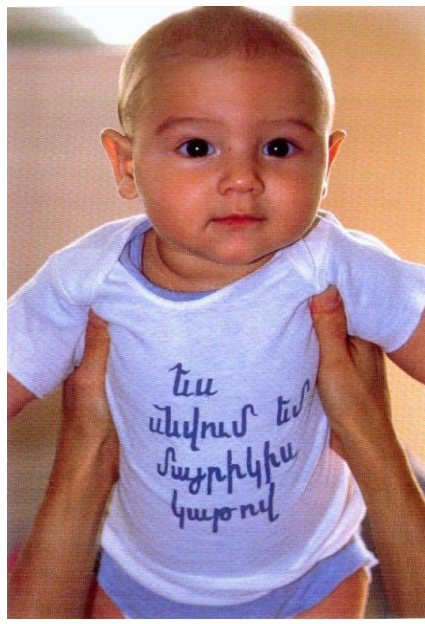


AUA American University of Armenia

TURPANJIAN SCHOOL of PUBLIC HEALTH



**STUDENT INFORMATION MANUAL
MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH) PROGRAM
2020-2022**



Master of Public Health Program
August 2020

Dear Students:

We welcome you to the 2020-2022 Master of Public Health (MPH) program! You represent our 17th MPH cohort and join a distinguished line of health care professionals who since 1995 have chosen to seek this graduate degree. Here is an advice from a recent graduate: *“The two years [of the MPH program] will be transformative for you both professionally and personally, if you let it happen. Try to explore every option you will be given (be open for that), do not restrict yourself with the fear of making mistakes. Enjoy these two years ☺.”*

We believe that AUA and this program are different from other universities and programs you may have attended. The diverse backgrounds of the faculty and their different teaching methodologies, coupled with the up-to-date curriculum, are designed to challenge you to:

- think critically and reason analytically;
- present compelling and cogent arguments for interpretation of presented information, situations, and scenarios;
- excel as an individual *and* as a member of a team;
- acquire the tools and experiences necessary to assume key roles in the development of public health and health care delivery systems; and
- adapt to new and innovative teaching strategies and technologies;

You have been selected from among a highly competitive pool of applicants and, as such, face the high expectations of our faculty. We have confidence that you will meet and exceed these expectations. However, we also predict it will take a great deal of effort on your part – both individually and collectively – to achieve the goals you have set for yourselves and those we have established for you.

The following documents are intended to supplement information on the AUA website and other official university publications. They describe and provide considerable detail about the organization, administration, and philosophy of the MPH Program. We ask you to read and study this document in the coming days and ask any questions that you may have. Other supplemental information will be conveyed to you in the coming months and can be added to this binder. We look forward to sharing an exciting academic experience with you!

Varduhi Petrosyan, MS, PhD
Dean, Turpanjian School of Public Health (SPH)

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A Guiding Paradigm for the MPH Program

The Institute of Medicine in the United States of America has defined the core functions of Public Health as *assessment, assurance, and policy/program development*. The Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health and the American University of Armenia Gerald and Patricia Turpanjian School of Public Health recognize *communication* as the fourth major function. These four functions are vital to managing the health of a population.

It is the goal of the AUA MPH program to provide all students with a firm understanding of the disciplines underpinning these functions. All core program requirements serve to provide the knowledge and skill base for professional practice in the diverse field of Public Health. The guiding framework for approaching all public health issues developed at Johns Hopkins and used at the American University of Armenia has been coined the “Problem Solving Paradigm.” It is this paradigm that forms the basis of the course “Problem Solving in Public Health.” This six-step paradigm provides the principles around which the required curriculum is organized and sequenced.

The steps of the paradigm are the following:

1. **Define the problem:** To define a Public Health problem, one must be able to acquire an understanding of why a particular issue is of concern for a particular population. One must also be able to see a problem from its many perspectives to determine from which vantage point (and from what depth) a problem is best approached. To do this, one must be able to describe the characteristics of the populations and exposures involved. One must also be able to understand the issue in a historical context. Defining a Public Health problem is an iterative process – and is often the most challenging part the paradigm as the other steps will undoubtedly influence the way one sees and defines a problem. Additional challenges and opportunities are evident when groups – and not just individuals – engage in this process.
2. **Measure the magnitude:** Once a Public Health problem is defined, it is imperative to measure its parameters. Thus, the need for biostatistics, vital statistics, and demography, as well as the skills to store, process, manipulate, and report data.
3. **Understand the key determinants:** Once a public health problem is defined and quantified, it must be decided whether the issue(s) should be addressed. It then becomes important to understand the key determinants of the problem:
 - a. biologic etiology: host → agent → vector
 - b. environmental influences
 - c. socio-cultural and behavioral practices of the at-risk population

This step involves both an understanding of the natural history of the disease process and the identification of risk-factors and at-risk populations.

4. **Develop intervention/prevention strategies:** With a clear understanding of the determinants of the Public Health problem, a number of alternate interventions can be proposed at the cellular/microbial, individual, family, community, and/or population level.

