their application. Applicants who do not receive a notification within 30 days of submitting their graduate admissions application should contact their office at gradss@hawaii.edu.

The following documents may be submitted via mail or dropped off in person to:

Office of Public Health Student Academic Services
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
1960 East West Road, Biomed D-204
Honolulu, HI 96822

Or

Submit the Public Health application, statement of objectives, resume (optional), and writing sample (required for PhD Public Health applicants only) as PDF documents in a zip file using FileDrop <https://www.hawaii.edu/filedrop/>; Recipient: phapp; please select 14 days as the length of time the materials will be available to access.

Note: emailed applications will not be accepted.

1. Public Health application (available as PDF at <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/publichealth/admissions>)
2. Statement of objectives
3. Three (3) letters of recommendation and three (3) letter of recommendation forms. Applicants with three or more years of work experience may submit two (2) letters of recommendation and two (2) letter of recommendation forms. Letters should be mailed to our office with the recommender's signature across the seal of the envelope. (NHIH applicants are still required to submit three letters of recommendation and three letter of recommendation forms and one letter should be from an Indigenous community in which the applicant has an established history of service. This letter serves as an opportunity to demonstrate established relationships and/or service in communities. Examples include, but are not limited to a letter from an Indigenous community member or leader who can write on your ability to 1) engage in community and/or cultural events or activities, 2) perform service activities in the community or through organizational work, and/or 3) engage in community and/or cultural protocol, etiquette, and/or practices. Please contact the NHIH specialization head if additional clarification is needed.)

PhD in Public Health applicants must also submit:

4. Writing sample that demonstrates aptitude for scholarly writing

The Office of Public Health Student Academic Services (OPHSAS) will send an email to applicants informing them of receipt of their Public Health application and documents and will send out another email once their application is complete and ready for faculty review. An application is considered complete when OPHSAS receives the applicant's file from the Graduate Division and when all Public Health application materials have been received. Note: it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all application materials have been submitted and received by each respective office.

Applications and all supporting documents must be **received** by the deadline. *Arrangements to take the GRE and TOEFL, if required, should be made well in advance of the application deadline so that the scores are received by the application deadline.*

After December 1 for in-person degree programs and March 1 for the DE option, interested applicants are advised to contact the program to ascertain whether space is available in their selected area of specialization before submitting an application.

Spring Applications

The master's degree programs (MPH and MS) and doctoral programs (PhD) do not typically offer spring admission. Please check with the program at ophsas@hawaii.edu to inquire if Spring applications will be accepted or not.

Application Fee

Applicants are required to submit an application fee of \$100. No application fee waivers or deferments are granted.

Applicants may pay by credit card, check, or money order. Payment by check or money order must be in U.S. dollars, drawn on a U.S. bank, and made payable to the "University of Hawai'i". Include your full name and data of birth on the check or money order. Do not send cash. The application fee is nonrefundable and nontransferable. Applications that are submitted without an application fee will not be processed.

Writing Sample

PhD in Public Health applicants must submit a writing sample that demonstrates aptitude for scholarly writing (e.g., literature review; a report of a needs assessment or evaluation project, a master's thesis, or a published article on a public health topic). If no examples of the applicant's academic or scholarly writing are currently available, the applicant should write a paper as though he/she would submit it for publication in a professional journal. The writing sample should:

- Demonstrate conceptual and analytic skills
- Use appropriate and consistent citation and referencing format
- Demonstrate writing ability

Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

The GRE General Test is optional for Fall 2025 applicants unless it is required by the Graduate Division (see <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/graduate/standardized-exams/> for details). If you do submit your score, both the score and the percentile on each of the verbal, quantitative, and analytic sections of the examination will be evaluated.

If submitting GRE scores, please include a note with your public health application so we know to expect your scores. The GRE should be taken at least one month prior to the application deadline. GRE scores that are more than five years old and/or photocopies of the Examinee Score Report are not acceptable.

Please direct ETS to forward official GRE scores to the university (Institution Code: 4867; Department Code: 0616)

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

Most applicants whose native language is not English are required to take the TOEFL. An applicant is exempt from the test if he or she has earned a bachelor's or advanced degree within the last five years at a regionally accredited or recognized institution in the United States, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Singapore, or United Kingdom.

The minimum acceptable test scores are

	Campus-based Master's Degree Programs	Asynchronous Online (Distance Education) MPH	Doctoral Degree Programs
iBT TOEFL	80	100	100
IELTS	6.5	7.0	7.0

English Language Institute (ELI)

The ELI program is only for students admitted to a degree program at the University of Hawai'i. Prior to registration, all non-native speakers of English must be evaluated by the institute. Based on this evaluation, the ELI provides suitable instruction for those whose English fails to meet the standards determined by the University to be sufficient for the pursuit of full-time studies. Students in ELI training take a reduced academic load and should expect to make proportionately slower progress in regular University studies. This should be carefully considered by students whose time or financial support is limited.

