DEPARTMENT OF MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH (GRAD)

Contact Information
Department of Maternal and Child Health
Visit Program Website (http://www.sph.unc.edu/mhch/)

Carolyn Halpern, Chair
The Gillings School’s Department of Maternal and Child Health was founded in 1950 and is one of the world’s leading academic departments for research, teaching and practice. We are dedicated to improving the health of women, children, and families – domestically and globally. Our teaching program provides students with broad exposure to maternal and child health population needs and priorities, as well as with the skills to become leaders of tomorrow. Our faculty members represent a rich mix of academic backgrounds and interests and contribute their expertise and leadership in a wide range of disciplines. We invite you to join us as we embark upon an exciting new year of scholarship, leadership, and service.

Degrees and Programs
Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) Programs
Master of Public Health (M.P.H. Residential) (https://sph.unc.edu/application-steps/?program=mch-mph-r)
The Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) concentration in Maternal, Child and Family Health (MCFH) focuses on the determinants, mechanisms, and systems that promote and maintain the health and safety of women, children, and their families to enhance the future health and welfare of society. Our field is population-based and interdisciplinary, and we provide a strong foundation of knowledge, frameworks, and methods for program monitoring, process/impact evaluation, and program planning and implementation. As graduates, students will be equipped with a highly adaptable toolkit and prepared to lead interdisciplinary efforts that require multiple perspectives and competencies in domestic and global contexts. The degree is designed for students who have a bachelor’s degree and is intended for applicants who plan a practice career. It requires 42 credit hours, entailing SPH integrated core courses, MCFH core courses, and three elective courses.

A cooperative arrangement between the Gillings School and the School of Social Work (SSW), the Dual Master of Public Health and Master of Social Work provides knowledge of the major factors associated with maternal health and child health, principles and methods for improving the health of mothers and children, and principles and methods of program planning, management, consultation, and policy analysis in the U.S. and in international settings. The program provides skills related to program planning, implementation, and evaluation; limited scientific investigation; computer applications; interdisciplinary functioning; and consultation as they relate to maternal and child health. The program objective is to develop a public health perspective consistent with population-based strategies for solving community health problems, addressing the responsibility of government and the contributions of scientific investigation and the interdisciplinary approach.

Other Master’s (M.H.A., M.S., M.S.C.R., M.S.E.E., M.S.P.H.) Programs
Master of Science in Public Health (M.S.P.H. Residential) (https://sph.unc.edu/application-steps/?program=mch-msph-r)
The terminal M.S.P.H. degree is an option only for students who have, or are expected to have, a terminal health professional or allied health professional degree (examples: MD, PhD, JD). The degree is intended for those who, by virtue of their prior health training, would benefit from more specialization, and who must complete their master’s degree in one year or less. It requires 42 credit hours, entailing five SPH integrated core courses, two MCH core courses, and two MCH skills courses. The program normally requires two semesters and two summers to complete, including six credits (equivalent to five and a half weeks of full-time work) of field training.

Master’s-to-Doctoral Programs
Master’s-to-Doctoral Program (M.S.P.H.-Ph.D. Residential) (https://sph.unc.edu/application-steps/?program=mch-msph-phd-r)
This track is designed for students who have a bachelor’s degree but have not yet completed a master’s degree. Students in this degree track will earn the Master of Science in Public Health (M.S.P.H.) degree before completing the requirements to earn the Ph.D. Requirements for the Ph.D. and M.S.P.H. are the same as those listed in the descriptions of those two degrees. As with the original MCH Ph.D. track that requires a master’s degree for eligibility, the Master’s-to-Doctorate (Mtd) track is intended for applicants who plan a research career, whether in basic or applied research, that is focused on the MCH population.

Dual Master of Public Health and Doctor of Pharmacy (M.P.H.-Pharm.D. Residential) (https://sph.unc.edu/application-steps/? program=mch-mph-pharmd-r)
The objective of the Pharm.D./M.P.H. dual degree is to prepare students for an ever-expanding pharmacist role that increasingly requires proficiency in medication therapy management and health promotion on an individual patient, regional, state, and national level. A public health pharmacist is expected to use their pharmacotherapeutic knowledge and skills, in combination with their public health skills, to “plan, organize, manage, and perform drug-related activities within a specific public health focus or within a public health setting.

