Student Handbook
For MSPH students

2015-2016
Effective August 14, 2015
Department of Public Health Sciences
College of Health and Human Services
CHHS building, Suite 431
704-687-7191

MSPHprogram@uncc.edu
http://publichealth.uncc.edu/

MSPH Master of Science in Public Health
College of Health and Human Services
UNC CHARLOTTE
Cover photo: Our Spring 2015 MSPH graduates. From top left: Roselyne Kewe, Joanna Ball, Tony McLaurin, Candace Butler (rear), and Tyisha Terry. From bottom left corner, moving clockwise: Jatyra Rivers, Meghan Kusper Wally, Jacqueline Mungo, Putri (Pamela) Powell, and Charnele Walton.
Congratulations and Welcome!

Congratulations and Welcome! on your admission into the Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH) program at UNC Charlotte. The MSPH program is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) and we are a member of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH).

This manual, which is provided to students as a PDF file at orientation and is available on the departmental website (publichealth.uncc.edu), is a primary resource for MSPH students. It addresses program specific information such as expectations, policies, and requirements and summarizes and/or directs students to key Graduate School and University resources and policies. The summaries of higher unit policies and procedures included in this manual are intended to provide context and coordination of ideas with program and department policies. Should a conflict exist between a program or department policy and that of a higher unit, the higher unit policy will prevail.

I post my open office hours for each semester outside my office. If my door is closed, please do not disturb me except in an emergency. If I am unavailable, schedule an appointment with me via email or through our support staff.

Note: Students are expected to check their @UNCC.edu email accounts at least once per day.

On behalf of the faculty, students and administrators, we look forward to working with you to facilitate your success in our program and in your future careers in public health.

Sincerely,

Jan Warren-Findlow, MBA, PhD
Associate Professor, Public Health Sciences
Director, MSPH Program
MSPHprogram@uncc.edu
704.687.7908
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What is Public Health?  Public health is the science and art of promoting health, preventing disease and injury, and prolonging life through organized efforts of society. Public health activities focus on entire populations rather than on individual patients, and public health professionals monitor and diagnose the health concerns of entire communities and promote healthy practices and behaviors to assure our populations stay healthy.

The Core Functions of Public Health

In the Future of Public Health, issued in 1998, the Institute of Medicine defined the three core functions of public health as assessment (understanding a community’s needs), programming (designing and implementing programs that respond to those needs), and assurance (evaluating the quality and impact of those programs). In 1995, Johns Hopkins faculty added communication, a cross-cutting function of effectively informing stakeholders of all phases of public health activity.

The 10 Essential Public Health Services

These functions were later translated by the Public Health Functions Steering Committee of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention into 10 essential services:

1. **Monitor** health status to identify community health problems
2. **Diagnose and investigate** health problems and health hazards in the community
3. **Inform, educate, and empower** people about health issues
4. **Mobilize** community partnerships to identify and solve health problems
5. **Develop** policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
6. **Enforce** laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
7. **Link** people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable
8. **Assure** a competent public health and personal health care workforce
9. **Evaluate** effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services
10. **Conduct** research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems
**Career Areas in Public Health**

The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), the body that accredits schools and programs in public health, has defined 5 core areas (or disciplines) of public health. Each accredited public health degree program must address student competence in these areas, as appropriate to the academic or professional nature of the specific program. These five areas are:

**Epidemiology:** Due to a nationwide shortage, opportunities abound for specialists trained in the systematic study of the distribution and determinants of disease or disability in population groups.

**Biostatistics:** Career opportunities in this area involve the application of statistical procedures, techniques, and methodology to characterize or investigate health problems and programs.

**Behavioral Sciences/Health Education:** These specialists use specific methods, skills, and program strategies to help people choose healthier lifestyles, to make more efficient use of health services, to adopt self-care practices, to participate actively in the design and implementation of programs that affect health.

**Environmental Health Sciences:** Environmental health includes many diverse disciplines such as chemistry, toxicology, and engineering, and is concerned with the identification and control of factors in the natural and man-made environment (e.g., air, water, land, housing) which affect health.

**Health Services Administration:** Persons seeking careers in administration or resource management in the public or private sectors of health service delivery can specialize in health planning, organization, policy formulation and analysis, finance, economics, or marketing.

**Resources for Information about Public Health**

**What is Public Health?**
- Mecklenburg County Health Department [http://charmeeck.org/mecklenburg/county/HealthDepartment/Pages/Default.aspx](http://charmeeck.org/mecklenburg/county/HealthDepartment/Pages/Default.aspx)


**Public Health Program Accreditation and Individual Licensure**

- Council on Education for Public Health [http://ceph.org/pg_about.htm](http://ceph.org/pg_about.htm)

**Public Health Employment Search**

- Public Health Employment Connection [http://cfusion.sph.emory.edu/PHEC/phec.cfm](http://cfusion.sph.emory.edu/PHEC/phec.cfm)
- Public Health Career Mart [http://www.apha.org/about/careers/](http://www.apha.org/about/careers/)
- Partners for Information Access for the Public Health Workforce [http://phpartners.org/jobs.html](http://phpartners.org/jobs.html)
The Department of Public Health Sciences was originally founded as the Department of Health Behavior and Administration on July 1, 2002 as part of the transformed College of Health and Human Services. The new Department was conceived in response to recommendations derived from UNC Charlotte's Health Commission report (2000) as well as a variety of initiatives placing emphasis on population health and health behavior research. In May 2007 the Department was renamed to Public Health Sciences to better reflect the unit's larger-scale set of current and planned research programs, degree offerings, and service activities. Faculty research programs focus on individual and population health including: the prevention and management of disease across the lifespan; the health status of diverse, urban communities; and population health and health care analytics. Our goals include creating North Carolina's second accredited School of Public Health.

The Department favors the development and implementation of collaborative academic programs and interdisciplinary scholarship; and embraces the University’s core values encouraging diversity and equal educational and employment opportunities throughout the University community. The University's non-discrimination policies, the Council on University Community, and the Multicultural Resource Center support these values.

Our excellence is rooted in the competence of our highly collegial faculty and staff; support from the university's administrative leadership; expert peer review; and the understanding and enthusiasm of our community partners including advisory board members, part-time instructors, and internship preceptors. We welcome your advice and guidance; your collaborations and partnerships; your support and contributions; and your commitment to excellence.

**Vision Statement.** Healthy People. Healthy Places. Healthy Communities.

**Mission Statement.** To develop leaders in practice and research who advance the public’s health

**Values.** Collaboration, community engagement, diversity, innovation, professionalism, health equity, social justice

**Collaboration.** We value creative, team-based, interdisciplinary, and multidisciplinary approaches to improve the public’s health.

**Community Engagement.** We value public engagement and work with communities to build and foster lasting relationships.
Diversity. We celebrate the value of multiple backgrounds, views, and orientations to meet the public health needs of all population groups.

Innovation. We embrace idealism, excellence, entrepreneurship, and creativity to generate solutions that improve the health and well-being of all.

Professionalism. We follow a code of conduct guided by integrity, ethical standards, and respect for others.

Health Equity. We believe that all people have the right to live in environments that optimize health and well-being.

Social justice. We advocate for fair and equitable opportunities for all members of society.

Public Health Programs

Collectively, the academic programs offering the BSPH, MSPH, and PhD degrees constitute our Public Health Programs.

Values: The Public Health Programs values professional and academic integrity and ethics, collegiality, engagement with the community, and responsiveness and innovation in its pursuit of attaining the highest possible standard of health and well-being.

Mission: The Public Health Programs at UNC Charlotte produce practitioner-scholars and leaders prepared to promote and improve human health across the lifespan; to support the optimal organization and management of healthcare locally, nationally, and internationally; and to deliver efficient, effective, and accessible high quality health services, particularly to vulnerable populations.