Transcripts

A current transcript from each college or university attended (including any study abroad or exchange programs, summer programs, non-degree work and extension programs) must be submitted to the Graduate Division. Applicants who are still in U.S. undergraduate programs must submit transcripts after the first quarter or semester of their senior year. Note: Transcripts are not required for course work completed at any of the University of Hawai'i campuses. The Graduate Division will obtain UH transcripts on behalf of applicants.

International Transcripts and Academic Records

All international applicants are required to submit one transcript or academic record from each institution of higher education attended, including any study abroad or exchange programs, summer programs, and non-degree work and extension programs. See <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/graduate/admissions-requirements> for details.

Financial Statement

International applicants need to show proof of sufficient funding to cover all educational and living expenses, including expenses for any accompanying spouse or children. Upon admission to the university, only international applicants with proof of funding will receive visa documents. Visas are not needed for the asynchronous online (distance education) MPH.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Tuition

Tuition is charged according to the number of credit hours carried by the student; auditors (those enrolled in a course for no credit) pay the same tuition as students enrolled for credit. The tuition cited are those established for the 2025-2026 academic year. All tuition charges at the University of Hawai'i campuses are subject to change in accordance with requirements of State law and/or action by the Board of Regents or the University administration. (Note: in addition to tuition, students are also assessed student fees)

Tuition by semester	Graduate (12+ credits)	Graduate (per credit)	Distance Education** (per credit)
Resident*	\$7,800	\$650	\$650
Non-Resident*	\$16,824	\$1,402	\$650

*see the *General and Graduate Information Catalog* and/or the Office of Admissions and Records website at <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/admissions/financing/residency.html> for residency definitions.

**Currently the asynchronous online MPH (distance education) does not accept any tuition waivers (e.g., faculty staff tuition waiver and graduate assistant tuition waiver).

Graduate Teaching and Research Assistantships

The Office of Public Health Studies offers a limited number of graduate assistant positions, generally associated with specific research projects. These positions as well as those advertised by other departments are advertised at <http://workatuh.hawaii.edu/> as they become available. Assistantships cover tuition and provide a monthly stipend. Graduate assistants must pay their own student fees.

Achievement Scholarships

Graduate Division Achievement Scholarships are funded from tuition revenues and are intended to provide financial assistance for U.S. and international students based on merit and service. The award amounts, which vary, are credited toward the student's overall tuition costs. To be eligible for this award, students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above and demonstrate a commitment to the mission, goals, and objectives of the Office of Public Health Studies. The Achievement Scholarship may be awarded to new or continuing students. Waivers do not cover summer session tuition. Awardees are expected to have an maintain a 3.5 or better GPA and register for at least one credit of public health-related course work. It is recommended that applicants to the program submit their completed application materials by the stated deadline as Achievement Scholarship applications are distributed and reviewed early in the admission period. Award recipients must pay any remaining tuition balance by the payment deadline.

East West Center Scholarships

East West Center awards may be available to students from Pacific and Asian (including Russia) countries. For more information or an application, please visit the East West Center website at <https://www.eastwestcenter.org/apply>.

APHA KP Community Health Scholarship

The APHA KP Community Health Scholarship supports the education of newly admitted full-time graduate students beginning their MPH or PhD in public health in Fall 2025 at one of eight partner universities that are committed to equity, inclusion, and diversity. The Scholarship is part of the APHA KP Community Health Leadership Program's initiative to create a group of diverse, underrepresented public health leaders who are committed to improving the health of our most vulnerable communities and supporting the achievement of health equity for all in the nation. Please visit <https://www.apha.org/Professional-Development/APHA-Internships-and-Fellowships/APHA-KP-Leadership-Program/APHA-KP-Community-Health-Scholarship> for more information on eligibility requirements and the application deadline

Other Financial Aid

Prospective students who anticipate a need for financial assistance are strongly encouraged to seek support from local sources and/or private foundations and agencies that share the students' interests and goals. One should begin this process early, as applications for scholarships are often due six to 12 months before enrollment.

U.S. Students: The Financial Aid Services Office administers a University-wide program of student assistance that includes student employment (both on and off campus), scholarships, grants and loans. For more information or an application, please visit the Financial Aid Services website at <http://www.hawaii.edu/fas/> or email finaid@hawaii.edu. Priority deadline is February 1 each year.

International Students: International students are cautioned that their opportunities for general scholarships and other forms of financial aid are extremely limited. It is a basic requirement for almost all U.S. financial aid that the applicant be a citizen or permanent resident alien of the United States. International students may find it helpful to contact the local Education USA office and to explore various online resources such as eduPASS (<http://www.edupass.org/>), Funding for U.S. Study (<https://www.fundingusstudy.org/>), or FinAid (<http://www.finaid.org/>). An international student must be able to certify complete financial coverage before final admission to the university will be granted.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Time Allowed

Master’s degree candidates must complete all requirements within seven years after admissions to the program. Students who do not complete the degree within seven years are subject to dismissal.

Doctoral students are expected to complete all requirements within seven years after admission into the doctoral program.

Continuing Enrollment

Students must be enrolled each semester (excluding summer sessions) for course work, thesis or research credit at regular fees. Students who are not enrolled or on approved leaves of absence will be regarded as withdrawn from their degree program. All students must be enrolled during the semester in which they plan to graduate.