Doctoral Program (Ph.D)
The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) is a residential degree program which develops research scholars capable of producing and disseminating new knowledge and methods for the public health profession in the field of maternal and child health. Each doctoral student is expected to develop and demonstrate competence in at least three areas: core maternal and child health content, research methods and a chosen area of specialization. The specialization area will be related to the student’s dissertation research.

Following the faculty member’s name is a section number that students should use when registering for independent studies, reading, research, and thesis and dissertation courses with that particular professor.

Professors
Carolyn Halpern (032), Adolescent Health and Development, Sexual Health, Research Methodology, LGBT Health
**Clinical Professors**

Pierre Barker, Improving the Reliability of Effective Health Programs in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Australasia, and Latin America

John Thorp Jr., Preterm Birth, Birth Asphyxia, Episiotomy, Community Child Health

**Research Professor**

Ilene Speizer (015), Unintended Pregnancy Prevention, Evaluation of Reproductive Health Programs in Developing Countries, Adolescent Health, Male/Couple Involvement, Gender-Based Violence, HIV Prevention

**Associate Professors**

Gustavo Angeles (075), Health Economics, Research Methods, Program Evaluation, International Health

Dorothy Cilenti (036), Public Health Departments, Systems Development

Sian Curtis (049), Contraceptive Use Dynamics, International Reproductive and Maternal Health, Monitoring and Evaluation Methods for Population and Health Programs, Multilevel Models, Statistical Demography

Claudia Fernandez (031), Leadership Development, Leadership Issues in Healthcare and Related Fields

Sherri Green (025), Maternal Health, Public Health Leadership, Substance Abuse, Violence Prevention

Kavita Singh Ongechi (010), Evaluation of Maternal and Child Health Interventions in Low and Middle Income Countries, Role of Social Factors on Maternal and Child Health Outcomes, Measurement of Maternal and Child Health Outcomes, Newborn Health

**Clinical Associate Professor**

Thomas Ivester, Critical Care Obstetrics, Health Care Improvement, High-Risk Pregnancy

**Assistant Professors**

Anna Austin, Child Abuse and Neglect, Adverse Childhood Experiences, Substance Misuse and Overdose

Janine Barden-O’Fallon (033), Family Planning, Reproductive Health, International Health, Monitoring and Evaluation Methods for Global Health Programs

Oscar Fleming, Implementation Science (Practice and Research); MCH Workforce Development; Early Childhood Development; Maternal and Newborn Health; Qualitative Research, Global Health

Shoshana Goldberg, LGBT Health, Adolescent Health, Sexual and Reproductive Health

Dana Hagele, Pediatrics, Child Abuse Pediatrics, Trauma-Informed Care, Mental Health

Aunchalee Palmquist (045), Breastfeeding, Medical Anthropology, Health Disparities, Global Health, Humanitarian Maternal and Child Health, Infant Feeding in Emergencies, Perinatal Mental Health, Human Milk Donation, Trauma Informed Care, Qualitative Methods, Reproductive Justice

Angela Parcesepe (048), Violence, Mental Health Interventions, HIV Risk

Tamar Ringel-Kulka (041), Microbiome, Functional Foods, Probiotics, Obesity, Breastfeeding, Children and Adolescents Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

Meghan Shanahan (067), Diagnosis and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect, Program Evaluations, Prescription Drug Overdose

Catherine Sullivan (072), Breastfeeding, Lactation, Nutrition Education and Support Services

Christine Tucker (013), Breastfeeding, Lactation, Nutrition Education and Support Services

**Adjunct Professors**

Bruce Barron, Mathematical Models of Biological Systems

Jose Belizan, International Maternal and Child Health, Maternal Mortality and Morbidity

Pouru Bhiwandi, Obstetrics and Gynecology, International Women’s Health, Maternal and Child Health

Paul Biemer, Survey Research and Development, Statistics

Dorothy Browne, High-Risk Behaviors (Drugs, HIV/AIDS, Sexual Behavior, etc) Among African-American Adolescents and Adults

