Department of Health Promotion and Community Health Sciences

**Head:** John Spengler, JD, PhD

The Department of Health Promotion and Community Health Sciences prepares public health professionals to identify the role of biological, behavioral, environmental, and social forces on population health.

Students are expected to incorporate these elements when planning and evaluating programs, services and policies that will improve the health of individuals and communities.

Public health professionals with training in health promotion and community health will be able to operate under a wide variety of job titles and in a wide variety of different organizational contexts such as local or state health organizations, federal health agencies, and pharmaceutical companies.

The Department offers the following degree programs:

- Master of Public Health in Health Promotion and Community Health Sciences
- Master of Science in Public Health in Health Promotion and Community Health Sciences
- Doctor of Public Health in Health Promotion and Community Health Sciences

For degree curricula see Department of Health Promotion and Community Health Sciences (http://sph.tamhsc.edu/hpchs)

**Masters**

- Master of Public Health in Health Promotion and Community Health Sciences
- Master of Science in Public Health in Health Promotion and Community Health Sciences

**Doctoral**

- Doctor of Public Health in Health Promotion and Community Health Sciences

**Courses**

**HPCH 603 Social and Behavioral Determinants of Health**

Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.

An overview of theories and principles focusing on social and behavioral determinants of health, the social-ecological approach to the examination of health and health behaviors, social patterns of health behavior, and an introduction to health promotion and public health interventions. Intended for non-majors.

**HPCH 604 Social Ecology and Health Behavior**

Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.

Social determinants of health behavior, social organization and stressors on human health, social-ecological approach to the examination of health behaviors, social patterning of disease and health behavior, basic theories of health behavior and communication, public health program diffusion and implementation. Intended for majors only.

**HPCH 605 Social and Behavioral Research Methods**

Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.

Overview of quantitative and qualitative methods used by public health professionals, advantages and limitations of different methods, mechanisms for gathering data in a community setting, techniques for managing and analyzing data, and strategies for presenting information to community members.

**Prerequisite:** HPCH 604 or equivalent, or permission of instructor required for non-majors.

**HPCH 606 Public Health Informatics**

Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.

Provides an overview of the field of public health informatics, and focus on PHI competencies for public health practitioners. Key informatics challenges and current topics, such as evidence-based public health data and vocabulary standards, privacy and security, interoperability and health information exchange, electronic health records, and data integration, are explored. Students will learn techniques for searching public health literature and will practice informatics evaluation skills by assessing a health information system.

**HPCH 607 Biological Basis of Health and Common Diseases**

Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.

(3-0) The Biological Basis of Health and Common Diseases is designed to provide public health students grounding in the biological basis of health human functioning and the biology of diseases that they are likely to encounter in public health practice. The course provides an overview of molecular biology, genetics, immunology, diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, the metabolic syndrome, cancer, respiratory infections, intestinal infections, and emerging infectious diseases. The course is recommended for all public health students who do not have significant training in medicine, nursing, pharmacy, or closely related field.

**HPCH 610 Community Organization and Assessment**

Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.

The nature of community and its role as setting, target and facilitator of health among its population. Approaches to assessing community factors that influence health status; application of that information in planning community-based interventions.

**Prerequisite:** HPCH 603 or HPCH 604, or approval of instructor.

**HPCH 611 Program Planning**

Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.

Use of theory and evidence in planning public health interventions, appropriate objective development, integration of levels of intervention, consolidation of intervention strategies into coherent program design, program implementation, diffusion and institutionalization.

**Prerequisite:** HPCH 604 or approval of instructor.

**HPCH 612P Public Health Interventions**

Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.

Examination of the conceptualization and theoretical foundation, design, implementation, and effectiveness of specific public health interventions at the individual, interpersonal, organizational, community, and policy levels for addressing particular chronic or infectious diseases related to health conditions or problems (specific focus may vary by semester).