- **Goal 1** (instructional): Develop student competence in the core areas of public health, providing them with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to become effective practitioners and researchers.
- **Goal 2** (research): Engage students in the development and translation of new knowledge to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of public health services and contribute to the development, implementation, and evaluation of public health practice.
- **Goal 3** (service): Promote collaborations with community partners and stakeholders to advance the public’s health and foster participation in local, regional, national, and international organizations that advance the public health profession.
- **Goal 4** (diversity): Address the health and public health workforce needs of a dynamic, emerging urban environment and its increasingly diverse population.
**MSPH Mission and Values Statement.** The Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH) program prepares graduate students to apply core principles of public health education within a variety of community settings and to advance the public health profession. The program values professional and academic integrity and ethics, collegiality, engagement with the community, and responsiveness and innovation in its pursuit of attaining the highest possible standards of health and well-being. Students develop specialized skills to assess health behavior and to design, deliver, and evaluate health promotion, risk prevention, and risk reduction services. The MSPH program consists of core content courses as well as research and practical experiences through a capstone project and a required internship. The program prepares students to provide leadership in a variety of settings, including health-related agencies and organizations, hospitals, local and state public health departments, academic research centers and institutes, corporate disease management and wellness programs, non-profit agencies, and healthcare businesses and industries.

**Graduate Certificate Program in Public Health Core Concepts Mission Statement.** The Graduate Certificate Program in Public Health Core Concepts (PHCC) contributes to the preparation of community and public health practitioners entering the field from related disciplines and serves as a stepping-stone to further graduate training in public health. The Certificate also is available to students who wish to complement an existing degree in a health profession (for example, nursing or social work). This certificate complements (i.e., is not redundant with, can be completed in addition to) the Graduate Certificate in Community Health, which provides focused health education and promotion skills. Note: While the coursework can fully apply if admitted, successful completion of the certificate program does not ensure admission into the MSPH program.

**Graduate Certificate Program in Community Health Mission Statement.** The Graduate Certificate Program in Community Health contributes to the preparation of community and public health practitioners to take the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) examination. The Certificate is also available to students who wish to complement an existing degree in a health profession (for example, nursing or social work), or who wish to explore a career in public health. Note: While the coursework can fully apply if admitted, successful completion of the certificate program does not ensure admission into the MSPH program.

**Program Contact Information**

**Program Director:** Dr. Jan Warren-Findlow  
CHHS 427B; [jwarren1@uncc.edu](mailto:jwarren1@uncc.edu); 704-687-7908

**Administrative Support Associate**  
Julie Howell  
CHHS 433, [jhowel35@uncc.edu](mailto:jhowel35@uncc.edu); 704-687-7191

**Department Contact Information**

**Interim Chair:** Dr. Susan Sell

**Administrative Assistant:** Shashi Gnanasekeran; [sgnanase@uncc.edu](mailto:sgnanase@uncc.edu)

**Location:** CHHS Bldg, Suite 431
Telephone: 704-687-8742; 704-687-1644 fax
Mailing Address: Department of Public Health Sciences, UNC Charlotte
9201 University City Blvd.
Charlotte, NC  28223-0001

Department Degree Programs
Undergraduate Programs
• Bachelor of Science Public Health (BSPH; CEPH accredited)
• Minor in Public Health

Graduate Programs
• Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH; CEPH accredited)
• Master of Health Administration (MHA; CAHME accredited)
• PhD in Public Health Sciences (behavioral sciences concentration; CEPH accredited)
• Graduate Certificate in Public Health Core Concepts
• Graduate Certificate in Community Health

Supported Graduate Programs
• Interdisciplinary PhD in Health Services Research
• Intercollege Professional Science Master’s in Health Informatics
• Intercollege Graduate Certificate in Health Informatics

Department Faculty
• Ahmed Arif, PhD, CPH, Associate Professor, Occupational Epidemiology
• Chris Blanchette, PhD, MS, MA, Associate Professor; Associate Dean for Research, Health Services Research
• Camina Davis, MS, CHES, Lecturer & Coordinator, Undergraduate Programs
• Mark DeHaven, PhD, Colvard Distinguished Professor, Health Behavior
• John Fisher, PhD, Research Assistant Professor, Information Systems
• Andrew Harver, PhD, Professor, Health Behavior
• Larissa Huber, PhD, Associate Professor, Reproductive Epidemiology
• L. Michele Issel, PhD, RN, Professor, Nursing and Health Services
• James Laditka, PhD, Associate Professor, Health Services Research
• Sara Laditka, PhD, Associate Professor, Healthcare Management
• **Crystal Piper**, PhD, MPH, MPA, Assistant Professor, Health Services Policy & Management
• **Elena Platonova**, PhD, Associate Professor, Healthcare Management
• **Sharon Portwood**, JD, PhD, Professor, Health Behavior
• **Elizabeth Racine**, DrPH, Associate Professor, Maternal & Child Health
• **William Saunders**, PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor & Health Informatics PSM Program Director
• **Windsor Schmidt**, JD, LLM, Metrolina Distinguished Professor, Public Law
• **Susan Sell**, PhD, Professor and Interim Chair, Viral and Molecular Biology
• **Gary Silverman**, D Env, RS, Professor, Environmental Health
• **James Studnicki**, PhD, Professor & Belk Chair, Health Services Research
• **Michael E. Thompson**, MS, DrPH, Associate Professor & MHA Director, Health Services Research
• **Jan Warren-Findlow**, PhD, Associate Professor & MSPH Director, Community Health Sciences
• **Pilar Zuber**, MSPH, PhD, MCHES, CPH, Lecturer, Health Services Research

**Advisory Board**

Contract Coordinator, Ryan White Program
Mecklenburg County Health Department

**Christopher C. Dobbins, MPH** (2015-2018)
Director
Gaston County Health and Human Services Department

Public Health Education, Grants and Special Projects Coordinator
Mecklenburg County Health Department

**Diana M. Maneo, MSPH, CHES, CPT** (2014-2016)
Youth Empowered Solutions (YES!), Question Why West Program Coordinator, Asheville, NC
Haywood County Health Department, TRU-6 Tobacco Prevention Coalition Program Coordinator, Waynesville, NC
Past President, North Carolina Society for Public Health Education

Epidemiology Manager
Mecklenburg County Health Department

**Christopher A. Matthews, BSPH, CHES** (2014-2016)
Program Manager
Behavioral Health Intervention Center

**William F. Pielbisington, DPA, MPA** (2014-2016)
CEO, Cabarrus Public Health Interest
Public Health Director, Cabarrus Health Alliance

**Jessica Schorr Saxe, MD, FAAFP** (2013-2015)
Family Physician, CMC- Biddle Point

**Janice Williams, MS Ed** (2013-2015)
Injury Prevention Specialist
Accreditation

UNC Charlotte is accredited by the Southern Association of School and Colleges. Among the University’s many professional accreditations (see https://assessment.uncc.edu/accreditations/professional-accreditations), the Department’s MHA program is accredited by CAHME (Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education).

Our Public Health Programs received its initial (5-year) accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) in June 2009. Our program was re-accredited for a 7 year period through 2021.
Program Overview

**The Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH) Program** was designed to prepare students to be competent members of the public health workforce. The MSPH curriculum is based on the collective needs, expectations, and requirements of the following public health partners:

- **The UNC Charlotte Public Health Advisory Board**
  The Public Health Advisory Board of the Department of Public Health Sciences provides strategic guidance for meeting the needs of the region’s public health workforce by providing firm guidance on the necessary skills for evidence-based practice. The Board is comprised of a range of community development, health care, health promotion, and public health partners from the greater Charlotte metropolitan region.

- **The Council on Education and Public Health (CEPH)**
  The Council on Education and Public Health (CEPH, [www.ceph.org](http://www.ceph.org)) is an independent agency recognized by the US Department of Education that accredits schools or programs of public health. The Council's focus is the improvement of health through the assurance of professional personnel who are able to identify, prevent, and solve community health problems. The Department of Public Health Sciences has been accredited since June 2006.