5. **Set policy/priorities:** Once the broad range of alternatives are identified and their relative merits considered, policy must be set bringing into play a variety of communication, leadership, and management skills, as well as ethical and financial assessments.
6. **Implement and evaluate:** Having set policy, it must be implemented and evaluated, again invoking many of the same quantitative and analytic skills used in the problem definition and measurement phases.

In addition to the core Public Health skills and knowledge that are integral to the MPH curriculum, students will gain communication skills necessary to affect change. These skills are acquired from the preparation and participation in such activities as written papers, oral persuasive speaking exercises, team activities, scientific presentations, budget preparation, and grant/proposal preparation.

Students will use individual and group assignments as well as self-directed study to develop areas of concentration. There is a responsibility to attend classes, comply with academic guidelines and standards, and complete assignments.

In the last term of the MPH Program, all students will present their “Integrating experience projects” (Master Thesis), which has been developed over the two-year program. The project integrates the core public health knowledge and skills, the knowledge and skills that have been acquired as students seek breadth and depth in their chosen area, and professional practice skills. This will culminate in the submission of a scholarly paper and a public presentation.

As is evident, the Problem Solving Paradigm that serves as the common theme throughout the MPH curriculum is both iterative and cyclic. The paradigm will serve as a framework for organizing and connecting sometimes seemingly disparate disciplines and perspectives. In the end, all share the goal of improving the health of a population.

Working Document
Learning Objectives and Competencies
MPH Program

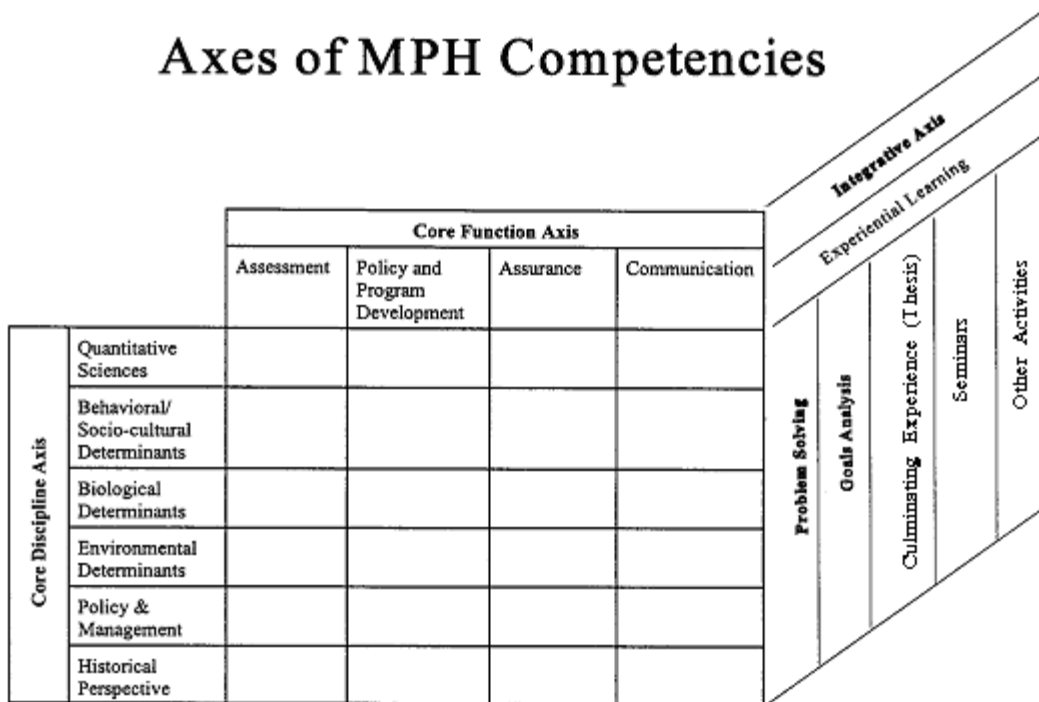
This section describes a multi-dimensional view of MPH competencies used in the development of the MPH program. This organization facilitates the conceptualization of the course content in ways, which assure requisite knowledge, and skills are addressed across the breadth of the core curriculum within a context, which promotes the rapid integration of these skills into professional practice behaviors. This organizational framework also guides the future development and evaluation of the program. Currently, the learning objectives and competencies for the MPH program are organized along the following 3 axes:

Core Function Axis: describes the core functions of professional practice as defined by the US Institute of Medicine and as enhanced by Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health: assessment, policy and program development, assurance, and communication. These functions are embodied within the program's Problem Solving Paradigm. This integrative paradigm, described in detail elsewhere in this manual, serves as an organizing principle for the structure and sequencing of the core (discipline-based) curriculum in the form of a professional practice paradigm which progresses through each of these core functions.

Core Discipline Axis: encapsulates the discipline base underpinning the specific knowledge and skills to be conveyed by each of the core discipline requirements (courses or combination of courses). Within each discipline area, a set of competencies define the level of mastery expected of all MPH graduates, regardless of the student's intended focus of study. These competencies are also used by the MPH faculty in determining the suitability of courses for the MPH curriculum.