Martha Carlough, Maternal and Child Health

Roldolfo Gomez Ponce de Leon, Global Reproductive Health, Obstetrics and Gynecology

Phillip Graham, Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention; Program Evaluation

Marcia Herman-Giddens, Pediatrics, Public Health, Ticks and Tick-Borne Infections

Vijaya Hogan, Infant Mortality, Prematurity, Health Equity

Roy Jacobstein, Family Planning and International Health

Marian Johnson-Thompson, Microbiology, Environmental Health

Michael Kafriessen, Clinical Research, Product Development, Aging

Baker Maggwa, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Operations/Implementation Research

Tekleab Mekbib, Implementation Science

Logan Nickels, Family Planning, Male Contraception, Biochemistry

Krista Perreira, Immigrant Health, Reproductive Health, Mental Health, Cardiovascular Health, Public Policy Analysis

Doris Rouse, Maternal and Child Health, Global Health, Public Private Partnerships

Joseph Telfair, Evaluation, Health Equity/Disparities, Multi-Cultural, Global Health, Public Health Practice-Based Leadership

Wendee Wechsberg, HIV Prevention, Women/Gender Issues, Substance Use, Gender-Based Violence

Adam Zolotor, Child Maltreatment, State Health Policy

**Adjunct Associate Professors**

Joy Baumgartner, Maternal and Child Health, Global Mental Health, Health Services Research
MHCH 605. Breastfeeding and Global Health Seminar. 3 Credits.
This survey course will briefly cover the principal topics in this broad field of knowledge, including domestic and global issues.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 610. Issues in Maternal and Child Health. 3 Credits.
This course covers nutrition during the life cycle. Units include women during preconception, pregnancy, and lactation; infancy; childhood; adolescence; and older adults (65+). Nutrient and energy needs, assessment of nutritional status, and cultural and socioeconomic barriers are discussed for each phase.
Requisites: Prerequisite, NUTR 240.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 611. Food And Your Life Stages. 3 Credits.
This course covers nutrition during the life cycle. Units include women during preconception, pregnancy, and lactation; infancy; childhood; adolescence; and older adults (65+). Nutrient and energy needs, assessment of nutritional status, and cultural and socioeconomic barriers are discussed for each phase.
Requisites: Prerequisite, NUTR 240.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 625. Injury as a Public Health Problem. 3 Credits.
This course examines unintentional injuries from a public health perspective. The course covers core concepts in injury prevention and control, including the epidemiology of unintentional injury, prevention strategies, behavioral models, child and adolescent injury, messaging framing, the Haddon matrix, and injury surveillance.
Requisites: Corequisite, EPID 600.
Grading status: Letter grade.

Same as: EPID 625, HBEH 625.
MHCH 626. Violence as a Public Health Problem. 3 Credits.
This course covers core concepts in violence prevention and control, including the epidemiology of violence, prevention strategies for interpersonal and intra-personal violence, behavioral models that describe power structures that reinforce personal and societal factors affecting self-harm and violence towards others, and violence directed towards children and adolescents.
Requisites: Prerequisite, EPID 625.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: EPID 626, HBEH 626.
MHCH 664. Globalization and Health. 3 Credits.
Globalization—its economic, environmental, political, technological, institutional, and sociocultural dimensions—historically and currently contributes to beneficial and adverse effects on population, community, and family and individual health.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HPM 664.
MHCH 665. Introduction to Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities. 1 Credit.
Eliminating health disparities is a national goal for improving the health of Americans. Little to no progress has been made on eliminating disparities among racial/ethnic subpopulations compared to the population of the United States. This course treats basic concepts about the origins of and contributing factors for health disparities.
Grading status: Letter grade.
MHCH 680. Global Sexual and Reproductive Health. 1 Credit.
Featuring international experts from UNC-Chapel Hill and Triangle-based nongovernmental organizations, this course will offer a series of lectures, panel discussions, and debates to inform students’ critical thinking on key public health issues in global sexual and reproductive health.
Grading status: Letter grade.
MHCH 685. Human Sexuality. 1 Credit.
Through lectures and panel discussions this course will use a life span framework to examine selected aspects of sexual development, including perspectives on sexuality; the physical self; sexual attraction, behavior, and relationships; and the implications of these factors for physical and mental health. No prerequisites; all students are welcome.
Grading status: Letter grade.
MHCH 690. Special Topics in Maternal Health and Child Health. 1-3 Credits.
Special topics in maternal health and child health. Content will vary from semester to semester.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit; may be repeated in the same term for different topics; 12 total credits. 4 total completions.
Grading status: Letter grade.