- **The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH)**
  We are a member of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH, [www.aspph.org](http://www.aspph.org)). ASPPH is the only national organization representing the deans, faculty, and students of the accredited member schools and programs of public health and other programs seeking accreditation as schools or programs of public health. ASPPH has developed a framework of core competencies needed in public health programs.

- **National Commission for Health Education Credentialing Inc. (NCHEC)**
  The National Commission for Health Education Credentialing (NCHEC; [http://www.nchec.org/aboutnchec/mission/](http://www.nchec.org/aboutnchec/mission/)) sets the standards of competence and provides the certification for Certified Health Education Specialists (CHES) through the CHES examination. The CHES designation after a health educator's name is one indication of professional competency and commitment to continued professional development.

- **The National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE)**
  The National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE, [www.nbphe.org](http://www.nbphe.org)) was established in September 2005 as an independent organization, the purpose of which is to ensure that students and graduates from schools and programs of public health accredited by the Council on Education of Public Health (CEPH) have mastered the knowledge and skills relevant to contemporary public health. This purpose will be accomplished by developing, preparing,
administering and evaluating a voluntary certification exam and awarding the CPH (certified in public health) credential.

**MSPH Program Goals**

The MSPH Program achieves its mission through a set of complementary and reinforcing instructional, research, service, and diversity goals that reflect the program’s values and provides a framework for defining, assessing, and evaluating both students and the curriculum.

**Goal 1 (instructional):** Provide public health students with knowledge, skills, and abilities to become effective practitioners and researchers through educational activities, a course of study, and related internship experiences.

**Goal 2 (research):** Develop new knowledge and innovative re-conceptualizations of theories that improve the effectiveness and efficiency of public health services and contribute to the development, implementation, and evaluation of public health practice, with a primary focus on the Charlotte region.

**Goal 3 (service):** Promote collaborations with community partners and stakeholders through faculty and students, helping to lead the development of the public health profession in the Charlotte region.

**Goal 4 (service):** Foster participation in local, regional, and national/international organizations that advance the public health profession.

**Goal 5 (diversity):** Address the health and public health workforce needs of a dynamic, emerging urban environment and its increasingly diverse population.

**Expectations of Graduates**

Graduates of the UNC Charlotte Graduate Programs in Public Health are prepared to:

- Respond to health-related problems using an ecological framework that addresses financial, socio-cultural, environmental, and political conditions.
- Design, conduct, analyze, and interpret the results of studies, projects, and programs related to the public’s health.
- Initiate, plan, manage, monitor, and evaluate interventions in the field of public health.
- Communicate public health messages to diverse audiences.
- Advocate for sound public health policies and practices.
- Function as public health professionals.
**MSPH Program Design**

The MSPH Program is built around a conceptual model of core competencies related to professional practice in public health (see Figure 1). The first year of the full time 21-month curriculum provides students a conceptual overview of the diverse profession of public health and to the team-oriented approach to professional practice. Students are exposed to the breadth of core public health disciplines and some elective/specialty content. The summer between the first and second years is the optimal time for internships and initial work on the capstone thesis/project. The second-year curriculum integrates public health knowledge, skills, and methods in a professionally and personally relevant practice context. Thus, the third and fourth semesters provide for specialty and elective work combined with the capstone thesis/project experience.

The courses are sequenced to build upon each other, facilitating the integration and application of knowledge, skills, and experience. Beyond the curriculum, students are encouraged (and expected) to become involved in faculty-led research and other formal and informal opportunities for practical experiences at UNC Charlotte and the larger practice community.
Figure 1 depicts the conceptual model underpinning the design, organization, and sequencing of the UNC Charlotte MSPH Program and its related Graduate Certificate Programs. The diagrammatic structure is modified from that developed by the Association of Schools of Public Health as part of its Core Competency Project (see www.aspph.org), notably our addition of research and evaluation methods as a core area (outer ring) consistent with our choice of offering an MSPH (rather than an MPH) program.

Figure 1. Conceptual Model: UNC Charlotte Core MSPH Competencies
The inner box encompasses a number of interdisciplinary or cross-cutting themes and competencies that are not specific to any one disciplinary base.

**Core Disciplines in Public Health**

**Biostatistics** is the development and application of statistical reasoning and methods in addressing, analyzing, and providing interpretation for solving problems in public health, healthcare, and biomedical, clinical, and population-based research.

**Epidemiology** is the study of patterns of disease and injury in human populations and the application of this study to the control of health problems.

**Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences** are the study of environmental factors including biological, physical, and chemical factors that affect the health of a community.

**Health Services Planning and Administration** is a multidisciplinary field of inquiry and practice concerned with the design, delivery, quality, and costs of healthcare for individuals and populations. This definition assumes managerial, planning, health systems analysis, and policy concerns with the structure, process, and outcomes of health services including the costs, financing, organization, outcomes, and accessibility of services.

**The Social and Behavioral Sciences** are the behavioral, social, political, and cultural factors related to individual and population health and health disparities over the life course. Research and practice in this area contributes to the development, administration, and evaluation of programs and policies in public health and health services to promote and sustain healthy environments and healthy lives for individuals and populations.

**Research and Evaluation Methods** are processes and techniques necessary to conduct sound inquiries and evaluations to develop and improve public health research and programming. Research and Evaluation Methods provide the methods to create the knowledge base for evidence-based practice.

**Interdisciplinary & Cross-cutting Competencies**

**Frameworks of Public Health Practice** are the various frameworks that underlie public health practice for conceptualizing health and disease, investigating problems, conducting research, and planning, implementing, and evaluating programming.

**Systems Thinking** is the ability to recognize system level properties that result from dynamic interactions among human and social systems and how they affect the relationships among individuals, groups, organizations, communities, and environments (to appreciate the forest while observing the trees).

**Leadership** in public health is the ability to create and communicate a shared vision for a changed future; to champion solutions for organizational and community challenges; and to energize commitment to goals.

**Communication and Advocacy** in public health is the ability to collect, manage, and organize data to produce information and meaning; to gather, process, and present information to
different audiences in-person, through information technologies, or through media channels; and to strategically design the information and knowledge exchange process to achieve specific objectives.

**Ethics, values, and cultural diversity** address the ability of public health professionals to interact with diverse individuals and communities, with integrity and shared values, to produce or influence an intended public health outcome.

**MSPH Track-specific Competencies**

**Community Health Practice** is the integration of educational, social, and environmental actions to promote health and well-being within a defined population.