Integrative Axis: defines the competencies and objectives, which transcend disciplinary boundaries and demonstrate synthesis, analysis, and integration of multiple cognitive, attitudinal, and behavioral domains. This axis is characterized by activities which are inherently integrative in nature, requiring students to simultaneously draw upon and selectively and critically utilize the array of knowledge and skills in their possession. This axis is most closely associated with the behavioral outcomes MPH graduates are expected to manifest in their professional practice activities.

Axes of MPH Competencies



FUNCTIONAL AXIS

1. Assess the health needs of a defined population.

Competency
Characterize the major national and international public health problems
Describe risk factors for major causes of morbidity and mortality
Define and apply the leading conceptualizations of health and health indicators to the population
Identify, define, and measure a public health problem using both quantitative and qualitative measures
Utilize demographic and epidemiologic assessment techniques to characterize the distribution and burden of disease on a population
Use and critically evaluate health information systems
Understand the key biological, environmental, behavioral, cultural, and/or economic determinants of a given public health problem
Determine appropriate use of data and statistical methods for problem identification and measurement

2. Develop, analyze, and implement targeted health policies and programs.

Competency
Identify the scope of public health issues and policies applicable to defined populations and to vulnerable subgroups of those populations
Describe and critique the government's role in health policy development and implementation
Analyze and evaluate the process of public policy-making and how it affects the design, implementation and performance of health policies
Identify policies and services appropriate to promote and maintain health or prevent injury and disease, for communities, families, and individuals
Articulate the fiscal, administrative, legal, social, and political implications of a strategy developed to solve a health problem
Relate how advocacy, biases, politics, and information influence policy-making and program implementation
Make relevant scientific, ethical, health and human rights, economic, administrative and/or political decisions based in light of available data
Develop a plan to implement a policy that addresses organizational design and management; leadership; communication; financial planning and management; ethics, values, and human rights; and human resources management

3. Assure the appropriateness and effectiveness of a given public health intervention.

Competency
Design a program evaluation that is methodologically sound
Develop processes to monitor and evaluate programs for their effectiveness, quality, and freedom from unintended harms
Apply principles important in managing and improving health services organizations
Apply key concepts of human resource management to achieving the strategic objectives of health service organizations
Demonstrate facility with appropriate database management and reporting systems for evaluation and monitoring of interventions

4. Communicate public health messages to targeted audiences.

Competency
Use basic word processing, statistical/graphical, spreadsheets, and relational database software to convey the results of quantitative and qualitative analyses
Prepare and deliver effective oral and written presentations
Present demographic, statistical, programmatic, and technical information accurately and effectively for professional and lay audiences
Develop and use team-building skills that facilitate work team performance
Organize and participate in groups to address specific public health issues
Solicit input from individuals, organizations, government agencies, and communities to assure comprehensiveness of information
Demonstrate effective advocacy for programs and resources that further the health of the public

CORE DISCIPLINE AXIS

1. Behavioral Sciences

Competency
Integrate the psychologic and sociologic conceptualization of health, health behavior and illness
Describe the concepts of stress, coping and social support, their inter-relationships and assess their impact on health, health behavior and illness
Analyze and predict the influence of major social structural divisions such as gender, socioeconomic status, and ethnicity on health, health behavior and the treatment of illness
Compare theories and principles of behavior change. Analyze their applicability to different types of health behavior problems.
Formulate behavioral, communication, educational, and advocacy strategies for improving the health of communities and individuals
Evaluate processes and outcomes of social and behavioral interventions on the health of communities and individuals

2. Biological Sciences (Disease Biology)

Competency
Differentiate the biology, pathophysiology, modes of transmission and methods of prevention and control of the most important infectious diseases.
Describe the pathophysiology and etiology of genetic and environmentally-induced diseases of public health importance
Compare host responses to major environmental exposures (physical, chemical, biological)
Describe biologic host responses to vaccines, chemoprophylactic, and pharmacologic methods of prevention and treatment of diseases of public health importance
Select ecologic principles directly relevant to major public health diseases
Select and apply biological principles to developing disease prevention, control, or management programs.

3. Environmental Health Sciences

Competency
Identify, describe and differentiate the various environments that produce opportunities for exposures to environmental toxicants
Appraise target populations at risk for such environmental exposures, with emphasis on identification of susceptible groups
Characterize environmental factors (agents, vectors, and conditions) that influence transfer to the host and the agents' toxicokinetics, with emphasis on route of entry
Analyze the interaction of environmental toxicants with biological systems, with emphasis on their toxicodynamics
Prepare a simple risk assessment/risk management analysis based on the problem-solving paradigm

4. Management Sciences

Competency
Describe the organization and structure of a health service system
Evaluate basic models of health delivery systems
Assess major approaches to managing and improving health services organizations (including approaches to process improvement, strategic planning, organizational design)
Apply performance improvement concepts and tools in revising a specific process within an organizational setting
Apply key concepts of human resource management to achieving the strategic objectives of health service organizations
Prepare a basic budget

5. Quantitative Sciences*

Competency
Identify, retrieve, and organize available data relevant to disciplines of public health
Select appropriate data and statistical methods to address a public health question
Compare and contrast basic study designs used in public health
Interpret descriptive and inferential statistics in data analysis
Evaluate the integrity and comparability of data and identify gaps in data sources
Plan a surveillance system for a disease/condition of public health importance
Critique the quantitative methods used in published literature
Explain findings presented in the public health literature

* includes biostatistics, epidemiology, information systems, and computing

6. Historical Perspective

Competency
Critically analyze basic assumptions and conceptual frameworks used to analyze health issues
View contemporary problems in historical perspective
Conduct historical research relevant to contemporary problems affecting the public's health
Communicate about historical issues through rhetoric, debate and prose
Examine and critically assess recent scholarship on the social history of health care.