Summer Sessions

Students are accepted to advanced degree programs by the Graduate Division in the fall and spring semesters only. Students who wish to take graduate level course work during the summer prior to their first registration as a classified student must complete an application form with Outreach College. Credits taken in the summer must be transferred into the degree program during the student’s first semester in the program. Requests for a summer sessions application and/or information are available at <http://www.outreach.hawaii.edu>. Admission to the summer session does not guarantee eventual admission to the public health graduate program.

Course Loads

The minimum full-time load for graduate students is eight degree-related credits per semester. The maximum course load is 16 credit hours in a semester and eight credits in each summer session. Students may exceed maximum load limits only with approval from the graduate chair and the Graduate Division.

Residence Requirements for Degrees

The minimum residence requirements are as follows:

Master’s	Two semesters of full-time work or four six-week (may vary in length from three to ten weeks) summer sessions.
Doctorate	Three semesters of full-time work.

Residence is defined as registration as a classified graduate student. For part-time students, each unit of eight degree-related credits completed as a classified graduate student will be considered equivalent to one full-time semester. Credits taken at other institutions and approved for transfer may not be used to reduce the University’s minimum residence requirements for advanced degrees.

SELECTED STUDENT SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Office of Public Health Student Academic Services

The Office of Public Health Student Academic Services (OPHSAS) is located in the Biomedical Science Building, Room D-204. The staff specialists assist individuals with application, admission, registration and general information about the public health graduate program and the University. The staff members also assist students with a wide variety of problems, provide advocacy for student concerns and act as the liaison with other University areas such as the Office of Graduate Education, Office of Admissions and Records, Financial Aid Services, KOKUA program, Veterans' Affairs Office, and International Student Services.

Housing

Prospective students are reminded that acceptance to the University does not ensure housing. Housing can be relatively expensive, and rent varies depending on location and the type of housing arrangements. There are many options available, including on-campus and near-campus housing, apartments, studios, renting a room in a home, and apartment sharing, to name a few. Below are suggestions to help with your search:

On Campus Housing/Dorms: Most of the on-campus accommodations are dormitory style with two students sharing a room. Some apartment-style one-and two-bedroom units are also available for sharing. Detailed information and application are available from the Student Housing Services website at <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/housing/> and/or the East-West Center Housing Services website at <https://www.eastwestcenter.org/campus/housing>.

Off-Campus Housing: Information regarding off-campus housing is available at <https://offcampushousing.manoa.hawaii.edu>, <https://www.risemanoa.com>, and <https://www.halehaukani.com>.

Housing in Honolulu is limited and expensive. Neighborhoods near the university include Mānoa, McCully, Moiliili, Kapahulu, Kaimuki, and St. Louis Heights. Students intending to live off-campus are cautioned to make temporary housing arrangements in hotels or other quarters in advance, if possible, and to bear in mind that rental rates can quickly use up personal funds.

International Student Services

The International Student Services (ISS) office provides services for international students who come from more than 106 countries to study at the University. ISS encourages the full utilization of the University's international and intercultural resources. Services provided include orientation programs, interpretation of home country and U.S. regulations that apply to non-immigrant students; a monthly newsletter; interaction with the community, schools and other organizations on global education activities; and stimulation of intercultural training and activities among the students at the University. Additional information may be found on their website <http://www.hawaii.edu/issmanoa/>.

COURSES

The course offerings in this publication are subject to change without notice. Please consult MyUH for confirmed course offerings each semester. The minimum required grade for prerequisites for undergraduate-level courses is C- or better, unless otherwise specified. All courses 600-level and above require graduate standing; individuals who are not public health students require instructor consent to enroll in graduate-level courses. The minimum required grade for prerequisites for graduate-level courses is B- or better, unless otherwise specified.

PH 201 Introduction to Public Health (3)

Introduces public health concepts with an emphasis on principles and tools for population health, disease prevention, health professions and healthcare systems, and public health professions and systems. A-F only. DS

PH 202 Public Health Issues in Hawai'i (3)

Application of general public health concepts and tools with broader public health issues as they relate to the State of Hawaii. A-F only. Pre: 201.

PH 203 Introduction to Global Health (3)

Introduction to the basic principles of global PH. Topics include the application of these principles to global PH issues, exploration of links between health, economic and social status, health disparities and global interventions. A-F only. Pre: 201 & FW course.

PH 210 Quantitative Reasoning for Public Health (3)

Inductive and deductive reasoning; tabular, symbolic, verbal, and graphical forms of functions and relations; graphs and pictorial representations of data; interpretations of probabilistic data; surveys and statistical studies as related to public health. PH majors only. A-F only. FQ.

PH 211 Public Health Student Success in the College Experience (2)

Required for entering PH majors to gain strategies for a successful college experience while studying public health. Students will examine academic and career goals and implement strategies to achieve tm. PH majors only. A-F only.

PH 301 Seminar in Public Health Issues (3)

Seminar will explore current issues and case studies in epidemiology, issues and causes of chronic and infectious diseases, how the environment interacts with health, and how social and behavioral factors affect personal health.