**Relating Competencies to the Conceptual Model**

The following table presents the core disciplinary, interdisciplinary and cross-cutting and track specific competencies and their associated conceptual domain.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MSPH Core Competencies</th>
<th>Conceptual Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Describe basic concepts of probability, random variation, and commonly used statistical probability distributions.</td>
<td>Biostatistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Apply appropriate descriptive and inferential statistical techniques to answer questions related to public health practice and research.</td>
<td>Biostatistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Identify environmental conditions linked to specific population health outcomes.</td>
<td>Environmental/Occupational Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Interpret key environmental health concepts for non-technically trained audiences.</td>
<td>Environmental/Occupational Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Conduct an evaluation of environmental health quality based on credible sources.</td>
<td>Environmental/Occupational Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Calculate and interpret epidemiology measures to describe a public health problem in terms of magnitude, person, time, and place.</td>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Apply the principles of planning, design, development, budgeting, management and quality assessment to organizational and community initiatives.</td>
<td>Health Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Identify and analyze the main components and issues of public health systems, organization financing, and delivery of health services.</td>
<td>Health Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Critique the role of social, cultural, political, and community factors in both the onset and solution of public health problems.</td>
<td>Social/Behavioral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Summarize basic theories, concepts, and models from a range of social and behavioral disciplines that are used in public health research and practice.</td>
<td>Social/Behavioral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Using the social ecological model, distinguish key partners, resources, and stakeholders involved in effective public health practice.</td>
<td>Social/Behavioral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Critique the design, strengths and weaknesses, analysis, and findings of published studies across the various public</td>
<td>Research &amp; Evaluation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
13. Prepare methodologically sound programming and evaluation plans and research proposals.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interdisciplinary and Cross-cutting Competencies</th>
<th>Conceptual Area</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14. Apply the core functions of assessment, policy development, and assurance in the analysis of public health problems and their solutions.</td>
<td>Frameworks of PH Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Apply evidence-based principles and the scientific knowledge base to critical evaluation and decision-making across the public health core disciplines.</td>
<td>Frameworks of PH Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Analyze inter-relationships among different components of systems that influence the quality of life of people in their communities.</td>
<td>Systems Thinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Assess public health organizations in terms of their stated mission, set of core values, and vision.</td>
<td>Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Demonstrate leadership through effective team building, negotiation, and conflict management skills.</td>
<td>Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Demonstrate effective written and oral skills for communicating public health concepts, data and solutions with diverse professional and lay audiences.</td>
<td>Communication &amp; Advocacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Apply basic principles of ethical analysis to issues of public health data, practice, research and policy.</td>
<td>Ethics, Values &amp; Cultural Diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Develop public health programs and strategies responsive to the diverse cultural values and traditions of the communities being served.</td>
<td>Ethics, Values &amp; Cultural Diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Promote high standards of personal and organizational integrity, compassion, honesty, and respect for all people.</td>
<td>Ethics, Values &amp; Cultural Diversity</td>
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**Specialty Area Competencies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Health Practice/Health Promotion</th>
<th>Conceptual Area</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23. Apply major concepts related to community health, health education, and health promotion.</td>
<td>Community Health Practice/ Promotion</td>
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<td>24. Practice methods utilized in completing a community diagnosis and needs assessment using vital statistics and public health records.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. Apply knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research methods to the 4 core functions of public health.</td>
<td>Community Health Practice/ Promotion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Relating Competencies to Courses**

The following table presents the core disciplinary, interdisciplinary and cross-cutting and track specific competencies with the course offerings that build those competencies and assess them. Various assessment methods are used to assure students graduate from the MSPH Program having mastered those competencies. A full presentation of the measurement model and its relationship to student and program outcomes can be found in the CEPH Self-study document accessed via the department website.
## MSPH Core Competencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Opportunities</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Internship</th>
<th>Capstone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.</strong> Describe basic concepts of probability, random variation, and commonly used statistical probability distributions.</td>
<td>HLTH 6203</td>
<td>xT*</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.</strong> Apply appropriate descriptive and inferential statistical techniques to answer questions related to public health practice and research.</td>
<td>HLTH 6203</td>
<td>xT</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HLTH 6204</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.</strong> Identify environmental conditions linked to specific population health outcomes.</td>
<td>HLTH 6205</td>
<td>xT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4.</strong> Interpret key environmental health concepts for non-technically trained audiences.</td>
<td>HLTH 6205</td>
<td>xT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5.</strong> Conduct an evaluation of environmental health quality based on credible sources.</td>
<td>HLTH 6205</td>
<td>xT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6.</strong> Calculate and interpret epidemiology measures to describe a public health problem in terms of magnitude, person, time, and place.</td>
<td>HLTH 6202</td>
<td>xT (calc)</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>xT (interpret)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7.</strong> Apply the principles of planning, design, development, budgeting, management and quality assessment to organizational and community initiatives.</td>
<td>HLTH 6206</td>
<td>xT (comm)</td>
<td>xT (org)</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HLTH 6207</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8.</strong> Identify and analyze the main components and issues of public health systems, organization financing, and delivery of health services.</td>
<td>HLTH 6206</td>
<td>xT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9.</strong> Critique the role of social, cultural, political, and community factors in both the onset and solution of public health problems.</td>
<td>HLTH 6201</td>
<td>xT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HLTH 6207</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HLTH 6220</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10.</strong> Summarize basic theories, concepts, and models from a range of social and behavioral disciplines that are used in public health research and practice.</td>
<td>HLTH 6201</td>
<td>xT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HLTH 6220</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>11.</strong> Using the social ecological model, distinguish key partners, resources, and stakeholders involved in effective public health practice.</td>
<td>HLTH 6201</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HLTH 6207</td>
<td>xT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>12.</strong> Critique the design, strengths and weaknesses, analysis, and findings of published studies across the various public health disciplines.</td>
<td>HLTH 6202</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td>xT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HLTH 6204</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HLTH 6222</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>13.</strong> Prepare methodologically sound programming and evaluation plans and research proposals.</td>
<td>HLTH 6204</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HLTH 6207</td>
<td>xT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdisciplinary and Cross-cutting Competencies</td>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td></td>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Learning Opportunities</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>Internship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Apply the core functions of assessment, policy development, and assurance in the analysis of public health problems and their solutions.</td>
<td>HLTH 6206, HLTH 6221</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>xT</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Apply evidence-based principles and the scientific knowledge base to critical evaluation and decision-making across the public health core disciplines.</td>
<td>HLTH 6201, HLTH 6202, HLTH 6203, HLTH 6204, HLTH 6205, HLTH 6206, HLTH 6207</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>xT</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Analyze inter-relationships among different components of systems that influence the quality of life of people in their communities.</td>
<td>HLTH 6201, HLTH 6207, HLTH 6220, HLTH 6221</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>xT</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Assess public health organizations in terms of their stated mission, set of core values, and vision.</td>
<td>HLTH 6206, HLTH 6221</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>xT</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Demonstrate leadership through effective team building, negotiation, and conflict management skills.</td>
<td>HLTH 6206, HLTH 6207, HLTH 6220</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>xT</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Demonstrate effective written and oral skills for communicating public health concepts, data and solutions with diverse professional and lay audiences.</td>
<td>HLTH 6201, HLTH 6202, HLTH 6203, HLTH 6204, HLTH 6205, HLTH 6206, HLTH 6207</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>xT</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Apply basic principles of ethical analysis to issues of public health data, practice, research and policy.</td>
<td>HLTH 6201, HLTH 6204, HLTH 6205, HLTH 6206, HLTH 6207, HLTH 6221, HLTH 6222</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>xT</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Develop public health programs and strategies</td>
<td>HLTH 6201</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
responsive to the diverse cultural values and traditions of the communities being served.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>22. Promote high standards of personal and organizational integrity, compassion, honesty, and respect for all people.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 6206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 6207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 6221</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Specialty Area Competencies

**MSPH Specialty Areas Competencies: Community Health Practice/Health Promotion (also Graduate Certificate in Community Health Promotion Competencies)**

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<tr>
<th>23. Apply major concepts related to community health, health education, and health promotion.</th>
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<th>24. Practice methods utilized in completing a community diagnosis and needs assessment using vital statistics and public health records.</th>
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<td>HLTH 6207</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>25. Design theory-based health promotion interventions to improve community health outcomes.</th>
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<tr>
<td>HLTH 6220</td>
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<tr>
<th>26. Apply knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research methods to the 4 core functions of public health.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 6222</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* xT – denotes Terminal assessment where data will be collected and reported to CEPH. These assessments require detailed rubrics.
### MSPH Student Learning Outcomes

The UNC Charlotte MSPH Program is committed to continuous improvement of student learning. Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) allow the MSPH Program to describe, assess, and evaluate the degree to which students acquire specific knowledge, skills, and abilities related to Public Health. Upon successful completion of the UNC Charlotte MSPH Program, students should experience the following outcomes:

**Student Learning Outcome 1:** Students will be able to respond to health-related problems.

Assessment of SLO 1 includes elements of the final paper in HLTH 6201, research proposal in HLTH 6205, capstone project or thesis in HLTH 6900, and preceptor evaluations from HLTH 6471.