**Prerequisite:** Either HPCH 603 or HPCH 604.
HPCH 613 Program Evaluation
Credits 3.3 Lecture Hours.
Study of program evaluation techniques. The course focuses on issues relevant to the assessment and evaluation of health promotion interventions and examines the social context of program evaluation and a variety of epistemological orientations.
Prerequisite: Either HPCH 603 or HPCH 604; HPCH 605; HPCH 611 (or concurrent).

HPCH 620 Introduction to Border Health
Credits 3.3 Lecture Hours.
This course introduces the U.S.-Mexico border as a dynamic region where public health problems grow out of a combination of factors in the United States and Mexico. A major focal point is community health, to which the course relates the various public health disciplines as an introduction to public health. Overarching factors such as population movement, diverse sociocultural and economic demographics, and a rapidly expanding population influence infectious disease transmission and general population health. Information about the history and cultures of the South Texas region provide background information for understanding the confluence of factors shaping regional public health. Economic forces that influence health include the maquiladora system of binational factories that operate in a free-trade zone environment and the need for hand labor in various economic sectors in different parts of the United States. Environmental challenges in the region include water pollution and scarcity, air pollution, food supply problems, and poor urban and rural infrastructure. Policy and political factors also affect population health and economics along the border (e.g., NAFTA, homeland security, and state regulation of health insurance plans).

HPCH 635 Community Health Development
Credits 3.3 Lecture Hours.
The theory and practice of community development for health; a comparative study of community development models in diverse communities. Analysis of how to create systematic and sustainable community change related to health and healthy communities, with attention to rural, minority and underserved communities.
Prerequisites: Either HPCH 603 or HPCH 604; HPCH 610; or approval of instructor.

HPCH 636 Health Care Systems in China
Credits 3.3 Lecture Hours.
This is a study abroad course designed for public health graduate students who have interests in global health. Students will spend 2 weeks in Nanjing, Shanghai, and Beijing of China. Students will visit different public health agencies, health care, delivery organizations, and community health centers; students will also attend lectures delivered by public health and medicine faculty members from host institutes and discuss with Chinese public health students and professionals. Pre-travel lectures and post-travel presentations are also included.

HPCH 637 Principles of Health Program Management
Credits 3.3 Lecture Hours.
This course prepares the student with knowledge and skills to assume a role in the management of health promotion programs. The course covers management theory, leadership, organizational assessment, planning, decision-making, organizational structure, budgeting, marketing and human resource management.

HPCH 638 Seminar on Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs
Credits 2 to 3.2 to 3 Lecture Hours.
In-depth study of public health issues and concerns related to alcohol, tobacco and other drug use. Includes overview of contributing causative and mediating factors of drug use and theory-based prevention and intervention strategies and programs.
Prerequisite: HPCH 604 or approval of instructor.

HPCH 639 HIV/AIDS: A Public Health Issue
Credits 0 to 3.0 to 3 Lecture Hours.
This course provides an overview of HIV/AIDS, including history of the epidemic, trends and geographic disparities, economic and social impact, high risk populations, prevention interventions, treatment and care. Both domestic and international aspects of the HIV/AIDS epidemic will be covered. The focus will be prevention and social and policy focus that divert attention away from practical steps that need to be taken to prevent the spread of HIV.
Prerequisite: Graduate students only.

HPCH 640 Diet and Lifestyle Interventions for Obesity, Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease
Credits 3.3 Lecture Hours.
Diet and Lifestyle Interventions for Obesity, Diabetes, and Cardiovascular Disease. Diet and Lifestyle Interventions for Obesity, Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease reviews social and behavioral research related to the prevention and control of these diseases. The course reviews policy guidelines, the social and behavioral activities that are associated with beneficial clinical outcomes, and the methods used to increase these activities.