Graduate-level Courses

MHCH 701. Foundations of Maternal and Child Health I. 3 Credits.
This course introduces the major issues affecting the health and well-being of women during the reproductive years, infants, children, and adolescents in domestic and international settings. First semester of a two-semester course. Permission of the instructor for non-majors.
MHCH 702. Foundations of Maternal and Child Health II. 2 Credits.
Permission of the instructor for nonmajors. Second part of a two-part course that introduces the major issues affecting the health and well-being of women during the reproductive years, infants, children and adolescents in domestic and international settings. Second semester of a two-semester course.
Requisites: Prerequisite, MHCH 701.
Grading status: Letter grade.
MHCH 704. Critical Review of an Infant Feeding Issue. 3 Credits.
This independent study will include selection of a research area that would allow preparation of a coauthored paper for peer-review publication on an approved subject related to infant and young child feeding and care and associated maternal health and nutrition issues.
Grading status: Letter grade.
MHCH 705. International Family Planning. 3 Credits.
Required preparation, graduate study in MHCH. Permission of the instructor. Analysis of the family planning movement, its policies, operations and research, with emphasis on developing countries. Three lecture hours a week.
Grading status: Letter grade.
MHCH 710. Leadership in Maternal and Child Health. 2 Credits.
This course is designed to integrate the theory, research literature, and evidence-supported practices related to leadership in maternal and child health. Students will consider each of the twelve core competencies within the spheres of influence that leaders experience as they develop. Students will hear from public health professionals in the field, consider perspectives of various stakeholders and examine/apply new skills.
Grading status: Letter grade.
MHCH 712. Program Assessment in Maternal and Child Health. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor for nonmajors. Offers an opportunity for students to explore in greater depth a selected MCH practice topic. Students will learn how to provide consultation about a selected program activity.
Grading status: Letter grade.
MHCH 713. Research Methods in Maternal and Child Health. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor for nonmajors. The art and science of MCH research, with an emphasis on applied survey research. Student groups will design and carry out a small study, and present their findings in a poster presentation. Focuses on assessment of MCH population characteristics, secondary data analysis, and the evaluation of MCH programs. A practicum-based course. Three lecture hours per week.
Grading status: Letter grade.
MHCH 713L. Research and Evaluation Methods in Maternal and Child Health Lab. 1 Credit.
Permission of the instructor for nonmajors. The MHCH 713 lab, which is a companion course to MHCH 713, introduces students to statistical analysis using Stata. One hour and 15 minutes of lab per week.
Requisites: Corequisite, MHCH 713.
Grading status: Letter grade.
MHCH 715. Maternal and Child Health Management. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor for nonmajors. Students become familiar with organizational processes, management principles, and tools required for effective management of health programs and facilities. A variety of learning techniques will be used. Three lecture hours a week.
Grading status: Letter grade.
MHCH 716. International Family Planning and Reproductive Health. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor for nonmajors. Course provides overview of critical issues including major theoretical frameworks, patterns and trends over time, and overview of history of family planning and reproductive health policy development. Three lecture hours per week.
Grading status: Letter grade.
MHCH 717. Field Training in Maternal and Child Health. 2-8 Credits.
A faculty-supervised field experience in maternal and child health research, community practice, program planning, and evaluation. Students are supervised on-site by department-approved field instructor. An additional field fee of $350 is assessed. Minimum of six weeks.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 718. Concurrent Field Training in Maternal and Child Health. 1-5 Credits.
MHCH majors only. An elective, faculty-supervised field experience in maternal and child health research, community practice, program planning, and evaluation. Students are supervised on-site by department-approved field instructor. Students choosing this elective are not exempt from MHCH 717. Variable number of hours.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 720. Services for Children with Chronic Conditions. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor. This course focuses on the design, organization, and delivery of services for children with special needs and their families, and examines current program development and public policies. Participants analyze the range of services needed by these children.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 721. Introduction to Monitoring and Evaluation. 3 Credits.
This course covers the main causes of maternal and under-five morbidity and mortality in developing countries and also the interventions, policies, and research which address these causes. Emphasis is placed on both distal and proximate determinants, measurement and indicators, and conceptual frameworks.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 723. Introduction to Monitoring and Evaluation. 3 Credits.
This course provides the students with the basic concepts and methodologies needed to monitor and evaluate programs of global health programs. Course covers M&E systems; conceptual frameworks/logic models; indicators; information sources; evaluation designs and related topics for health programs in developing country settings. This course is required for the MCFH and GH concentrations.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 724. Abortion Care and Policy. 2 Credits.
This course will provide an overview of the critical issues in abortion care and policy, both in the US and globally. We will cover the major theoretical frameworks defining abortion care and policy, and the epidemiology of abortion globally and nationally.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 725. Injury as a Public Health Problem. 3 Credits.
This course considers the causes and consequences of traumatic injury within developmental, social, and economic contexts, and dilemma in injury prevention. Injuries associated with transportation, violence, and the home and occupational environments are included. Three lecture hours per week.
Requisites: Prerequisite, EPID 600.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HBEH 725.