**Student Learning Outcome 2:** As a part of a group and as individuals, students will be able to design, conduct, analyze, and interpret the results of studies and programs related to public health.

Assessment of SLO 2 includes elements of the final project in HLTH 6202, final project in HLTH 6204, capstone project or thesis in HLTH 6900, and preceptor evaluations from HLTH 6471.

**Student Learning Outcome 3:** As a group and individuals, students will be able to initiate, plan, manage, monitor, and evaluate interventions in the field of public health.

Assessment of SLO 3 includes elements of the intervention proposal in HLTH 6207, capstone project or thesis in HLTH 6900, and preceptor evaluations from HLTH 6471.

**Student Learning Outcome 4:** Students will be able to communicate public health messages to diverse audiences.

Assessment of SLO 4 includes elements of the defense of capstone project or thesis in HLTH 6900 and preceptor evaluations from HLTH 6471.

**Student Learning Outcome 5:** Students will be able to advocate for sound public health policies and practices.

Assessment of SLO 5 includes elements of the defense of research proposal in HLTH 6205, capstone project or thesis in HLTH 6900 and preceptor evaluations from HLTH 6471.

**Student Learning Outcome 6:** Students will be able to function as public health professionals.

Assessment of SLO 6 includes elements of the preceptor evaluations from HLTH 6471, professional certification exams, and job placement or continuing education post graduation.
Program Requirements

**MSPH Curriculum [45 credits]**

**Core (21 credits)**

- HLTH 6201 Social and Behavioral Foundations of PH (3)
- HLTH 6202 Community Epidemiology (3)
- HLTH 6203 Public Health Data Analysis (3)
- HLTH 6204 Public Health Research Methods (3)
- HLTH 6205 Environmental Health (3)
- HLTH 6206 Health Services Administration (3)
- HLTH 6207 Community Health Planning and Evaluation (3)

**Additional Requirements (24 credits)**

- HLTH 6471 Internship (3)
- HLTH 6900 Research and Thesis in Public Health (6) OR HLTH 6901 Public Health Project (3)
- Specialty Area (9 credits, see below)
- Electives (6-9 credits)

**Specialty areas***

- Community Health Practice (9 credits)**
  - HLTH 6220 Health Behavior Change (3)
  - HLTH 6221 Community Health (3)
  - HLTH 6222 Methods in Community Health (3)

*Based on student interest, course availability, and program goals, the Program Director may approve (in advance) another set of related courses to fulfill the specialty area requirement. See section on waivers, transfers, and other exceptions

**Completing this specialty area as part of the MSPH currently qualifies a graduate to sit for the CHES exam.

**Optimal Credit Load and Course Sequence**

While the MSPH program can be completed within two academic years (including summer semester in between the first and second year), 5 semesters (2 1/2 years) is the expected time to completion for full-time students. Full-time students should anticipate taking 9-12 credits/semester and to complete their internship during the summer between their first and second years. Completing the MSPH Program within two years requires that most semesters be at 12 credits (offset by transfer credits and summer classes). Part-time MSPH students (less than 9 credits/semester) are expected to complete the program within 5 years (10 semesters).

Students working outside the university while enrolled in a graduate program are strongly encouraged to plan a manageable credit load. Students are expected to spend on average (e.g., not uniformly distributed throughout the semester) two to three hours per week preparing outside of class for each hour spent in class (i.e., each three credit class involves about 9-12 hours of outside preparation effort per week; therefore a 12 credit load requires about 36-48 hours/week in preparation outside of class). For this reason, graduate assistants
supported by the university are limited to a maximum of 20 hours of work/week while also maintaining full-time enrollment.

**MSPH Program**

The table below presents the optimal sequence for students pursuing the MSPH on a full-time basis. Part-time students should strive to complete year 1 courses then year 2 courses. All students are encouraged to consult their advisor or the MSPH Program Director to clarify appropriate course sequences. [Not shown: 6-9 credits of electives.]

### MSPH Sequence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015/2016</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Core</strong></td>
<td><strong>HLTH 6200 Intro PH</strong>*</td>
<td><strong>HLTH 6201 Soc/Behav Fndtns (3)</strong></td>
<td><strong>HLTH 6471 Internship (3) (or fall)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>HLTH 6202 Epi (3)</strong></td>
<td><strong>HLTH 6205 Env Hlth (3)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>HLTH 6204 Res Methd (3)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>HLTH 6900/6901 (1-2, optional)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>HLTH 6203 Data Anal (3)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Health Practice</strong></td>
<td><strong>HLTH 6211 Com Health (3)</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016/2017</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Core</strong></td>
<td><strong>HLTH 6206 Hlth Serv Admin</strong>**</td>
<td><strong>HLTH 6207 Planning/Eval (3)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>HLTH 6900 to total 3 or HLTH 6901 to total 6 credits</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Health Practice</strong></td>
<td><strong>HLTH 6220 Beh change (3)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>HLTH 6222 CH Methods (3)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Recommended for MSPH students not having had comparable coursework/professional experience prior to matriculation.

**Could take HLTH 6206 in Fall of year 1, if not needing HLTH 6200

**NOTE:** The planned sequence of course offerings is subject to change.
**Dual Degree Options**

Below are descriptions of two formally established dual degree programs, the MSPH/J.D. and MSPH/HI PSM dual degree programs. The MSPH/J.D. program was formalized as of Fall 2013, and the MSPH/HI PSM program as formalized in Spring 2014. Formalizing the dual program means its availability and hybrid curriculum requirements are published in the university catalog and other promotional materials, greatly streamlining the admissions and advising processes for those students.

**MSPH/J.D.**

A dual MSPH and Juris Doctor Degree (J.D.) is available, in cooperation with Charlotte School of Law (CSL), for students who wish to add specialization in law and its application to public health, to the extensive interdisciplinary curriculum gained in the MSPH program. Students wishing to participate in this dual degree program must apply separately to both the UNC Charlotte MSPH program and CSL. Please contact the MSPH Program Director and the CSL Associate Dean for Academics before submitting applications.

Students in the dual MSPH/J.D. programs develop a program of study, working with the MSPH Program Director and the Charlotte School of Law Dean for Academics. An example of the full-time program of study appears below.

**MSPH-J.D. Dual Degree Program**

**Years 1 and 2**
First-year and second-year curriculum required by Charlotte School of Law (CSL)

**Year 3**
FALL SEMESTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 3101</td>
<td>Foundations of Public Health*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 6202</td>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 6204</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 6203</td>
<td>Data Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SPRING SEMESTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 6201</td>
<td>Social and Behavioral Foundations of PH</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 6205</td>
<td>Environmental Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Appropriate CSL course(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SUMMER SESSION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Appropriate CSL course(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Year 4**
FALL SEMESTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 6206</td>
<td>Health Services Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Appropriate CSL course(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SPRING SEMESTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 6207</td>
<td>Planning and Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Appropriate CSL course(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SUMMER SEMESTER

[Logo: MSPH in Public Health, College of Health and Human Services, UNC Charlotte]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 6901</td>
<td>Capstone Project in Public Health**</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Year 5

**FALL SEMESTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HADM 6901</td>
<td>Capstone Project in Public Health**</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Appropriate CSL course(s)</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

**SPRING SEMESTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 6901</td>
<td>Capstone Project in Public Health**</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Appropriate CSL course(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The Graduate School considers any deviation from the approved plan of study as requiring a Special Request approval.

*recommended for students not having comparable coursework/professional experience prior to matriculation.

**A CSL course focusing on research or scholarly projects may be approved to meet the UNC Charlotte degree requirements for three (3) hours credit for HLTH 6901 Public Health Capstone Project provided the MSPH Director determines the provides the appropriate public health research or scholarly project experience.

**MSPH/HI PSM**

Students may pursue a dual MSPH and Health Informatics PSM (professional science master's). This option is suitable for students who wish to add specialization in medical information and its secure exchange between health care consumers and providers, to the extensive interdisciplinary curriculum gained in the MSPH program. Interested individuals are required to submit a separate and simultaneous application to the MSPH and Health Informatics PSM programs. Please contact the MSPH Program Director and HI-PSM Program Director before submitting applications.