HPCH 665 Proposal Writing and Grants Management
Credits 3.3 Lecture Hours.
Introduction to skills needed to successfully develop proposals for funding in fields related to healthcare and social services. Course focuses on best methods used by community-based organizations to develop public and private funding applications, develop and maintain relationships with the funding agency and assess organizational implications of applying for and managing grants.
Prerequisite: HPCH 604 for Health Promotion and Community Health Sciences Students.

HPCH 670 Seminar in History and Context of Public Health
Credits 3.3 Lecture Hours.
This doctoral seminar will introduce doctoral students to major themes in public health with emphasis on the evolution of public health problems, and the future of public health. This course sets public health within context and discusses relationship to other related fields of study.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

HPCH 671 Seminar in Public Health Theory
Credits 3.3 Lecture Hours.
This doctoral seminar will review and reflect upon theories and perspectives that relate to public health problems and proposed solutions. Students will critique current social and behavioral theories, discussing commonalities and differences across multiple theoretical approaches for addressing public health problems.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.
HPCH 672 Seminar in Public Health Interventions  
**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**  
This doctoral seminar will focus on the examination of the theoretical foundation, implementation and effectiveness of public health interventions from a multi-level approach. The emphasis will be on the translation from research to practice, understanding the elements of evidence-based intervention strategies.  
**Prerequisite:** Approval of instructor.

HPCH 673 Seminar in Public Health Evaluation  
**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**  
This doctoral seminar will review the conceptual and methodological elements of public health evaluations, providing an opportunity for reflection on the strengths and weaknesses of different public health evaluations. Students will be asked to design an evaluation strategy for a self-identified health problem/intervention approach.  
**Prerequisite:** Approval of instructor.

HPCH 674 Seminar in Social and Behavioral Health  
**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**  
This doctoral seminar will cover topics of interest to faculty and students within the purview of social and behavioral health. The topic will be assigned the first day of class by mutual agreement of participating students and faculty. Students will be expected to reflect critically on the assigned literature and participate in classroom discussions. May be taken four times.  
**Prerequisite:** Approval of instructor.

HPCH 684 Practicum  
**Credits 3 to 6. 3 to 6 Other Hours.**  
Field placement experience where students work closely with a departmental faculty member and appropriate field professional(s) applying skills and techniques acquired through course work. Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grade option only.  
**Prerequisite:** Approval of student’s academic advisor.

HPCH 685 Directed Study  
**Credits 1 to 12. 1 to 12 Other Hours.**  
Student investigation of a topic not covered by other formal courses. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 hours total credit. Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading option or standard grading option to be determined by the instructor and applied to all students registered for the course. Grading option will be determined prior to the first class day, outlined in the course syllabus and not be altered once the course has begun.  
**Prerequisite:** Approval of student’s academic advisor.

HPCH 686 Directed Research  
**Credits 1 to 9. 1 to 9 Other Hours.**  
Student research initiative not within the scope of a thesis or dissertation. May be repeated for a maximum of nine credits. Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading option or standard grading option to be determined by the instructor and applied to all students registered for the course. Grading option will be determined prior to the first class day, outlined in the course syllabus and not be altered once the course has begun.  
**Prerequisite:** Approval of student’s academic advisor.

HPCH 689 Special Topics - Social And Behavioral Health  
**Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Other Hours.**  
Revolving topics seminar in an area of specialization within the department. May be repeated for credit. Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading option or standard grading option to be determined by the instructor and applied to all students registered for the course. Grading option will be determined prior to the first class day, outlined in the course syllabus and not be altered once the course has begun.

HPCH 691 Thesis  
**Credits 3 to 6. 3 to 6 Lecture Hours.**  
Research for master’s thesis. Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grade option only.  
**Prerequisite:** Approval of student’s academic advisor and department head.

HPCH 695 Doctoral Capstone  
**Credits 3 to 9. 3 to 9 Other Hours.**  
Doctoral Dissertation or equivalent project(s). Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grade option only. May be repeated for credit.  
**Prerequisite:** Approval of instructor.