MHCH 726. Adolescent Health. 3 Credits.
Topics covered include the epidemiology of health problems, developmental issues, health services, and psychosocial influences on adolescent problem behaviors. Course materials are useful for research generation and practical application. Three seminar hours per week.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HBEH 726.

MHCH 728. Introduction to Implementation Research and Practice in Maternal, Child and Family Health. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor for nonmajors. Implementation research and practice addresses the gap between the development of innovations in public health and their delivery in routine practice. Course provides an overview of core theories/methods in implementation research and practice plus implementation determinants and strategies at the intervention, individual, organizational, and policy levels.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 729. Implementation Science for Global Maternal and Child Health. 3 Credits.
This course is an introduction to implementation science with an emphasis on its application for global MCH. The course will highlight current challenges in global MCH and the role of IS in addressing them.
Requisites: Prerequisite, MHCH 728 (for MCFH students), or an equivalent course if outside MCH.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 730. Reproductive Health Policy. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor. Participants examine forces that shape social policy relating to reproduction and differential impact of policy based on age and other factors. Focus on global controversies in reproduction/reproductive health services in context of human/women's rights. Three lecture hours a week.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 732. Gender-Based Violence. 3 Credits.
The MHCH Gender-Based Violence (GBV) course provides a forum for students to explore contemporary issues in GBV from both a research and practice standpoint. Students will be introduced to a myriad of domestic and international GBV issues, from intimate partner violence and campus sexual assault to sex trafficking.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 735. Clinical Support for Breastfeeding. 3 Credits.
Required preparation, students must have a master's or clinical four-year degree, or be in such a degree program to be enrolled in this course. This clinical course is structured to provide supervised breastfeeding support education in the context of clinical lactation services and public health practice.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 740. Problems in Maternal and Child Health. 1-3 Credits.
Prerequisites to be arranged with departmental faculty in each individual case. Two to six hours a week.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit; may be repeated in the same term for different topics.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 745. Applied Methods for Health Transformation Implementation in MCH. 1-3 Credits.
This course is designed to integrate the theory, research literature, and evidence-supported practices that promote population health outcomes in MCH. The passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) offers opportunities for improving public health systems, health care financing and delivery, and health outcomes for MCH populations.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 753. Violence Against Women. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor for nonmajors. Violence against women is examined as a public health problem. Areas investigated include definitional issues, prevalence of the problem, risk factors and outcomes, and community and medical interventions.
Grading status: Letter grade.
MHCH 757. Special Child Populations. 3 Credits.
Course focuses on two populations that warrant special attention. By examining these populations in one course, students are exposed to a range of contemporary issues that cut across childhood development.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 760. Breastfeeding, Public Health, and Feminism. 1 Credit.
A transdisciplinary effort to address feminist perspectives and to emphasize the impact that gendered power dynamics and structured social stratification might offer for public health policies, priorities, and approaches related to breastfeeding. A series of public health constructs currently engaged by breastfeeding programs and policies provide a framework for discussion.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 765. Clinical Support for Breastfeeding. 3 Credits.
Master s or clinical four-year degree required. This two-semester clinical course is structured to provide supervised breastfeeding support education in the context of clinical lactation services and public health practice.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 766. Clinical Support for Breastfeeding II. 3 Credits.