Students in the dual MSPH/HI PSM programs develop a program of study, working with the MSPH Program Director and the HI-PSM Program Director. An example of the full-time program of study appears below.

**MSPH-HI PSM Degree Program**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 6203</td>
<td>Public Health Data Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 6204</td>
<td>Public Health Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 6205</td>
<td>Environmental Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 6207</td>
<td>Program Planning and Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 6220</td>
<td>Health Behavior Change</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 6221</td>
<td>Community Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 6222</td>
<td>Methods in Community Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCIP 5375</td>
<td>Computer Vocabularies &amp; Classification Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCIP 6102</td>
<td>Healthcare Data Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCIP 6380</td>
<td>Introduction to Health Informatics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCIP 6385</td>
<td>Health Services Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HCIP 6400  Internship  3 hours

_one of the following:_
HCIP 5376  Introduction to Programming -Health Informatics  3 hours
HCIP 6201  Computer Security, Privacy and Legal Issues  3 hours

Thesis Option
HLTH 6900(2) Research and thesis in Public Health  6 hours
HCIP  Restricted Elective- Data Science Track  3 hours
HCIP  Restricted Elective- Data Science Track  3 hours
HCIP  Restricted Elective- Data Science Track  3 hours

Project Option
HLTH 6901  Public Health Capstone Project  3 hours
HLTH  Elective  3 hours
HCIP  Restricted Elective- Data Science Track  3 hours
HCIP  Restricted Elective- Data Science Track  3 hours
HCIP  Restricted Elective- Data Science Track  3 hours

MSPH-HIPSM Dual Degree Program Total  60 hours

Note: Under the MSPH/HIPSM dual degree option, students must take a minimum of 9 HCIP courses (27 hours) and 11 HLTH courses (33 hours). Additionally, the Graduate School considers any deviation from the approved plan of study as requiring a Special Request approval.

_Ad hoc dual degree programs_

In certain instances, it may be possible for a student to pursue simultaneously degrees in two master’s programs through the development of an integrated curriculum. Such dual degree programs require special advance arrangement and should be viewed as atypical to standard practice. Dual programs may require as little as 75% of the credits required if pursuing the programs consecutively. No degree program is obligated to enter into such an arrangement.

Although other restrictions may apply, as indicted in UNC Charlotte materials, basic admission and degree requirements are specified below:

- The student must apply to each program separately and be admitted to both. No admission requirements established by the Graduate School or by either individual program may be waived. For example, if one degree requires acceptable scores for the GRE and the other the GMAT, the applicant must take each standardized exam to be considered for admission to both degrees.

- Once admitted, the student must develop a suitable plan of study that is acceptable to both programs and to the Graduate School. This plan of study must be approved within the first semester of matriculation and in conjunction with both program...
coordinators or directors. The plan of study must be forwarded to the Dean of the Graduate School for review and approval.

**Internship Experience**

The internship experience will focus on student opportunities to synthesize and apply basic knowledge and skills while functioning in community health settings. As the emphasis is on the integration and application of newly acquired knowledge and skills into one’s professional practice, waivers are not given for this requirement. The following is a brief summary of the internship experience. Full details, including timelines (which include deadlines that are a minimum of several weeks to several months before the intended start of the internship), policies, procedures, and evaluation methods are found in the separate *HLTH 6471 Internship Manual*, available via the department website or on the internship moodle site. A syllabus outline also is posted each semester. There is also an internship moodle project site. To access this site, login to moodle, go to “my courses” and click on “projects.” This restricted site will include materials supporting the planning of the internship, on-site internship activities (such as progress reports) and internship completion phases of the internship.

Please note: if you intend to apply the HLTH 6471 Internship to both the MSPH degree and another degree or certificate, the topic of the project should be selected in such a way as to meet the requirements of both programs (and approved in advance by both program Directors).

**Internship Prerequisites and Requirements**

- Students must have completed or be concurrently completing HLTH 6201 – 6205 before registering for the Internship Experience. Exceptions to this requirement are at the discretion of the Program Director.
- MSPH Students are expected to identify an organization and negotiate for an internship with that organization. The academic advisors and/or the MSPH Director can suggest organizations meeting a student’s specific interests and support the student in this process.
- In consultation with the practice site or organization, the student must develop a short, formal proposal of the work or project to be accomplished by the student during the internship. (See detailed in HLTH 6471 MSPH Internship Manual)
- This proposal will be refined in consultation among the student, the practice site preceptor, and the MSPH Program Director. The goal is to ensure that the proposed activities are at a graduate level and consistent with the competency development expected for the internship and that all stakeholders benefit from this arrangement, including the student, the agency, the university, and (foremost) the community served by the organization.
- This proposal will be used to generate the university required preceptor agreement and/or affiliation agreement.
  - For voluntary positions, a formal affiliation between the agency and our college is required. The affiliation agreement process can take as little as one-two weeks to one-two months (or longer) depending on the levels of approval required by both organizations in completing their due diligence and meeting their respective legal requirements.
We cannot officially place students in a voluntary internship until an affiliation agreement is signed, the student has complied with all requirements outlined in that agreement, and a formal placement letter has been issued by the Department. {Students are free, however, to ‘volunteer’ at the agency, provided the agency will permit them to do so ahead of the formal internship placement.}

- Given the unpredictability of this timeline, students are strongly advised to begin planning early in the spring semester prior to the intended internship period. We also recommend selecting from organizations with existing affiliation agreements where practicable.
- ALL students engaging in a voluntary internship must purchase and provide proof of student professional liability insurance. See details below and visit: http://publichealth.uncc.edu/student-resources/internship-requirements
- Many organizations require criminal background checks, drug screens, and proof of immunization, among other organization-specific requirements. Unless borne by the organization, the student is responsible for these costs. The College and University have specific requirements for how these assurances should be gathered and paid for. In some cases, college and organization requirements will be duplicative.
- Students unable to arrange an internship due to issues surrounding the criminal background check, drug-screen or other requirements will be disenrolled from the MSPH Program. Please see the Internship Manual and related College Policies for full details. [Students are required to submit a form indicating they have read and understood this policy prior to the end of the add period of their first semester of enrollment. A copy of this policy is included in the HLTH 6471 Internship Manual.]

- The student will complete a minimum of 160 hours of public health internship experience with the selected organization.
- The student will submit periodic updates to the MSPH Program Director or designee.
- The MSPH Program Director, or designee may make one site visit (alternately, a teleconference may be used) during the internship.
- The student will write a well-constructed report (10 – 20 pages, excluding appendices) detailing the internship experience, referencing and integrating core public health knowledge (see corresponding HLTH 6471 Internship Manual for detailed requirements).
- The student will be evaluated by a representative of the participating organization (preceptor).
- The student will evaluate the internship experience.

Capstone Project

MSPH Students will complete either a thesis (6 credits) or a project (3 credits) to fulfill their integrating capstone requirement. The Capstone Project provides a semi-structured opportunity for students to synthesize and integrate knowledge in its application to professional practice.
The overarching objective of the capstone experience (be it a thesis or a project) is for each student to:

- Demonstrate substantive knowledge addressing, at a minimum, the core competencies/disciplines of public health and utilizing an appropriate paradigm/conceptual framework;
- Analyze and interpret data in the support of a decision or conclusion;
- Demonstrate oral and written communication and presentation skills;
- Justify the methods and conclusions when critiqued by an appropriate audience;
- Progress under the supervision and mentorship of faculty;
- Develop and adhere to a schedule/time frame; and
- Demonstrate practical consideration of conducting public health projects or research.

It is desirable for the capstone experience process to:

- Accommodate the diverse interests, backgrounds, and capabilities of students and faculty;
- Provide flexible guidelines to enable creativity;
- Use existing course content and materials where possible; and
- Ensure that there are sufficient resources available and in place to complete the activity.