PH 305 Native Hawaiian Health Determinants (3)

Seminar to work with faculty in applying evidence-based knowledge on social determinants of health in the formation of research, policy, and program development for improving population health and reducing health disparities for Native Hawaiians. A-F only. Pre: 201 and 202. (Spring only)

PH 310 Introduction to Epidemiology (3) (pending approval of UHM-2)

Lecture/discussion on the fundamental principles of epidemiology, exploring patterns of disease, threats to health and EPI methods for prevention, control and treatment. PH majors only. A-F only. Pre: 201, and 210 or MATH 140X or MATH 161 or higher or instructor approval.

PH 325 Youth Risk and Protection – Public Health Research, Practice & Policy (3)

Application of public health, related to youth health risk and protective factors using an eco-developmental framework. A-F only. Pre: 201 and PSY 100.

PH 330 The United States Health Care System (3)

Overview of the U.S. health care system. Topics will include health economics, health service expenditures, comparative health systems, health policy, and issues of cost containment, access, and quality of care. A-F only. Pre: 201.

PH 340 Public Health and the Environment (3)

Examines a variety of issues associated with environmental effects on disease incidence, morbidity, and mortality in relation to public health prevention strategies. Sophomore standing and above.

PH 341 Public Health Biology and Pathophysiology (3)

Explores the biological basis of human disease and the role public health measures play in reducing both the extent and impact of chronic and acute diseases on individuals and society. A-F only. Pre: 201, and one of the following: BIOL 101 or BIOL 171 or BIOL 172 or PHYL 103 or PHYL 141 or FSHN 185.

PH 350 Introduction to Biostatistics (3)

Basic biostatistics methods in public health and biomedical research. Topics covered include data collection, data analyses, and interpretation of statistical results. Sophomore standing or higher. A-F only.

PH 410 Advanced Epidemiology (3)

Students will gain a deeper understanding of the core concepts used in epidemiologic research and practice. Upon completion, students will have the knowledge and skills necessary to conduct an epidemiologic study. Junior standing or higher. A-F only. Pre: 201 and 310.

PH 411 Nutrition and Disease Prevention (3)

Lecture/discussion. Examines a variety of issues through lecture and discussion associated with the effects of diet on disease incidence, morbidity, and mortality in relation to public health prevention strategies. Junior standing or higher. Pre: 310.

PH 420 Social Behavioral Health I: Health Promotion for Individuals & Groups (3)

Focus on the application of social and behavioral theory in health education, and how health promotion programs are constructed for various populations with an emphasis on cultural diversity and social determinants of health. Sophomore standing or higher. A-F only. Pre: 202 and PSY 100.

PH 422 Social Behavioral Health II: Health Promotion in Communities (3)

Introduction to health education and health promotion programming in public health, and to social/behavioral theories used to develop health interventions that affect communities, institutions, and policies. Introduction to common program planning models. A-F only. Pre: 420

PH 425 Tobacco & Community Disparities (3)

Assessing the facilitators and barriers of smoking initiation, cessation, and exposure to second-hand smoke within communities. Use of photovoice and its application to policy and addressing disparities. A-F only. Pre: 201. DS

PH 430 Health Policy & Management (3)

Examines the role that health policy and management plays in population-based public health practice, including the delivery, quality and costs of health care and the structure, process and outcomes of health services delivery. Sophomore standing or higher. A-F only. Pre: 201 and 202.

PH 435 Back to the Future: Aging in Today's Society (3)

By 2050, more than a quarter of the world's population will be 60 years of age or older. Explores what we know about aging today to encourage a lifetime of aging well. A-F only. Pre: 201 or SW 360 or WS 305 or PSY 100 or FAMR 230 or NURS 200; or consent. (Cross-listed as SW 435)

PH 441 Introduction to One Health (3)

Familiarizes students with the fundamentals of One Health – an interdisciplinary field of study linking ecosystems to human and animal health. It uses contemporary examples and emphasizes oceans and human health connections. Junior standing or higher. A-F only. Pre: 201, or ANSC 200, or BIOC 141, or BIOL 101, or BIOL 171, or BOT 101, or EARTH 101, or GES 102, or OEST 101, or OCN 102, or ATMO 150, or SOC 180; or consent.

PH 445 Introduction to Environmental Microbiology (3)

Lecture/discussion. Will define the nature and biological activities of microorganisms in different environments and evaluate the effects of these microbes on human activities and health. Junior standing or higher. Pre: MICR 130 or MICR 351 or BIOL 171.

PH 460 Social Determinants of Indigenous Peoples' Health (3)

Examines indigenous peoples' health inequities using social determinants of health framework: considers this approach within the historical, political, cultural, and social context of Indigenous populations' health status to generate solutions. A-F only. Pre: 201.

PH 480 Application of Public Health Principles in Research and Practice (4)

Introduction to a diverse range of public health projects and associated methods while working to develop a written applied learning project literature review. Students will present their findings at a public forum. PH majors only. Junior standing or higher. A-F only. Pre: 203 and 310.