Master s or clinical four-year degree required. This two-semester clinical course is structured to provide supervised breastfeeding support education in the context of clinical lactation services and public health practice.
Requisites: Prerequisite, MHCH 765.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 780. Cultural Humility. 1 Credit.
Cultural Humility is part of the required training sequence for second year MPH students in the Global Health concentration. This course is designed to provide students with the skills to work in culturally complex settings and to apply cultural humility when engaging in global health research and practice. GH concentration only.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 785. Decolonizing MCH: Theory and Qualitative Methods. 3 Credits.
This graduate seminar provides Maternal and Child Health (MCH) students with an opportunity to examine key theories and qualitative methodologies that advance anti-racist, abolitionist, intersectional feminist, and emancipatory scholarship for health equity and reproductive justice. Students gain a deeper understanding of the intellectual foundations of research justice. And learn to design research questions, data collection strategies, and analytic techniques that decolonize knowledge production. Preference given to students enrolled in the MCH department or MCFH concentration.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 795. Leadership in Maternal and Child Health. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor for nonmajors. Course is designed to integrate the theory, research literature, and evidence-supported practices related to leadership in maternal and child health. Students will consider each of the twelve core competencies within the spheres of influence that leaders experience as they develop. Students will hear from public health professionals in the field, consider perspectives of various stakeholders and examine/apply new skills.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 801. Doctoral Research Seminar. 3 Credits.
This seminar explores the origins of and developments in major maternal and child health policies and programs in order to understand their effects on the health of mothers and children.
Requisites: Prerequisites, MHCH 701 and 702.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 802. Doctoral Teaching Skills Seminar. 1 Credit.
The goal of this 1-credit hour seminar is for participants to examine and apply the strategies and concepts underlying effective teaching in small groups and the lecture hall. Doctoral students will consider the characteristics of effective teaching and explore how to incorporate these characteristics into their own pedagogy.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 803. Doctoral Research Skills Colloquium. 1 Credit.
Enrollment in the MCH doctoral program or permission of the instructor for nonmajors and master s students. This seminar is the second semester of a one-year research skills colloquium for all new doctoral students. The course addresses research, problem definition, proposal design, and development. One-hour seminar a week.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 816. Applied Quality Improvement Methods for Healthcare and Public Health. 3 Credits.
The course objective is to develop, implement, and test a solution to improve health care or public health delivery, using a model called the Model for Improvement (or MFI). The model uses three questions to scope the improvement project and four steps, Plan-Do-Check-Act, to implement and test solutions.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: PUBH 716, HPM 716.

MHCH 840. Maternal and Child Health Doctoral Internship. 1 Credit.
Enrollment in MCH doctoral program required. MCH internship to enhance doctoral training in areas of: Section 1: Teaching; Section 2: Practice; and Section 3: Research.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit; may be repeated in the same term for different topics.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 851. Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology. 3 Credits.
Epidemiology of reproductive and perinatal health outcomes, including infertility, fetal loss, preterm birth, birthweight, congenital malformations, and infant mortality. Includes current knowledge regarding epidemiology of these outcomes and discussion of methodologic issues. Three lecture hours per week.
Requisites: Co-requisites, BIOS 600 and EPID 600; Equivalent experience for students lacking the co-requisites.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: EPID 851.