Full details, including timelines (which include deadlines that are a minimum of several weeks to several months before the intended start of the capstone), policies, procedures, and evaluation methods are found in the separate MSPH Capstone Manual (HLTH 6900/6901), which is available via the department website. This manual serves as the “syllabus” for the capstone "courses."

Note: All students will be required to demonstrate proof of completion of the university’s on-line tutorial in human subject research (CITI training, student modules found at https://www.citiprogram.org/). This activity is usually completed as part of HLTH 6204, but is, in all cases, required prior to holding a proposal defense.

**Thesis versus Project.** Students must select between completing a 6 credit thesis or a 3 credit project. Because a capstone project is only 3 credits, students must complete an additional 3 credit elective. The thesis and project are equivalent capstone experiences, which demonstrate mastery and application of core competencies in a professionally relevant format. The thesis requires the generation of new knowledge through the comprehensive application of the research process. The thesis option is a better choice for students who intend to pursue doctoral study, who see themselves as working in an academic setting, or who desire to gain confidence in their ability to plan, conduct, and write-up research. A project is more appropriate for those intending to work in an applied professional setting where they wish to gain confidence in their ability to critically apply existing knowledge and methods to the solution of a problem. Further considerations are outlined in the MSPH Capstone Manual (HLTH 6900/6901); please consult that manual for full details.
The Department of Public Health Sciences, through its faculty governance structures, sets forth the student policies and procedures that apply to students enrolled in the MSPH & Graduate Certificate in Community Health Programs. Because of the nature of professional public health practice, the Department of Public Health Sciences has different expectations of students than do non-professional degree programs. The standards provide clear expectations and procedures for academic and professional integrity and responsibility and are designed to determine students' aptitudes for becoming effective public health professionals. All MSPH and Graduate Certificate students are expected to read, understand, know, and follow the applicable program policies and procedures. "Not knowing" does not excuse a violation.

In addition to the MSPH & Graduate Certificate Program policies and procedures discussed in this section, students are expected to know and abide by the policies outlined for the College of Health and Human Services, the Graduate School (see http://catalog.uncc.edu/graduate-catalogs), and the University (university-level policies can be found at http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/)

University-level policies of direct import to MSPH students include the following:

- **Student Appeals and Grievances** (http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-403)
- **The Code of Student Responsibility** (http://www.legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-406)
- **The Code of Student Academic Integrity** (http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-407)
- **Student Grievance Procedure** (http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-411)
- **Sexual Harassment Policy and Grievance Procedures** (http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-502)
- **Responsible Use of University Computing and Electronic Communication Resources** (http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-307).

**Code of Student Academic Integrity**

All MSPH & Graduate Certificate students are required to read and abide by the Code of Student Academic Integrity (http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-407). Violations include the following:

- **CHEATING.** Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids, or other devices in any academic exercise. This definition includes unauthorized communication of information during an academic exercise.

- **FABRICATION AND FALSIFICATION.** Intentional and unauthorized alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Falsification is a matter of
altering information, while fabrication is a matter of inventing or counterfeiting information for use in any academic exercise.

- **MULTIPLE SUBMISSIONS.** The submission of substantial portions of the same academic work (including oral reports) for credit more than once without authorization.

- **PLAGIARISM.** Intentionally or knowingly presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e., without proper acknowledgment of the source). The sole exception to the requirement of acknowledging sources is when the ideas, information, etc., are common knowledge. (See APPENDIX C)

- **ABUSE OF ACADEMIC MATERIALS.** Intentionally or knowingly destroying, stealing, or making inaccessible library or other academic resource material. Typical examples: Stealing or destroying library or reference materials needed.

- **COMPLICITY IN ACADEMIC DISHONESTY.** Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic dishonesty.

Department faculty have developed a tutorial to assist students in being good scholars. The MSPH program requires all students to complete this tutorial during their first semester of matriculation. Currently, the tutorial is accessible through http://publichealth.uncc.edu/student-resources/good-scholar-tutorial but will be hosted elsewhere in the near future. Links to the tutorial will be updated on the department student resource pages.

*Note: Both the Graduate School and the College of Health and Human Services have adopted policies requiring students to demonstrate knowledge and awareness of academic integrity violations and policies. Both are in the process of developing required electronic tutorials on this subject. Please be alert for announcements regarding the availability of these tutorials.*

**Advising**

By default, the MSPH Program Director serves as the academic advisor for all MSPH students prior to matriculation. Once classes begin, the assigned academic advisor’s duties begin.

Each student is assigned an academic advisor. This advisor will work with the student throughout the program of study. Students are advised about appropriate courses, sequencing of courses, the internship, and additional matters appropriate for preparing students to meet their career objectives.

Students are expected to communicate with their advisor prior to registering for a given semester and when planning their internships and theses/projects. An advising hold to registration is placed on each student to ensure this dialogue takes place each semester. The advisor will counsel, but the final responsibility for the proper completion of the program, for familiarity with the University Catalog, for maintaining the grade average required, and for meeting all other degree requirements remains that of the student. [Note each advisor may have specific expectations for the frequency and timing of advising meetings. Please consult your assigned advisor.]
Students planning their internship should contact the Program Director to finalize the plans and gain permission to register for the course according to the schedule and processes outlined in the internship manual.

Students entering the thesis/project phase will identify a faculty member to serve as the chair of his/her committee. As detailed in the HLTH 6900/6901 Thesis/Project Manual, this faculty member must be a regular member of the graduate faculty and hold a primary (or in special cases a joint or adjunct) appointment in the Department of Public Health Sciences. Once approved as the thesis/project chair, this faculty member becomes the student capstone advisor.

Alternate Specialty Areas

The MSPH Program currently only offers the Community Health Practice (health education/health promotion) specialty area. As footnoted in the program requirements summary above, the MSPH Program Director may approve an alternate configuration of courses to fulfill this requirement. Students desiring to pursue this option should consult their advisor and have the alternate courses approved by the Program Director IN ADVANCE of skipping any required courses. The advisor will discuss options for alternate specialty areas and provide information on the formal proposal you must prepare detailing the proposed specialty area, its competencies and an explanation of how you will still fulfill the Community Health Practice area competencies.

Evaluation Standards

To ensure the progression of competent students through the graduate programs, the following will be evaluated each semester for each student:

**Grades and Grade Point Average.** Graduate students are expected to earn a B or better in each course. Consequently, graduate students must maintain an overall GPA of at least 3.0 or they will be placed on academic probation or suspension by the Graduate School. (See Graduate School policies and procedures related to academic standing for further details.) Students should seek assistance as soon as possible, first from instructors and then their advisors and/or the Program Director, if falling behind in any classes or having other issues that might affect acceptable academic performance. Faculty formally alert students to potential unsatisfactory grades through the midterm grade reporting system. Students should consider receiving such a message as cause for concern requiring, as a minimum, immediate follow-up with the course faculty. *Note - Given the back loading of assignments common in graduate courses, such warnings are not always possible.*

**Attendance.** Attendance policy is set by course faculty. Read each course syllabus carefully to determine expectations. Given that many classes involve group activities and assignments, experiential learning, and other practical demonstrations, students should anticipate that full attendance will be the normal expectation for all classes. If a student cannot make a scheduled class or event, he or she should, as a courtesy to the faculty member, communicate this to the instructor as soon as possible – preferably in advance of the absence. Extended absences should be communicated to the Program Director.
**Professionalism.** Students are advised to maintain a professional demeanor (i.e., be prepared, be responsible, and be courteous) in actions and interactions within courses and in the community. Students should know and abide by the six areas of ethics for a health educator (see APPENDIX B).