PH 485 Public Health Applied Learning Experience (3)

Allows students to execute an independent mentor-supervised, applied learning project as implementation of skills learned in previous public health coursework. Applied project is a required component of the public health undergraduate degree program. Pre: 420 and 480.

PH 489 Public Health Undergraduate Capstone Seminar (3)

Synthesis of public health knowledge, skills, and practice acquired during the public health undergraduate degree. Students also reflect on, finalize, and present written applied learning experience projects at a public forum. Senior standing and higher. A-F only. Pre: completed public health applied learning experience and consent.

PH 492 (Alpha) Current Issues and Topics in Public Health (V)

Current and emerging issues and varying topics related to public health. (B) biostatistics; (E) epidemiology; (H) health policy and management; (S) social and behavioral health sciences; (T) public health. Repeatable up to six credits with different alphas. Open to nonmajors. Sophomore standing and above. A-F only. Pre: 201.

PH 499 Directed Reading/Research (V)

Repeatable up to six credits. PH majors only. Junior standing or higher.

PH 600 Public Health Foundations (2-3)

Focus will provide a broad introduction to the field of public health and orientation to overarching issues in the field. A-F only. Pre: consent. (Fall only)

PH 602 U.S. Health Care Services and Policy (3)

Overview of the historical, conceptual, ethical, and political context for health care delivery in the U.S. Explores current trends, practices, and issues in the delivery of health care services in both private and public sector.

PH 610 Public Health Biology (3)

Writing-intensive asynchronous computer-based course examines biological processes and challenges relevant to the public health professional. Topics include anatomical, pathophysiological, and molecular bases of public health; genetics, immunology, ethics; disease prevention, control, and management. (Once a year) (Cross-listed as CMB 610)

PH 611 Fundamentals to One Health (3)

Familiarizes students with the fundamentals of One Health – an interdisciplinary field of study linking ecosystems to human and animal health. It uses contemporary examples and emphasizes oceans and human health connections. Graduate students only. A-F only.

PH 623 Introduction to Health Promotion Theory and Methods (3)

Individual and community health; implications for public health practice, individual and social change processes.

PH 626 Health Economics (3)

Integrated concepts in health economics and its application towards health policy issues; market failures in health care; factors affecting U.S. health care spending potential impact on equity/efficiency stemming from changes in health care delivery. A-F only. (Once a year)

PH 628 Stress and Stress Management in Public Health (3)

Lecture/discussion on theoretical concepts of stress and stress management, management issues, selected application areas, and prevention and treatment skills relevant to public health. Format includes readings, guest speakers, student paper, and practical exercises. A-F only. (Once a year)

PH 630 Cultural Competency in Health Care (3)

Presents both analytical and practical approaches to cultural competency domains, concepts, models, frameworks, patterns and communication that occur in cross-cultural health care situations. A-F only.

PH 633 Indigenous Health Activism (1)

Examines how Indigenous Peoples and their allies (individually and collectively) accomplish social change in society. A-F only. Graduate students only. Pre: consent of instructor.

PH 635 Indigenous Health Seminar (3)

Examines public health through an Indigenous lens, integrates competencies across all public health disciplines, and will apply them in context of working for and with Indigenous communities to improve health and wellness. PH majors or consent. Graduate students only. A-F only. (Fall only)

PH 641 Advanced Topics in Health Policy (3)

Lecture/discussion on historical and current public health policies; the role of stakeholders in health policy making and advocacy; using health policy frameworks for conducting policy analysis. Group activities apply the concepts presented in class. Pre: 602 or consent.

PH 646 Grant Writing in Public Health (2)

Lecture/discussion on grant writing with public health focus. Includes basic components of grant proposals, assessing appropriate funding opportunities, data sources/resources for justifying grants, and the funder's perspective. Student will prepare a brief foundation grant proposal. A-F only. (Once a year)

PH 648 Program Planning, Management, Evaluation, and Leadership (3)

Foundation to inform, educate, and improve health for individuals, communities, and populations. Knowledge/acquisition of skills through program planning, management, evaluation, and leadership that span the social-ecological range from individual-level to population-level programs. EPID and PH majors only. A-F only.

PH 649 Needs Assessment (3)

Knowledge and skills acquisition in conducting needs assessment in public health practice.

PH 650 Ecological Epidemiology (2)

Applications of population biology, pathogen/host life history, and population genetics to infectious disease epidemiology, including micro- and macroparasites, and implications to disease control and prevention of strategies. A-F only. Pre: consent. (Alt. years: spring) (Cross-listed as TRMD 650)

PH 652 Interdisciplinary Seminar (1)

Topics such as contemporary issues in global health and population studies, international health programs, demographic methods, global economy and health, human rights and humanitarian assistance, social justice, global environmental changes and health. Pre: consent.

PH 653 Global Health and Human Security (3)

Provides the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to successfully manage health security crises and protect human vulnerability in the global context with a special focus on problems with high likelihood and risk in the Pacific.

PH 655 Biostatistics I (3)

Introduction to statistical methods for public health sciences. Probability, experimental design, t tests and analysis of variance, 2X2 contingency tables, linear regression, introduction to life tables.

