

 <p>HARVARD T.H. CHAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH</p> <hr/> <p>CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH</p>	<p>GUIDELINES FOR THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE: MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CONCENTRATION 2024-2025</p>
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Introduction

The interdisciplinary Maternal and Child Health (MCH) concentration is designed for those who aspire to future leadership in MCH. It recognizes that contributions to MCH can be in research, advocacy, policy development, education, practice, and in program planning and management. Leadership in MCH requires mastery of the knowledge of the special health care needs of MCH populations, analysis of the issues, and the programs addressing these needs worldwide. The curriculum is guided by the HRSA MCHB “[Maternal and Child Health Leadership Competencies, Version 4.5.](#)” The competencies are grouped into those involving the scientific basis of MCH; women, gender, and health; health communication and cultural responsiveness; leadership skills; methodological courses with particular importance to MCH; policy and advocacy skills.

The MCH concentration is open to all students in the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health and is coordinated by Harvard’s MCH Center of Excellence. Please visit the MCH concentration page website for more information and updates: <https://hsph.me/MCH-concentration> or contact us at mchconcentration@hsph.harvard.edu.

Requirements

Students should indicate their interest in the MCH concentration by reaching out to the MCH Center of Excellence at mchconcentration@hsph.harvard.edu. **All** MCH concentrators are required to take SBS 246, Maternal and Child: Health Programs and Policies for ordinal credit. In addition, concentrators must enroll in SBS 360, the MCH Seminar, for two full semesters (one year).

There is currently no remote option for the MCH concentration, with all classes conducted in-person. No audit option is available for courses to count toward the concentration. **NOTE: If courses are *only* offered as ‘pass/fail’ they will count towards the concentration as ordinal credits.**

MPH (65 credit) and MS2 (80 credit) students must take four courses: a total of 8.75 ordinal credits in MCH including SBS 246 and SBS 360 + 2 core MCH courses OR 1 core MCH course AND 1 elective course.

MPH (45 credit) and MS1 degree students must take three courses: a total of 6.25 ordinal credits including SBS 246 and SBS 360 + 1 core MCH course.

Doctor of Public Health and Doctor of Science students must take four courses: a total of 8.75 ordinal credits in MCH courses including SBS 246 and SBS 360 + 2 core MCH courses OR 1 core MCH course AND 1 elective course. In addition, the required thesis must have an MCH focus.

PhD students must take four courses to fulfill a minimum of 8.75 ordinal credits in MCH courses including SBS 246 and SBS 360 + 1 core MCH course AND 1 elective MCH course. In addition, their thesis should address an MCH topic.

Upon completion of requirements for a degree program, students will be required to fill out an MCH Concentration Completion Form and send it to mchconcentration@hsph.harvard.edu along with an unofficial transcript.

Mandatory MCH Courses (Scientific Basis of MCH)

SBS 246, Maternal & Child Health: Programs & Policies (Offered in Fall, 2.50 credits)

SBS 360, MCH Seminar (Yearlong, 1.25 credits)

Core MCH Courses* (Scientific Basis of MCH)

**At least 1 core MCH course required (typically 2.50 credits)*

ID 225, Life Course Epidemiology

SBS 208, Adolescent Health

SBS 212, Developmental Disabilities I: Evaluation, Assessment & Systems

SBS 214, Developmental Disabilities II: Value, Policy & Change

SBS 220, Social and Structural Inequities and Children's Health

SBS 222, Social Services for Children, Adolescents & Families

SBS 299, Science-Driven Innovation in the Early Childhood Ecosystem

EPI 269, Reproductive & Perinatal Epidemiology I

EPI 270, Reproductive & Perinatal Epidemiology II: Advanced Methods

SBS 550, Program Evaluation (P/F only)

SBS 202, Child Psychiatric Epidemiology

GHP 209, Early Childhood Development in Global Contexts

Women, Gender and Health

WGH 250, Embodying Gender: Public Health, Biology & the Body Politic

WGH 210, Women, Gender & Health: Critical Issues in Mental Health
WGH 211, Gender & Health: Introductory Perspectives
WGH 220, Sexuality & Public Health
WGH 201, Reproductive Health, Rights, & Justice
WGH 207, Advanced Topics in Women, Gender & Health

MCH-related Elective Courses

SBS 219, High-Risk Behavior: Epidemiology & Prevention Strategies
SBS 210, Intro to Dissemination & Implementation Science
SBS 501, Community-based Participatory Research: Principles, Processes & Practices

Health Communication and Cultural Responsiveness

SBS 254, Social Disparities, Stress & Health
SBS 225, Engaging with the Press
SBS 285, Practical Communications Strategies & Tactics for Influencing a Healthier World
SBS 509, Health Communications in the 21st Century
SBS 516, Organizational Health Literacy: Issues & Assessment
SBS 515, Health Literacy: Measuring Accessibility of Health Information
ID 217, Nutrition & Global Health

Leadership Skills

SBS 296, Leadership in Minority Health Policy
HPM 245, Public Health Leadership Skills
HPM 278, Skills & Methods of Health Care Negotiation Conflict Resolution

Methodological Courses with particular importance to MCH

SBS 204, Program Implementation & Evaluation
SBS 288, Qualitative Research Methods in Public Health
SBS 231, Community Intervention Research Methods
NUT 232, Designing & Evaluations Behavioral Interventions Targeting Diet & Physical Activity
GHP 504, Introduction to Qualitative Research for Global Health
SBS 231, Community Intervention Research Methods

Policy and Advocacy

SBS 502, Mass incarceration & Health in the US
SBS 514, Reducing Inequalities in Health Concepts, Models, Effective Strategies

MCH Training Grant

The Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences is fortunate to have a Center of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health in Education, Science and Practice training grant funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Agency of the Department of Health and Human Services. This training grant supports the training of public health professionals for leadership roles in Maternal and Child Health, and, more specifically, for activities consistent with the Bureau's programs. The grant provides tuition support.

Those eligible for support must be US citizens or permanent residents, and they must fulfill the requirements at the least for an MCH minor or concentration for their degree program. In addition, training grant recipients must enroll in **SBS 360 MCH Seminar** for at least one year of their program.

An open tuition application procedure through the MCH Leadership Lab is planned for the Fall and Spring of each year, with decisions for funding being made by the MCH faculty. It is important that recipients of support from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau acknowledge the support they receive on their publications. Preferred wording to acknowledge the support is:

“This project is/was supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant T76MC00001 and entitled Training Grant in Maternal and Child Health”.

In addition, limited funds are available from the Martha May Eliot endowment fund to provide tuition support for international students who qualify for the Leadership Lab. Finally, students admitted to Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health may also be eligible for general school support and named fellowship.