MHCH 853. Advanced Topics in Perinatal and Pediatric Epidemiology. 2 Credits.
Critical review of current topics in, and methods for, perinatal and pediatric epidemiology.
Requisites: Prerequisites, EPID 710 and 851; Permission of the instructor for master s level students.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: EPID 853.
MHCH 859. THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH. 3 Credits.
A survey of theoretical models used in MCH research and program development, and how those models are used to guide the formulation of questions, hypothesis testing, and evaluation. Fall.
Requisites: Prerequisites, doctoral students, permission of the instructor.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 860. Conceptualization, Design, and Measurement. 3 Credits.
The course follows the research process from the formulation of a research question and the design of a research methodology to the addressing of the question through the design of an appropriate analysis strategy. Three lecture hours a week.
Requisites: Prerequisite, MHCH 859; Permission of the instructor for nonmajors and master’s students.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 862. Program Impact Evaluation. 3 Credits.
Required preparation, knowledge of Stata or SAS; proficiency in inferential statistics and multiple regression analysis. Instructor permission required for non-second year MCH doctoral students. Program impact evaluation analytic skills seminar. Topics: selectivity, research designs, instrumental variables, difference-in-differences, fixed and random effects, regression discontinuity, matching, and selection models.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 885. Health Services/Health Policy Research Methods II. 3 Credits.
An introduction to basic research methods central to maternal and child health policy, including an introduction to basic components of the research process such as developing research questions and conceptual models, and overviews of research designs, quantitative and qualitative analytical methods, primary data collection, and secondary data analysis.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 886. Health Services/Health Policy Research Methods III. 3 Credits.
A modular course covering applications of selected methods covered in 885. Illustrative applications include implementation science, comparative effectiveness research, issues in mixed-method research, feasibility studies, and the translation of research to policy and practice. Applications are framed in terms of issues related to the MCH population.
Requisites: Prerequisites, MHCH 884 and 885.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 890. Special Topics in Maternal and Child Health. 1-3 Credits.
Special topics in Maternal and Child Health for graduate students only. Content will vary semester to semester.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit. 3 total credits. 3 total completions.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 992. Master’s (Non-Thesis). 3 Credits.

MHCH 994. Doctoral Research and Dissertation. 3 Credits.

Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) Maternal, Child, and Family Health Concentration

The Maternal, Child, and Family Health concentration [https://sph.unc.edu/resource-pages/master-of-public-health-2/maternal-child-and-family-health-concentration/] focuses on determinants and systems that promote the health and safety of women, children, and their families – with the goal of enhancing the welfare of society and subsequent generations. With a strong foundation in frameworks and methods for program planning and impact evaluation, this concentration equips graduates with an adaptable toolkit for leading interdisciplinary efforts requiring multiple perspectives and competencies in domestic and global contexts.

Degree Requirements
Requirements for the M.P.H. degree in the Maternal, Child, and Family Health concentration

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<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>SPHG 711</td>
<td>Data Analysis for Public Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPHG 712</td>
<td>Methods and Measures for Public Health Practice</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>SPHG 713</td>
<td>Understanding Public Health Issues</td>
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<td>SPHG 701</td>
<td>Leading from the Inside-Out</td>
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<td>SPHG 721</td>
<td>Public Health Solutions: Systems, Policy and Advocacy</td>
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<td>SPHG 722</td>
<td>Developing, Implementing, and Evaluating Public Health</td>
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<td>MHCH 713</td>
<td>Practicum: 200 minimum hours</td>
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<td>Fall 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPHG 702</td>
<td>Practicum Assignments &amp; Interprofessional Practice Activities</td>
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<td>Fall 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>MHCH 701</td>
<td>Foundations of Maternal and Child Health I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHCH 702</td>
<td>Foundations of Maternal and Child Health II</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHCH 713</td>
<td>Research Methods in Maternal and Child Health</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHCH 713L</td>
<td>Research and Evaluation Methods in Maternal and Child Health Lab</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>MHCH 728</td>
<td>Introduction to Implementation Research and Practice in Maternal, Child and Family Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHCH 723</td>
<td>Introduction to Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Fall 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>MHCH 992</td>
<td>Master’s (Non-Thesis)</td>
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</table>

Total Hours 42

Competencies
Students will develop the following Maternal, Child, and Family Health competencies, building on the foundational public health knowledge they attain in the Gillings M.P.H. Integrated Core courses.