INTEGRATIVE AXIS

Demonstrate integration of new knowledge and skills with previous training and experience by critical and selective application within a personally and professionally relevant context.

Competency
Critically apply the problem solving framework to a public health problem
Conduct a needs analysis of personal/professional skills and competencies and design a curriculum to meet those needs
Develop habits which foster life-long learning and collegial exchange
Justify/defend facility with core MPH competencies by the critical application of an appropriate professional practice framework
Orally and in writing, present and defend a proposed response to a public health problem in a public (professional or lay) setting

Students develop breadth/depth in areas of personal interest through the selection of topics for individual and group assignments and self-directed study.

Gerald and Patricia Turpanjian School of Public Health Master of Public Health Program

The Master of Public Health (MPH) program within the Gerald and Patricia Turpanjian School of Public Health is affiliated with the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health and represents an integrated effort to develop expertise in managing health programs, assessing the health needs of the people, and translating that knowledge into improved health by designing, implementing, and evaluating programs to meet those needs.

The primary goal of the program is to train and develop health professionals in the disciplines of public health and management of health care facilities. Currently, the MPH program is a two-year graduate program. Upon satisfactory completion of the first year, there is an opportunity for students to leave the program with a Certificate in Public Health (CPH). However, recommendations are for students to complete the full two-years of concentrated course work and acquire the MPH degree.

In 1995, the Zvart Avedisian Onanian Center for Health Services Research and Development (CHSR) was established to respond to the research and development needs in the multi-disciplinary field of Public Health, and provides hands-on training for students and graduates. Staff within the CHSR often serve as Teaching Associates and work with the students on many practical aspects of the research process.

The MPH curriculum provides a conceptual and theoretical grounding in the core disciplines of public health. The second year consists of advanced studies in core disciplines and provides the students an opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills to problems of importance in a supervised setting. *The following description of courses is subject to modification as the program continues to adapt to the dynamic field of public health education. Changes may occur in response to faculty advisory executive committee recommendations or through peer review processes.*

The first year curriculum is sequenced around a guiding professional practice paradigm which integrates core competencies and knowledge within a framework of professional practice. The curriculum is divided into two modules, each consisting of several courses:

Module I: Public Health Problem Solving & Techniques of Problem Investigation

General Principles of Public Health Problem Solving (Core Required)

Epidemiology (Core Required)

Social & Behavioral Sciences in Public Health (Core Required)

Inferential Biostatistics (Core Required)

Economics & Finance (Core Required)

Module II: Program Planning, Implementation & Evaluation

Comparative Health Systems (Core Required)

Program Planning (Core Required)

Health Services Management (Core Required)

Program Development and Evaluation (Core Required)

Problem Investigation in Environmental Health (Core Required)

MPH Thesis Project Planning (*this is an on-going activity arranged through the MPH Program*)

The required courses during the second year will concentrate on advanced methods and preparation of the integrating experience projects. The MPH Program may also offer elective courses not mentioned below.

Module III: Advanced Methodology

Qualitative Research Methods (Required)

Survey Research Methods (Required)

Intermediate Epidemiology (Required)

Biostatistics: Modeling & Sampling (Required)

Master's Project Implementation – I (Core Required)

Module IV: Synthesis

Data Management Systems (Required)

Training of Trainers (Core Required)

Graduate Research Seminar (Required)

Public Health Internship (Core Required)

Master's Project Implementation- II (Core Required)

The **Masters Project** (or “**Integrating Experience Project**”) is an integrating experience, an opportunity for students to pursue a public health issue of professional relevance in a supervised, supportive setting that incorporates the core tools of public health in the identification or solution of a “real-world” problem or situation.

MPH students are required to complete an integrating experience project as part of their core requirements. The objective of this requirement is to provide the students with an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to integrate and apply core MPH competencies within a personally and professionally relevant context.

The integrating experience project is a two-year process which begins with skills and knowledge learned in the Problem Solving course. The Problem Solving course provides the basic conceptual model for the organization and sequencing of the MPH core curriculum as well as a generic framework for professional practice activities. During the Problem Solving course, students are encouraged to think about and begin planning their integrating experience project.

Possible frameworks for the project include:

Problem Solving Analysis
Research Grant Application
Community Service Grant Application
Program Implementation Plan
Program Evaluation Plan
Professional Publication

During the Spring Term of 2021, additional detailed documentation will be conveyed to you to supplement the information in this manual. Group and individual meetings will be arranged so that you can begin planning your project. During the Spring Term of 2021, students will be required to submit a preliminary project plan to the Resident Faculty of the SPH for review.