PH 656 Biostatistics II (3)

Poisson distribution, Fisher's exact test, contrasts in ANOVA, two way ANOVA, multiple linear regression and analysis of covariance, path analysis, logistic regression, method of maximum likelihood, likelihood ratio tests. Pre: PH 655, completion of one semester of calculus or consent.

PH 658 Computer Applications in Public Health (3)

Applications of computers to problems common to public health. Emphasis on data analysis and processing using existing computer programs.

PH 659 Methods of Demographic Analysis (3)

Statistical evaluation and analysis of population data; data sources; population growth; composition; standardization of rates; mortality and the life table; nuptiality and fertility; distribution, migration, and urbanization; projections and stable population theory. (Cross-listed as SOC 659)

PH 663 Principles of Epidemiology I (3)

Introduction to epidemiologic principles and methods. Topics covered include: outbreak investigation, measures of morbidity and mortality, measurements of risk, biological variability, screening, measurements of error, sampling, statistical significance, study design, and association and causation.

PH 664 Principles of Epidemiology II (3)

Lecture/discussion on: design and interpretation of experimental and observational studies; causation and casual inference; biases in study design; random error and statistics role in epidemiology; and epidemiological data analysis. Pre: 655 and 663, or consent

PH 665 Concepts in Immunology and Immunopathogenesis (2)

Immunological concepts relating to infectious diseases and host pathogen interactions. Repeatable one time. A-F only. Pre: MICR 461 (or equivalent) or consent. (Cross-listed as TRMD 604)

PH 666 Seminar in Infectious Disease Control (3)

Strategies for controlling important infectious diseases in the Pacific area. Emphasis on epidemiology, ecology, and public health principles. Pre: 663 (or concurrent) and one semester in microbiology, or consent.

PH 667 Infectious Disease Micro II (3)

Will cover different families of animal viruses of importance to human diseases. The genome, structure, replication, as well as host immune responses, epidemiology, clinical features, and animal models will be presented. Repeatable one time. A-F only. Pre: TRMD 604 and MICR 351, or consent. (Cross-listed as TRMD 605)

PH 669 Epidemiological Study Design Critique (2)

Critique of study design using published public health literature. Emphasis on exchange of ideas, alternative approaches; stresses epidemiology as science of public health. Repeatable. A-F only. Pre: 663 or consent.

PH 671 Community and Public Health Practice (2)

Community organization and development applicable to the delivery of health services. Understanding community dynamics, mobilizing community groups for effective health care practice and delivery. Pre: 647 or 737; or consent. (Cross-listed as SW 674)

PH 672 Leading and Managing Health Programs (3)

Assess how to organize community partnerships to create and communicate a shared vision for a changing future; discuss solutions to organizational and community challenges; maximize motivation to reach public health goals. A-F only.

PH 673 Native Health Ethics, Law, and Policy (3)

Review theories and laws concerning health care ethics, policy, and practice using Indigenous case studies. Topics include Indigenous health systems, advocacy, and the intersecting issues of self-determination, ethics, agenda setting, and the policy cycle. A-F only. (Once a year)

PH 674 Advanced Native Hawaiian Health Determinants (3)

Applications of evidence-based knowledge about the social determinants of health in the formation of research, policy, and program development for improving population health and reducing health disparities for Native Hawaiians. A-F only.

PH 675 Community Engaged Research and Practice (2)

Explores collaborative and engaged approaches with communities in public health research and practice. With a focus on Indigenous Peoples' health, we delve into Indigenous knowledge and empowerment in evaluation, needs assessment, intervention, and health promotion. PH majors or consent. Graduate students only. Pre: 655 and 673. (Fall only)

PH 676 Hawai'i Public Health Policies on Infectious Diseases (1)

Examines quarantine/isolation of patients infected with Hanson's disease. Focus on PH policies before 1823 and after; analysis of other infections in Hawai'i and the world to examine differences in policies and their effect on the public. Graduate students only. Repeatable one time. A-F only.

PH 677 Managing Global Health Service Delivery (3)

Provides knowledge, skills, attitudes and resources that health managers require to manage and maintain the quality of partnerships, facilities, programs, community service, people, drugs, and information in limited resource settings. PH majors only. A-F only.

PH 680 Health Emergencies in Large Populations (3)

Health Emergencies in Large Populations is run by the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance and the Red Cross. It provides knowledge, practical skills, and networking for global health practitioners. A-F only.

PH 681 Environmental Determinants of Health (3)

Environmental factors in personal and community health; implications for public health practice. Consideration of major issues from local, U.S., and international perspectives.