MHCP01. Substantive knowledge: Critically analyze determinants of health among infants, children, adolescents, women, mothers, and families, including biological, behavioral, socioeconomic, demographic, cultural, and health care systems influences across the life course.
To satisfy degree requirements, a Gillings M.P.H. practicum must:

**A Practicum is a planned, mentored, and evaluated work experience (paid or unpaid) that enables students to integrate and apply their Gillings M.P.H. training in a professional public health setting.**

To satisfy degree requirements, a Gillings M.P.H. practicum must:

- Be public health practice, research, and/or policy focused.
- Be mentored by a supervisor (preceptor) with an advanced degree in public health or related field or equivalent experience with expertise in the practicum project area.
- Take place in a location approved for student travel (UNC Travel Policy (https://global.unc.edu/travel-global-operations/travel-policies/), and the student must complete UNC Gillings International Pre-Departure Travel Requirements (https://sph.unc.edu/global-health/global-travel-toolkit-2/) prior to travel if applicable.
- Comprise a minimum of 200 hours (equivalent to five weeks of full-time work).

Gillings M.P.H. students must complete SPHG 701, SPHG 711, SPHG 712, SPHG 713, SPHG 721, and SPHG 722 and have their learning agreement approved by their practicum lead prior to beginning their practicum. For more information, please visit our M.P.H. Practicum (https://sph.unc.edu/resource-pages/master-of-public-health/mph-practicum/) web page.

**Comprehensive Exam**

A milestone degree requirement for all graduate students at UNC–Chapel Hill, including M.P.H. students at the Gillings School of Public Health, is the comprehensive exam. The comprehensive exam will cover the public health foundational knowledge and competencies covered in the M.P.H. Core courses: SPHG 701, 711, 712, 713, 721, 722. Students will have an opportunity to demonstrate synthesis and higher order learning of the 22 core competencies achieved in the M.P.H. Core courses during the exam. The exam will be administered and graded by Gillings faculty and clear instructions on how to prepare for and complete the comprehensive exam will be provided. For residential students, the comprehensive exam will typically be offered in the fall of the student’s second year in the M.P.H. program. Students in the MPH@UNC program or those who may be moving through the program at a different pace may take the exam in the spring administration. Students must take the comprehensive exam at the next administration after they have successfully completed the M.P.H. core courses. Should students not successfully pass the comprehensive exam a remediation plan will be developed. Students cannot retake the comprehensive exam for 90 days after the initial exam and must be registered in at least one credit while taking the comprehensive exam.

**Culminating Experience**

Each student completes a 3-credit culminating experience and produces a high-quality written product that is completed at end of the program of study. The high-quality written product demonstrates a synthesis of two foundational and two concentration-specific competencies appropriate to the student’s educational and professional goals. This culminating experience ideally is delivered in a manner that is useful to external stakeholders, such as nonprofit or governmental organizations, and could take the form of a course-based capstone project or master’s paper but will be tailored to the concentration a student chooses.

**Academic Advising and Faculty Mentoring**

We are committed to providing quality academic advising and mentoring for all students. We ensure that M.P.H. students get the guidance they need with several components: 1) an orientation program that provides an overview of the types and sources of M.P.H. advising; 2) cohort advising sessions to disseminate information that is relevant to course planning and registration; 3) faculty mentoring that provides students with tailored support for their academic, professional, personal development, and practicum support.

M.P.H. students will complete a 15-credit-hour Integrated Core taught by an interdisciplinary team of instructors. The 6-credit first semester focuses on understanding public health issues, and the second semester, 8-credit focuses on creating solutions to those issues. Lastly, students will complete a 1-credit Practicum Assignments and Interprofessional Practice Activities course in the second year.

All M.P.H. students complete COMPASS (Core Online Modules to Promote and Accelerate Student Success). These brief, self-paced online modules
are open for students prior to their first academic year. Students can complete any and all parts of COMPASS up to and including the first week of class.

**Electives**

Students in the M.P.H. program are required to take 9 credits. Students are expected to use their electives in a thoughtful way to strengthen their public health knowledge/skills and are encouraged to consult with their academic coordinator early prior to the registration period for this purpose. In addition to those courses offered in the Gillings School there are many appropriate electives elsewhere in the University.

For information on policies and procedures, please visit the Gillings School Student Handbook (https://sph.unc.edu/students/gillings-school-student-handbook/) website.