It is important that you keep up with the individual deadlines to allow sufficient time for a thorough literature review, instrument acquisition and development, IRB submission and approval, pilot testing, data collection, analysis, and preparation of the final paper. Throughout much of this process, courses are ongoing and require consistent attendance and substantial effort to complete.

Reflective of the diverse constituent professions of public health, the program uses a variety of teaching approaches, emphasizes active learning in both individual and group settings, and evaluates students in terms of knowledge and skills and their ability to synthesize, integrate, and apply this knowledge and skill in a practical setting.

Curriculum
Academic Year 2020-2021

Classes will be held from 15:30 to 19:00 or 19:30, Monday-Friday except for designated university holidays or as otherwise announced for a specific course.

Fall Semester 2020 (online) [18 units]

- PH302 General Principles of Public Health Problem Solving (3)
Harutyunyan Ts
- PH322 Epidemiology (3)
Khachadourian/Costanian
- PH321 Inferential Biostatistics (5)
Khachadourian/Sahakyan
- PH310 Social & Behavioral Sciences in Public Health (3)
Harutyunyan Ts
- PH330 Health Economics & Finance (4)
Atherly & van den Broek-Altenburg

Spring Semester [16 Units]

- PH331 Comparative Health Systems (2)
Petrosyan
- PH332 Program Planning (3)
Tuli
- PH340 Health Services Management (3)
TBA
- PH350 Project Development and Evaluation (4)
Petrosyan
- PH311 Problem Investigation in Environmental Health (3)
Bartrem
- PH390 MPH Project Planning (1) [Pass/No Pass]
Petrosyan
(Will run throughout the year; specific meeting dates TBA)

Curriculum Matrix for the MPH Program

FUNCTIONAL AXIS

1. Assess the health needs of a defined population.

Competency
Characterize the major national and international public health problems
Describe risk factors for major causes of morbidity and mortality
Define and apply the leading conceptualizations of health and health indicators to the population
Identify, define, and measure a public health problem using both quantitative and qualitative measures
Utilize demographic and epidemiologic assessment techniques to characterize the distribution and burden of disease on a population
Use and critically evaluate health information systems
Understand the key biological, environmental, behavioral, cultural, and/or economic determinants of a given public health problem
Determine appropriate use of data and statistical methods for problem identification and measurement

Courses covering the learning outcome:

PH302	General Principles of Public Health Problem Solving (3)
PH320	Data Management Systems (1)
PH321	Inferential Biostatistics (5)
PH322	Epidemiology (3)
PH310	Social & Behavioral Sciences in Public Health (3)
PH311	Problem Investigation in Environmental Health (3)
PH330	Health Economics & Finance (4)
PH351	Qualitative Research Methods (3)
PH352	Survey Research Methods (3)
PH323	Biostatistics: Modeling & Sampling (4)
PH324	Intermediate Epidemiology (3)
PH390	MPH Project Planning (1)
PH391	Master's Project Implementation – I (3)
PH392	Master's Project Implementation- II (4)
PH393	MPH Internship (3 credit units)

2. Develop, analyze, and implement targeted health policies and programs.

Competency

Identify the scope of public health issues and policies applicable to defined populations and to vulnerable subgroups of those populations
Describe and critique the government's role in health policy development and implementation
Analyze and evaluate the process of public policy-making and how it affects the design, implementation and performance of health policies
Identify policies and services appropriate to promote and maintain health or prevent injury and disease, for communities, families, and individuals
Articulate the fiscal, administrative, legal, social, and political implications of a strategy developed to solve a health problem
Relate how advocacy, biases, politics, and information influence policy-making and program implementation
Make relevant scientific, ethical, health and human rights, economic, administrative and/or political decisions based in light of available data
Develop a plan to implement a policy that addresses organizational design and management; leadership; communication; financial planning and management; ethics, values, and human rights; and human resources management

Courses covering the learning outcome:

PH302	General Principles of Public Health Problem Solving (3)
PH330	Health Economics & Finance (4)
PH331	Comparative Health Systems (2)
PH332	Program Planning (3)
PH340	Health Services Management (3)
PH390	MPH Project Planning (1)
PH393	MPH Internship (3 credit units)

3. Assure the appropriateness and effectiveness of a given public health intervention.

Competency
Design a program evaluation that is methodologically sound
Develop processes to monitor and evaluate programs for their effectiveness, quality, and freedom from unintended harms
Apply principles important in managing and improving health services organizations
Apply key concepts of human resource management to achieving the strategic objectives of health service organizations
Demonstrate facility with appropriate database management and reporting systems for evaluation and monitoring of interventions

Courses covering the learning outcome:

PH302	General Principles of Public Health Problem Solving (3)
PH350	Project Development and Evaluation (4)
PH340	Health Services Management (3)
PH324	Intermediate Epidemiology (3)
PH351	Qualitative Research Methods (3)
PH352	Survey Research Methods (3)

4. Communicate public health messages to targeted audiences.

Competency
Use basic word processing, statistical/graphical, spreadsheets, and relational database software to convey the results of quantitative and qualitative analyses
Prepare and deliver effective oral and written presentations
Present demographic, statistical, programmatic, and technical information accurately and effectively for professional and lay audiences
Develop and use team-building skills that facilitate work team performance
Organize and participate in groups to address specific public health issues
Solicit input from individuals, organizations, government agencies, and communities to assure comprehensiveness of information
Demonstrate effective advocacy for programs and resources that further the health of the public