PH 683 Global Nutrition (2)

Examination of global food and nutrition problems, programs, issues, policies, and strategies for improvement. Pre: statistics and consent. (Alt. years: fall) (Cross-listed as FSHN 683)

PH 684 Supplemental and Nutritional Approaches in Disease Prevention and Treatment (3)

Examines a variety of issues associated with nutritional and supplemental approaches to reduce disease incidence, morbidity, and mortality in relation to public health prevention strategies. PH majors only. (Cross-listed as FSHN 684)

PH 686 Advanced Child and Adolescent Nutrition (3)

Addresses nutrition, growth, and development in children and adolescents and nutrition-related issues, such as childhood obesity and chronic disease risk factors, with a focus on current research in the Pacific region. Pre: FSHN 370 or consent. (Fall only) (Cross-listed as FSHN 686)

PH 688 Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, Environment and Health (3)

Explores Indigenous Peoples' food systems as local food resources Indigenous People acquire through specific cultural knowledge of traditional territories. Global forces transforming these food systems and their impact on population health and nutrition are explored. PH majors or consent. Graduate students only. (Cross-listed as FSHN 688)

PH 689 Nutritional Epidemiology (3)

Dietary, biochemical, anthropometric and clinical methods used for evaluating nutrition and diet in the etiology and epidemiology of disease. Pre: 663 and FSHN 685 or consent. (Cross-listed as FSHN 689)

PH 690 Global Health Challenges (3)

Addresses critical, contemporary and transnational issues that are best addressed by cooperative international action. Health issues are examined in the context of intersecting effects of limited resources, socioeconomics, politics and environmental change. A-F only. (Once a year)

PH 691 Fundamentals of Environmental Epidemiology (2)

Examines the complex relationship between environmental contaminants and human health. Emphasis on environmental epidemiology study design, environmental exposure monitoring and risk assessment, disease and environmental exposure mapping, and spatial data analysis and modeling with GIS. A-F only. (Once a year)

PH 692 Preparation for Public Health Practice (1) (Effective Spring 2024 -- pending approval)

Introduction to a diverse range of public health workforce readiness and professional skills while exploring possible field experience options. Pre: 600 and completion of 9 PH credit hours.

PH 695 Promoting Physical Activity (3)

Overview of the theoretical and applied study of physical activity epidemiology. Physical activity content includes benefits, factors that influence, levels, valid instruments to assess, and programs to promote physical activity. (Fall only) (Cross-listed as KRS 695)

PH 699 Directed Reading/Research (V)

Pre: consent.

PH 700 Thesis Research (V)

Pre: consent.

PH 701 Health Communication (3)

Skills-oriented course introduces the basic structure of health communication strategies in different settings, selected elements of communication theory, the development of health communication material, and a practical training in motivational counseling skills. Pre: 623 or consent.

PH 702 Health Promotion Research (3)

Focus on research methods commonly used in health promotion. Topics will include randomized trials, quasi-experimental design, sampling, measurement, and correlational studies. Labwork will focus on the use of SPSS to analyze data for applied research problems. A-F only. Pre: 623 and 655, or consent.

PH 704 Community-Based Participatory Research (3)

Explores ways academic and lay communities collaborate on research, key theoretical perspectives in the development of CBPR, and the challenges in implementing CBPR approaches. Format includes lectures, discussions, readings, writing assignments, and a fieldwork project. A-F only.

PH 720 Systematic Literature Review in Public Health (3)

Imparts skills in conducting a systematic review of the literature. Students provided critiques by instructor and classmates on their written and presented work. Intended for doctoral students to complete their qualifying paper. Repeatable one time. PH major only; doctoral students only. A-F only. Pre: consent or PhD in PH or EPID only.

PH 728 Indigenous Applied Research Methods (V)

Qualitative research methods design, implementation, and analysis with special focus on methodological, ontological, and ethical issues unique to conducting research with Indigenous communities. PH majors only. A-F only.

PH 729 Survey Methods for Indigenous Peoples (V)

Advanced application of health disparities research methodologies to address health and social injustices faced by Indigenous people. Grounded in survey design, implementation, and analyses through a public health and Indigenous lens. PH majors only or consent. Graduate students only. A-F only.

PH 742 Qualitative Research for Public Health Sciences (3)

Provides a basic understanding of qualitative research approaches, methodologies, and techniques and for public health research and practice (needs assessment, program development, and evaluation strategies). Graduate students only.

PH 747 Statistical Methods in Epidemiological Research (3)

Multiple variable statistical methods currently used in chronic disease epidemiology. Logistic regression, conditional logistic regression, proportional hazards regression modeling, generalized estimating equation-based methods, delta method approximations, exact tests. Pre: 656 and 658 and 664.

PH 748 Chronic Disease Epidemiology (3)

Will cover selected topics in chronic diseases with critical analysis of the current epidemiologic literature. Methodologic issues, contemporary findings and recommendations for future research will be discussed. A-F only. Pre: 663 or consent.

PH 749 Epidemiology of Diabetes and Obesity (2)

Provides an overview of the epidemiology and prevention of metabolic syndrome, diabetes, and associated complications. Discusses methodological issues associated with evaluating these in epidemiologic studies. A-F only. Pre: 663 or consent. (Cross-listed as FSHN 749)

PH 750 Health Behavior Change (3)

Provide an understanding of the relationship between health behaviors and outcomes including psychological, physiological and quality of life aspects. The course will also focus on the major theories of behavior and behavior change. Emphasis will be placed on understanding concepts, principles and explanations and how these are translated into practical interventions for adoption and maintaining behavior change. A-F only. Pre: 623 or consent.

