



HARVARD T.H. CHAN
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
IN MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

**GUIDELINES
FOR
THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE:
MATERNAL AND CHILD
HEALTH
CONCENTRATION
2026-2027**

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 **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 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 Fall 2026, 2.50 credits)

OR

SBS 216, Global Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (Offered in Spring 2027, 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 (*Offered next academic year '27-'28*)

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

SBS 214 A & B, Developmental Disabilities II: Value, Policy, and Change

SBS 208, Adolescent Health

SBS 220, Social and Structural Inequities and Children's Health (*Offered next academic year '27-'28*)

SBS 222, Social Services for Children, Adolescents & Families

SBS 550, Health Department Program Evaluation (*January Course*)

SBS 299, Science-Driven Innovation in the Early Childhood Ecosystem (*Currently not offered*)

EPI 269, Reproductive & Perinatal Epidemiology I (*Offered next academic year '27-'28*)

EPI 270, Reproductive & Perinatal Epidemiology II: Advanced Methods (*Currently not offered*)

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 in a Changing World

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 US Press: A Practical Look at Effective Public Health Communications

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

SBS 509, Health Communications in the 21st Century

SBS 515, Health Literacy: Practical Tools to Make Information More Equitable

ID 217, Nutrition & Global Health

Leadership Skills

SBS 296, Leadership in Health Policy

HPM 245, Meta-Leadership: Preparing to Lead in Public Health and Health Care

HPM 278, Skills and Methods of Health Care and Public Health 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
((Temporarily canceled))

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 Socioeconomic & Racial/Ethnic Inequalities in Health: Concepts, Models, Effective Strategies

SBS 206, US Social Safety Net Policies and Health