

 <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 Maternal and Child Health (MCH) concentration is designed for those who aspire to future leadership in the promotion of maternal and child health. It recognizes that contributions to MCH can be in research, policy development, advocacy, 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 competencies in MCH. “Maternal and Child Health Competencies, Version 4.0” (<https://mchb.hrsa.gov/training/leadership-00.asp>). The competencies can be grouped into those involving the scientific basis of MCH, methodological and analytic skills, management and communication skills, and policy and advocacy skills. In addition, leaders in MCH should be aware of the emerging areas in public health practice identified in the 2003 Institute of Medicine report on the Future of the Public’s Health in the 21st Century.

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

Requirements

Students should indicate their interest in the MCH concentration by checking the appropriate space on the SOPHAS application to the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. 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 one year. There is currently no remote option for MCH, 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.

Basic Courses of MCH*

**Mandatory for all students to concentrate*

SBS 246, Maternal and Child Health: Programs and Policies (Offered in Fall, 2.50 credits)
SBS 360, MCH Seminar (Yearlong, 1.25 credits)

Core MCH Courses*

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

ID 225, Life Course Epidemiology
SBS 208, Adolescent Health
SBS 211, Public Health in Action: Strategies for Policy, Advocacy, and Communication
SBS 212, Developmental Disabilities I: Evaluation, Assessment and Systems
SBS 214, Developmental Disabilities II: Value, Policy, and Change
SBS 220, Social and Structural Inequities and Children's Health
SBS 222, Social Services for Children, Adolescents and Families
SBS 299, Science-Driven Innovation in the Early Childhood Ecosystem
EPI 269, Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology I
EPI 270, Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology II: Advanced Methods
SBS 550, Program Evaluation (P/F only) (students must apply)
SBS 202, Child Psychiatric Epidemiology
GHP 209, Early Childhood Development in Global Contexts

Sequence in Women, Gender and Health Concentration:

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

WGH 210, Women, Gender and Health: Critical Issues in Mental Health

WGH 211, Gender and Health: Introductory Perspectives

WGH 220, Sexuality and Public Health

WGH 201, Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice

WGH 207, Advanced Topics in Women, Gender and Health

MCH-related Elective Courses

SBS 219, High-Risk Behavior: Epidemiology and Prevention Strategies

SBS 210, Intro to Dissemination & Implementation Science

Health Communication and Cultural Competence

SBS 225, Engaging with the Press: A Practical Look at Effective Public Health Communications

SBS 254, Social Disparities, Stress and Health

SBS 285, Practical Communications Strategies and Tactics for Influencing a Healthier World

SBS 509, Health Communications in the 21st Century

SBS 516, Organizational Health Literacy: Issues and Assessment

SBS 515, Health Literacy: Measuring Accessibility of Health Information

ID 217, Nutrition and Global Health

SBS 514, Reducing Socioeconomic & Racial/Ethnic Inequalities in Health Concepts, Models, Effective Strategies

SBS 502, Mass incarceration & Health in the US

Leadership Skills

SBS 296, Leadership in Minority Health Policy

HPM 245, Public Health Leadership Skills

HPM 278, Skills and Methods of Health Care Negotiation Conflict Resolution

Methodological Courses with particular importance to MCH

SBS 204, Program Implementation and Evaluation

SBS 288, Qualitative Research Methods in Public Health

SBS 231, Community Intervention Research Methods

NUT 232, Designing and Evaluations Behavioral Interventions Targeting Diet and Physical Activity

GHP 504, Introduction to Qualitative Research for Global Health

SBS 231, Community Intervention Research Methods

Additional Comments:

MPH Students

The practicum for all MPH students in the MCH concentration must deal with an MCH population or agency in a broader sense.

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.