The Department of Health Promotion and Community Health Sciences promotes healthy living and prepares students to identify the role of biological, behavioral, environmental, and social forces on population health. Our students will have the opportunity to apply these elements when planning and evaluating programs, services and policies designed to improve the health of individuals and communities.

Our health promotion and community health students have opportunities to work in a broad and diverse range of organizations. Our students have worked locally, state-wide, nationally and internationally for non-profits, government agencies and corporations in jobs that promote and improve health.

The Department offers the following degree programs:

- Master of 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).

**Faculty**

- Burdine, James N, Professor  
  MSc, Health Promotion & Comm Hlth Sci  
  DrPH, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, School of Public Health, 1979

- Campos-Bowers, Monica H, Instructional Assistant Professor  
  MSc, Health Promotion & Comm Hlth Sci  
  DrPH, University Of North Texas Health Science Center, 2008

- Colwell, Gregory B, Professor  
  MSc, Health Promotion & Comm Hlth Sci  
  PhD, Indiana University - Bloomington, 1992

- Dowdy, Diane M, Instructional Assistant Professor  
  MSc, Health Promotion & Comm Hlth Sci  
  PhD, Texas A&M University, 1990

- Hong, Yan, Associate Professor  
  MSc, Health Promotion & Comm Hlth Sci  
  PhD, Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health, 2007

- Jones-Mckyer, Ellisa L, Assistant Professor  
  MSc, Health Promotion & Comm Hlth Sci  
  PhD, Indiana University, 2005

- Ma, Ping, Assistant Professor  
  MSc, Health Promotion & Comm Hlth Sci  
  PhD, Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, 2013

- McCord, Carly E, Research Assistant Professor  
  MSc, Health Promotion & Comm Hlth Sci  
  PhD, Texas A&M University, 2013

- Mier, Nelda, Associate Professor  
  MSc, Health Promotion & Comm Hlth Sci  
  PhD, University of New Mexico, 2002

- Millard, Ann V, Associate Professor  
  MSc, Health Promotion & Comm Hlth Sci  
  PhD, The University of Texas - Austin, 1980

- Sharkey, Joseph R, Professor  
  MSc, Health Promotion & Comm Hlth Sci  
  PhD, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, 2002

- Spengler, John O, Professor  
  MSc, Health Promotion & Comm Hlth Sci  
  PhD, Indiana University, 1999  
  JD, University of Toledo College of Law, 1992

- Tai-Seale, Thomas S, Instructional Associate Professor  
  MSc, Health Promotion & Comm Hlth Sci  
  DrPH, University of California - Los Angeles, 1993

- Towne, Samuel D, Research Assistant Professor  
  MSc, Health Promotion & Comm Hlth Sci  
  PhD, University of South Carolina, 2013

**Masters**

- Master of Public Health in Health Promotion and Community Health Sciences (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/public-health/health-promotion-community-health-sciences/mph)

**Doctoral**

- Doctor of Public Health in Health Promotion and Community Health Sciences (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/public-health/health-promotion-community-health-sciences/drph)

**Certificates**


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 Global Health
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Social, behavioral and ecological interventions in developing countries
addressing major and emerging communicable diseases, pandemics,
vaccine delivery, water and food chain safety, pollution and climate
issues, addressed through theory and critical review of interventions.

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.
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 625 Health of Refugees and Displaced Populations
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Basic principles, terms and tools necessary to design health interventions
to address health emergencies involving refugee and displaced
populations who have been displaced by war or armed conflict, famine,
infectious diseases, political turmoil or other forms of disaster; focus on
international and cross-cultural settings.

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 Study in China: Global Health Experience
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Study abroad designed for those with interests in global health; two weeks in Nanjing, Shanghai and Beijing of China; visit different public health agencies, health care, delivery organizations and community health centers; attend lectures delivered by public health and medicine faculty members from host institutes and discuss with Chinese public health students and professionals; includes pre-travel lectures and post-travel presentations.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

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 causal 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 641 Coaching Health Behavior Change
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Training in coaching lifestyle behavior change to prevent or manage common chronic diseases, effectiveness of lifestyle coaching; theories and practices in coaching for disease prevention; motivational and other interviewing techniques; goal setting and legal concerns.

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.
Prerequisite: Approval of 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 9 credits.
Prerequisite: Approval of 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.

HPCH 691 Research
Credits 1 to 6. 1 to 6 Other Hours.
Research for master's thesis. May be repeated for credit. Must be taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.
Prerequisite: Approval of academic advisor and department head.

HPCH 791 Doctoral Capstone
Credits 3 to 9. 3 to 9 Other Hours.
Doctoral dissertation or equivalent project(s). Must be taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. May be repeated for credit.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.