Courses covering the learning outcome:

PH302	General Principles of Public Health Problem Solving (3)
PH350	Project Development and Evaluation (4)
PH390	MPH Project Planning (1)
PH360	Training of Trainers (3)
PH381	Graduate Research Seminar (3)
PH390	MPH Project Planning (1)
PH391	Master's Project Implementation – I (3)
PH392	Master's Project Implementation- II (4)
PH393	MPH Internship (3 credit units)

CORE DISCIPLINE AXIS

1. Behavioral Sciences

Competency
Integrate the psychologic and sociologic conceptualization of health, health behavior and illness
Describe the concepts of stress, coping and social support, their inter-relationships and assess their impact on health, health behavior and illness

Analyze and predict the influence of major social structural divisions such as gender, socioeconomic status, and ethnicity on health, health behavior and the treatment of illness
Compare theories and principles of behavior change. Analyze their applicability to different types of health behavior problems.
Formulate behavioral, communication, educational, and advocacy strategies for improving the health of communities and individuals
Evaluate processes and outcomes of social and behavioral interventions on the health of communities and individuals

Courses covering the discipline:

- PH310 Social & Behavioral Sciences in Public Health (3)
 PH350 Project Development and Evaluation (4)

2. Biological Sciences (Disease Biology)

Competency
Differentiate the biology, pathophysiology, modes of transmission and methods of prevention and control of the most important infectious diseases.
Describe the pathophysiology and etiology of genetic and environmentally-induced diseases of public health importance
Compare host responses to major environmental exposures (physical, chemical, biological)
Describe biologic host responses to vaccines, chemoprophylactic, and pharmacologic methods of prevention and treatment of diseases of public health importance
Select ecologic principles directly relevant to major public health diseases
Select and apply biological principles to developing disease prevention, control, or management programs.

Courses covering the discipline:

- PH311 Problem Investigation in Environmental Health (3)
 PH322 Epidemiology (3)
 PH324 Intermediate Epidemiology (3)

3. Environmental Health Sciences

Competency
Identify, describe and differentiate the various environments that produce opportunities for exposures to environmental toxicants
Appraise target populations at risk for such environmental exposures, with emphasis on identification of susceptible groups

Characterize environmental factors (agents, vectors, and conditions) that influence transfer to the host and the agents □ toxicokinetics, with emphasis on route of entry
Analyze the interaction of environmental toxicants with biological systems, with emphasis on their toxicodynamics
Prepare a simple risk assessment/risk management analysis based on the problem-solving paradigm

Courses covering the discipline:

- PH311 Problem Investigation in Environmental Health (3)
 PH302 General Principles of Public Health Problem Solving (3)

4. Management Sciences

Competency
Describe the organization and structure of a health service system
Evaluate basic models of health delivery systems
Assess major approaches to managing and improving health services organizations (including approaches to process improvement, strategic planning, organizational design)
Apply performance improvement concepts and tools in revising a specific process within an organizational setting
Apply key concepts of human resource management to achieving the strategic objectives of health service organizations
Prepare a basic budget

Courses covering the discipline:

- PH330 Health Economics & Finance (4)
 PH331 Comparative Health Systems (2)
 PH332 Program Planning (3)
 PH340 Health Services Management (3)

5. Quantitative Sciences*

Competency
Identify, retrieve, and organize available data relevant to disciplines of public health
Select appropriate data and statistical methods to address a public health question
Compare and contrast basic study designs used in public health
Interpret descriptive and inferential statistics in data analysis
Evaluate the integrity and comparability of data and identify gaps in data sources

Plan a surveillance system for a disease/condition of public health importance
Critique the quantitative methods used in published literature
Explain findings presented in the public health literature

* includes biostatistics, epidemiology, information systems, and computing

Courses covering the discipline:

PH320	Data Management Systems (1)
PH321	Inferential Biostatistics (5)
PH322	Epidemiology (3)
PH323	Biostatistics: Modeling & Sampling (4)
PH324	Intermediate Epidemiology (3)
PH352	Survey Research Methods (3)

6. Historical Perspective

Competency
Critically analyze basic assumptions and conceptual frameworks used to analyze health issues
View contemporary problems in historical perspective
Conduct historical research relevant to contemporary problems affecting the public's health
Communicate about historical issues through rhetoric, debate and prose
Examine and critically assess recent scholarship on the social history of health care.

Courses covering the discipline:

PH302	General Principles of Public Health Problem Solving (3)
PH381	Graduate Research Seminar (3)

INTEGRATIVE AXIS

1. Demonstrate integration of new knowledge and skills with previous training and experience by critical and selective application within a personally and professionally relevant context.

Competency
Critically apply the problem solving framework to a public health problem
Conduct a needs analysis of personal/professional skills and competencies and design a curriculum to meet those needs
Develop habits which foster life-long learning and collegial exchange
Justify/defend facility with core MPH competencies by the critical application of an appropriate professional practice framework
Orally and in writing, present and defend a proposed response to a public health problem in

a public (professional or lay) setting

Students develop breadth/depth in areas of personal interest through the selection of topics for individual and group assignments and self-directed study.

