



**HARVARD T.H. CHAN  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

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**CENTER OF EXCELLENCE  
IN MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH**

**GUIDELINES  
FOR  
THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE:  
MATERNAL AND CHILD  
HEALTH  
CONCENTRATION  
2025-2026**

## 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@hsp.harvard.edu](mailto:mchconcentration@hsp.harvard.edu).

## Requirements

Students should indicate their interest in the MCH concentration by reaching out to the MCH Center of Excellence at [mchconcentration@hsp.harvard.edu](mailto:mchconcentration@hsp.harvard.edu). **All** MCH concentrators are required to take **either** SBS 246, Maternal and Child: Health Programs and Policies *or* SBS 216, Global Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health for ordinal credit. Students are welcome to take both. 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 or SBS 216 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 or SBS 216 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 or SBS 216 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 or SBS 216 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](mailto:mchconcentration@hsph.harvard.edu) along with an unofficial transcript.

#### **Mandatory MCH Courses (Scientific Basis of MCH)**

*2 mandatory MCH courses required (SBS 360 + SBS 246 or SBS 216)*

**SBS 360**, MCH Seminar (Yearlong, 1.25 credits)

**SBS 246**, Maternal & Child Health: Programs & Policies (Offered in Spring 2026, 2.50 credits)

*OR*

**SBS 216**, Global Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (Offered in Fall 2025, 2.50 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 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 & Families

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

**SBS 550**, Program Evaluation (*January Course- Currently Not Offered*)

**EPI 269**, Reproductive & Perinatal Epidemiology I

**EPI 270**, Reproductive & Perinatal Epidemiology II: Advanced Methods

**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 21<sup>st</sup> Century

**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

**SBS 206**, US Social Safety Net Policies and Health