PH 751 Social Epidemiology (3)

Examine the epidemiologic study of the social distribution and social determinants of states of health, including the identification of social-environmental exposures and their relation to physical and mental health outcomes. Repeatable one time. A-F only

PH 752 Applied Longitudinal Analysis (3)

Covers modern methods for longitudinal data analysis. Topics include random effects and growth curve models, generalized linear models for longitudinal data including generalized estimating equations, and generalized linear mixed models. A-F only. Pre: 656 and 658, or consent.

PH 753 Survival Analysis (3)

Construction and interpretation of various types of life tables, treatment of censored data, proportional hazards, relative risk regression models, and parametric survival analysis. Pre: 655 or consent.

PH 754 Neuroepidemiology (3)

Lecture/discussion providing an overview of the epidemiology of neurological and neurodegenerative diseases and their risk factors, and methodological considerations for the study of these diseases. Pre: 663 or consent. (Fall only).

PH 755 Seminar in Tropical Medicine & Public Health (1)

Weekly discussion and reports on current advances in tropical medicine and public health. Repeatable unlimited times. (Cross-listed as TRMD 690)

PH 756 Special Topics in Tropical Medicine (V)

Advanced instruction in frontiers of tropical medicine and public health. Repeatable unlimited times. (Cross-listed as TRMD 705)

PH 757 Evolution, Epidemiology, and Public Health (2)

Will explore several aspects of human health through the perspective of how natural selection and evolution influence disease risk, with the aim of improving treatment and prevention. Graduate students only. A-F only. Pre: 663 (with a minimum grade of B). (Alt. years: fall)

PH 765 Health Program Evaluation (3)

Examines advanced principles of and frameworks for evaluation. Students integrate utilization-focused evaluation methods to improve service delivery and quality, outcomes and impacts to improve community and population health. A-F only.

PH 770 (Alpha) Doctoral Seminar in Translational Research (3)

Required for students in the PhD PH program. (D) evidence-based public health; (E) health policy & leadership. A-F only. Pre: departmental approval.

PH 771 Teaching Practicum (V)

Provide doctoral students with theoretical and practical teaching and course development experiences under the guidance of a faculty mentor. Students will have a portfolio documenting their accomplishments. Graduate standing in PH only. A-F only. Pre: 602 and 623 and 655 and 663 and 681 and 770(Alpha), or departmental approval.

PH 772 Research Practicum (V)

Hands-on research experience with a faculty mentor. Meet in small groups to discuss issues related to research in public health. Final project will be submission of a publishable quality paper. Graduate standing in PH only. A-F only. Pre: 602 and 623 and 655 and 663 and 681 and 770(Alpha), or departmental approval.

PH 775 Public Health Proposal and Dissertation Writing (2)

Intended for doctoral students to complete and defend their proposals and dissertations. Research and presentation methods will be reviewed, and students will be provided critiques by instructor and classmates on their written and presented work. Repeatable two times. A-F only. Pre: consent or PhD in PH or EPID only.

PH 781 Environmental Health Lab Methods (2)

Hands-on training for laboratory methods used in monitoring and detecting environmental health risk factors; learning and application of immunological-, animal cell culture- and molecular biology-based techniques for studying environmental pathogens and toxic pollutants. A-F only. (Once a year)

PH 788 Seminar in Public Health Sciences (V)

Topics related to recent developments in major areas; student and faculty research activities. Sections: (1) biostatistics; (2) environmental health; (3) epidemiology; (4) public health nutrition. Repeatable unlimited times.

PH 789 Integrative Seminar (2)

Integrative seminar in public health required as part of the student capstone experience to bring together key aspects of their courses, competencies, and practicum. A-F only. Pre: completed PH field practicum and consent.

PH 791 Advanced Public Health Practice (2) (Effective Spring 2025 – pending approval)

Observation, study, and practical work in student's area of specialization. Pre: 692 and completion of 15 PH credit hours and consent.

PH 792 (Alpha) Current Issues & Topics in Public Health (V)

Current and emerging issues and topics related to public health. (B) biostatistics; (D) environmental health; (E) epidemiology; (H) health policy and management; (I) Native Hawaiian and Indigenous Health; (S) social and behavioral health sciences; (U) public health. Repeatable unlimited times. PH majors only for (D) and (I).

PH 793 Special Practicum/Project (V)

Supervised practical training beyond the required practicum in an area of particular interest. Provides additional opportunity to synthesize, integrate, and apply practical skills and knowledge in a public health work environment. Repeatable one time. Pre: completion of practicum and consent.

PH 794 (Alpha) Exploration in Public Health (V)

Investigation of emergent fields of inquiry in public health. (B) biostatistics; (D) environmental health; (E) epidemiology; (H) health policy and management; (I) Native Hawaiian and Indigenous Health; (S) social and behavioral health sciences; (U) public health. Repeatable unlimited times. PH majors only.

PH 800 Dissertation Research(V)

Pre: consent.

FACULTY

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