Courses covering the learning outcome:

- PH302 General Principles of Public Health Problem Solving (3)
- PH360 Training of Trainers (3)
- PH382 Master's Project Implementation – I (3)
- PH392 Master's Project Implementation- II (4)
- PH381 Graduate Research Seminar (3)
- PH393 MPH Internship (3 credit units)

Roles and Responsibilities of MPH Students

Over and above the expectations made of all students at AUA, it is the responsibility of each student in the MPH Program to meet the following expectations:

1. Share responsibility with the rest of the class to uphold the law and respect the rights of others. This includes living honorably, holding other members of the community to the same high standard of conduct, and taking action when necessary to safeguard the interest of the University and its community.
2. Read and comply with all rules and regulations of the University as stated in the AUA Catalog, AUA Student Handbook, and other official documents.
3. Take responsibility to assure understanding of the academic policies and procedures regarding the MPH curriculum and graduation requirements, registration and advising processes, and grading policies.
4. Accept responsibility for the maintenance of the academic integrity of the institution and for preserving an environment conducive to the safe pursuit of the program's educational, research, and professional practice missions.
5. Attend all classes unless previously excused. In addition, each student is expected to be on time for the start of class, submit assignments by due dates, prepare papers and reports in a scholarly manner, and participate in classroom discussions and activities. In an unusual situation such as an emergency when this is not possible, timely communication with the course instructor, the MPH Program Coordinator, or the Associate Dean as soon as possible is required.
6. Adhere to a high standard of academic ethics which includes individual performance on homework, examinations, written reports, and assignments. Exceptions are when projects are assigned to teams and when quoted sources receive proper citation (referencing). Cheating or copying work from other people or materials are unacceptable behaviors and constitute serious offenses which could result in dismissal from the program. Carefully read the AUA Student Handbook, particularly the section on the Student Code of Ethics.
7. Engage in constructive dialogue with faculty and administration in resolving problems.
8. Identify and develop professional career goals and interests. If they are compatible with course objectives, include relevant or related subject material when selecting projects or study areas.
9. Anticipate and discuss major issues or questions concerning the academic program and pertinent non-academic concerns. Heed reminder notices and other academic advisement information.

10. Follow through on obligations to understand administrative policies and procedures affecting payment of tuition and fees, academic eligibility for scholarship, and other financial aspects of the course. Observe registration and payment deadlines; complete and submit appropriate forms.

For more information see the AUA Policies at <https://policies.aua.am/> .

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Grading in the MPH Program

The MPH curriculum is broad-based and multi-disciplinary. In addition to the resident faculty, the visiting professors or lecturers come from universities located throughout the United States. The academic preparation and professional experiences of the faculty are not the same. Therefore, they will use different styles and approaches to education and the evaluation of their courses. It is important that MPH students are aware of the variability and interpretation of scores and evaluation instruments used for each course.

Each faculty member, at the start of his/her course, will clearly define the evaluation criteria for the course. Evaluations can consist of written assignments, term papers, problem sets, in-class exercises, presentations, and examinations, and other modalities. Due to the team-oriented nature of public health practice, participation is often an explicitly graded component.

What may not be clear is that the expected performance indicators necessary to receive a specific letter grade may differ among faculty. Some instructors may take away credit when a student is consistently late for class or does not turn in assignments on time. In some courses a numerical score of 75 may indicate acceptable or superior accomplishment; but in others, this numerical score may indicate poor or unacceptable performance. The faculty will explain to the students their grading criteria and the typical distribution of grades. They will provide an interpretation of their expectations and scores for a particular assignment. Students must be alert to the grading differences among the faculty. Ultimately, it is the student who is responsible for performing to the best of his or her ability on every assignment: The faculty do not give grades, the student *earn* them.

Please remember that it is very important that should a student not understand the assignment of a grade on a particular item, he or she should direct inquiries to the faculty member or the course Teaching Assistant as soon as possible. The intent of grading exercises is not only to assess abilities, but to provide constructive information for improvement in subsequent evaluations.

Resolving Grade Disputes

Should a student believe he or she has been unfairly graded on an assignment or a course, this concern must first be raised with the course faculty. The AUA Policy Appeal policy suggests “A grade may be changed only to correct a mathematical error or misapplication of a grading standard previously announced in the syllabus. Students may petition for a grade review by following the procedure outlined below within 30 calendar days after the official publication of grades.” (<https://policies.aua.am/policy/11>)

If the appealing student truly feels an injustice has occurred and lower grading is a result of biased assessment the grievance may be filed with the Ethics and Grievance Committee of the Faculty Senate at AUA. This process is NOT to be abused to seek a higher letter grade for any reason other than rectifying an incorrect or biased assessment.

For more details see the AUA Policies at <https://policies.aua.am/> .

Academic Calendar 2020 – 2021

Fall 2020	
Semester begins	Wednesday, August 19, 2020
Classes Begin	Wednesday, August 26, 2020
Last Day to Add/Drop a Class (15-week courses)	Tuesday, September 1, 2020
Armenian Independence Day*	Monday, September 21, 2020
Last Day to Withdraw from Class with a Grade of W for 15-week courses	Thursday, October 15, 2020
Thanksgiving Holiday	Thursday, November 26, 2020
	Friday, November 27, 2020
Last Day to Petition to Graduate for January Conferral	Saturday, October 31, 2020
Classes End	Tuesday, December 16, 2020
Grades Due	Friday, December 18, 2020
Christmas Day*	Friday, December 25, 2020
Registration for Spring 2021 starts (subject to change)	Tuesday, December 22, 2020
Spring 2021	
New Year and Armenian Christmas Holiday*	Friday, January 1, 2021
	Wednesday, January 6, 2021
Commemoration Day*	Thursday, January 7, 2021
Semester begins	Wednesday, January 13, 2021
Classes Begin	Wednesday, January 20, 2021
Last Day to Add/Drop a Class (15-week courses)	Tuesday, January 26, 2021
Army Day*	Thursday, January 28, 2021
Women’s Day*	Monday, March 8, 2021
Last Day to Withdraw from Class with a Grade of W for 15-week courses	Thursday, March 11, 2021

Spring Break (subject to change)	Monday, March 8, 2021
	Saturday, March 13, 2021
Last Day to Petition to Graduate for June Conferral	Wednesday, March 31, 2021
Easter Memorial Day (Monday)*	Monday, April 5, 2021
Genocide Commemoration Day*	Saturday, April 24, 2021
Labor Day*	Saturday, May 1, 2021
Victory and Peace Day*	Sunday, May 9, 2021
Classes End	Thursday, May 21, 2021
Grades Due	Monday, May 24, 2021
First Republic Day*	Friday, May 28, 2021
Registration for Summer and Fall 2021 for Continuing Students starts (subject to change)	Tuesday, June 1, 2021
University Commencement (ugrad and grad, subject to change)	Saturday, June 12, 2021

* Armenian Holidays and Memorial Days – No Classes.

Gerald and Patricia Turpanjian School of Public Health
Zvart Avedisian Onanian Center for Health Services Research and Development

Applied learning is central to the MPH Program. Students are encouraged to gain practical experience in applying their newly acquired knowledge and skills over the course of their two years of study. A number of opportunities for supervised/mentored applications are available through the Zvart Avedisian Onanian Center for Health Services Research and Development (CHSR). Students are strongly encouraged to apply for temporary research positions, which periodically will be advertised. In general, these are paid opportunities, but should be considered an adjunct to your formal educational experience.

The CHSR is an applied research center located within the College of Health Sciences at the American University of Armenia (AUA). The center was established in 1995 to respond to the research and development needs in the multi-disciplinary field of Public Health in Armenia. Included within the CHSR is the Garo Meghriyan Institute for Preventive Ophthalmology located at the AUA Center.

The staff within the CHSR offers their expertise as a resource to support and facilitate the existing public health infrastructure. The guiding principles of the center are to:

- Provide supervised field training for students enrolled in the AUA Master of Public Health Program;
- Serve as a venue for linkages between the Ministry of Health, donor agencies, and the expertise of the program's faculty;
- Respond to requests for technical assistance from local Armenian ministries and research institutes;
- Support programmatic development of health services in conjunction with the Ministries of Health of the region;
- Respond to the requests for technical assistance from international organizations working on health projects in Armenia and the region.

Among some of the organizations with whom the CHSR has worked are the following:

- American International Red Cross
- American International Health Alliance
- AmeriCares
- Armenian Health Alliance
- Armenian International Dental Association
- Armenian Medical International committee
- Armenian National Center for AIDS Control and Prevention
- Armenian National Institute of Health
- Armenian Social Transition Project (PADCO/Abt)
- Catholic Relief Society
- FAMRI Center of Excellence in Translational Research at Johns Hopkins University
- Georgetown University Institute for Reproductive Health
- Grand Challenges Canada

- Institute for Global Tobacco Control, Johns Hopkins University
- Jinishian Memorial Program
- Lions Club International Foundation
- Management Sciences for Health
- Nork Marash Medical Center
- Open Society Institute
- Population Communications Service, Johns Hopkins University
- Primary Care Center, Gyumri
- Primary Health Care Reform Project
- Project Harmony
- Project NOVA
- United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)
- UNICEF
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Texas, Medical Branch
- USAID
- Wellstart International
- World Bank
- World Health Organization and others.

The reputation of CHSR has led to an increase of research projects and staff. The two Institutional Review Boards (IRB) of AUA registered with the US Department of Health and Human Services. In addition, the university filed and completed the process for a Federalwide Assurances of Protection for Human Subjects. As a result the CHSR may now compete for US federally funded projects, and it is anticipated there will be an increase in the number and scope of research studies. Currently, there are numerous proposals in different stages of development within the Center.

For further details visit the CHSR website at <https://chsr.aua.am/> and/or review the SPH Newsletters.

Copies of student integrating experience projects (MPH Projects) are available for public review at the MPH website at <https://sph.aua.am/master-projects/> by years.