**Program Dismissal Policy**

The faculty members of the UNC Charlotte Graduate Programs in Public Health have an academic, legal, and ethical responsibility to protect members of the public and of the health care community from unsafe or unprofessional Public Health practices. The following should be considered a summary. Full details of these standards and procedures are found in the Graduate School Catalog.

A student may be dismissed from our Graduate Program under the following circumstances:

- **Grade Point Average:** has a GPA that falls below 3.0 and remains below 3.0 after the stipulated remediation period.

- **Course Grades:** Students are expected to earn a B in each class. Students may choose to repeat classes in which a C was earned and, unless terminated or otherwise prohibited, must repeat classes in which a U was earned.
  - **Repeating courses.** Regardless of the cumulative GPA, a student may repeat AT MOST two classes. A course may only be repeated ONCE. Repeating a class does not remove the first grade from the transcript. The first grade is counted toward accumulated C/U credits, but is not included in the cumulative GPA.
  - **Accumulated low grades.** A total of 3 C grades or a single grade of U results in suspension. A suspended student may not register for classes unless approved for reinstatement. If the program reinstates a student, a subsequent grade of C or U will result in immediate termination from the program. If a program does not approve reinstatement, the student is terminated from the program.

- **Lack of progress.** Students also are subject to dismissal (regardless of GPA, etc.) due to lack of satisfactory progress. Factors included in such a classification include time to complete the degree and professionalism. A student facing discipline under this heading will receive a written warning (probation letter) stating the specific cause, specific remediation, and specific timeframe to reach compliance (typically one semester). Failure to comply will result in termination.
  - **Time.** Students are expected to complete the MSPH program within 5 years (a sixth year is sometimes permitted with justification and advance notice).
  - **Professionalism.** Students are expected to demonstrate behavior consistent with the profession of public health and UNC Charlotte’s academic integrity standards. Violations may include, but are not limited to: displaying problems for which the student does not respond to appropriate treatment or counseling within a reasonable period of time; engaging in public health practice for which the student has not been authorized; displaying conduct which violates the Code of Student
Academic Integrity (see section on Academic Integrity on p. 17), violating the Code of Ethics for the Health Educators (see APPENDIX B), threatening the physical, emotional, mental, or environmental health or safety of others or the student himself or herself, or the inability to secure an internship site due to issues surrounding administrative pre-requisites such as the criminal background check or drug screening.

Recourse for Violations

Please see the sections of the Graduate School Catalog and the University Code of Student Academic Integrity related to appeal of probation, suspensions, and terminations.

Grades of Incomplete/In Progress

In accordance with University policy, a grade of "I" (Incomplete) is assigned at the discretion of the instructor when a student who is otherwise passing has not, due to circumstances beyond his or her control, completed all the work in the course. The missing work must be completed by the deadline specified by the instructor, but no later than 12 months after the term in which the "I" was assigned, whichever comes first. If the "I" is not resolved during the specified time, a grade of U (failing) is automatically assigned. The grade of "I" cannot be removed by enrolling again in the same course.

A grade of IP (in progress) is assigned for courses in which the work was reasonably not expected to be completed within the timeframe of the semester. This often happens with courses such as the internship or thesis/project. Grades of IP are assigned to indicate that the student is not “late” in completing course requirements. These grades of IP must be resolved within the timeframe stipulated by the instructor, typically during the next semester of enrollment, or a grade will be assigned based on the work completed at that time. (This might include, at the instructor’s discretion and in accord with any prior agreements with the student, an incomplete, a letter grade based on the work completed so far, or a failing grade (see section on suspension and dismissal).

In both I & IP cases, students are strongly advised to have written communication with the instructor to document expected timelines and deliverables and to maintain contact/ negotiate changes in expectations in a timely manner. Responsibility for resolving these missing grades lies with the student.

Transfer Credit [Waivers, Transfers & Other Exceptions]

Per Graduate School policy, master’s students may transfer in up to 6 graduate credits earned outside of UNC Charlotte, provided, among other requirements, that a) the grade earned was a B or better, b) the credits were not used toward a degree or certification, and c) the courses are approved by the Program Director. [Certificate students may not transfer in credits.] It is the practice of the MSPH program that any courses meeting criteria a) and b) above and demonstrably health-related (broadly interpreted) will be approved for transfer.

Separate from the issue of transferability is the issue of equivalence to a core requirement (e.g., whether a transferred course can be substituted for a core MSPH requirement or
whether prior graduate coursework not transferred can be used to exempt a student from repeating an MSPH requirement and gaining an elective). These expectations, timelines, and procedures are outlined in the following policy statement.

**MSPH Program Policy Statement: Transfer Credits, Waivers & Credit by Exam.** The MSPH Program is supportive of students gaining graduate academic credit at other institutions, especially for public health relevant content not available at UNC Charlotte, and applying it to their MSPH Program, provided the coursework meets the requirements set by the UNC Charlotte Graduate School and the additional requirements of the MSPH program. Furthermore, the MSPH Program sees no need to require students to complete essentially the same graduate course a second time.

After matriculation into the UNC Charlotte MSPH program, students seeking to transfer graduate credits from other academic institutions toward their UNC Charlotte MSPH Program or to be exempted from (or substitute another course for) core requirements are required to comply with the following policy statement adopted by the MSPH Program faculty and supported by the Public Health Programs Governance Committee.

- **Transfer Credit.** The MSPH Program strictly adheres to the policies and procedures set forth by the UNC Charlotte Graduate School. Among the limitations detailed by the Graduate School, is that a maximum of 6 graduate credits can be transferred in. These credits cannot have been applied to a graduate degree or certificate at UNC Charlotte or another institution, and must have an earned grade of a B or better. Students are directed to the Graduate School website for university-wide policy and procedure details and for a PDF of the request form. Within the discretion granted to the MSPH Program by the Graduate School, the MSPH program outlines the following additional constraints and expectations for transfer credit.

  - Courses proposed for transfer to the MSPH degree must align with the broader health mission of the department (e.g., have a clear relevance to the MSPH Program).
  - Courses proposed for transfer that are intended to fulfill an MSPH core requirement will be reviewed by the MSPH Program faculty for equivalence. Students seeking to use a transfer course in this way must submit a copy of the course syllabus along with their application for transfer credit to facilitate the assessment process. Comparable course titles are insufficient proof of equivalence.
  - Students having completed graduate coursework prior to matriculation into the MSPH program must apply for transfer of credit by the end of their first semester of study at UNC Charlotte. The Program Director will not approve requests for transfer credit of extant courses after this period. (Note: this does not mean that the process must have been completed, only that a formal application using the Graduate School form has been submitted to the MSPH Program Director.)
• Students completing coursework outside of UNC Charlotte after their matriculation into the MSPH must apply for transfer of credit within one semester of the course being completed. The Program Director will not approve requests for transfer credit after this period. (Note: this does not mean that the process has been completed, only that a formal application using the Graduate School form has been submitted to the MSPH Program Director.)

• Transfer credits cannot be used to fulfill the internship or capstone (thesis/project) requirements.

• **Waiver & Credit by Exam.** In addition to transfer of credit upon admission to the program, students should note that the Program Director may waive core requirements or allow substitutions based on having completed comparable graduate coursework elsewhere. This option is particularly helpful for students who have completed more than 6 credits of coursework elsewhere that fulfills MSPH Program core requirements but cannot formally transfer those credits or who have taken a comparable course and it was applied to another degree. In these cases, students may be exempted from the core requirement and be allowed to substitute either a specific alternate course or given additional free electives. In all cases, students must still accumulate sufficient credits on their UNC Charlotte transcript (including transfer credits) to fulfill degree requirements.

  • The MSPH Program does not routinely allow for credit by exam at this time.

  • Waivers/exemptions are not given for the internship or capstone (thesis/project) requirement.

• **Advisories.** Students are advised that:

  • Courses offered at other institutions may not (completely) align with the competencies expected from similarly titled UNC Charlotte courses. In many cases, courses offered at other schools may only partially fulfill our core requirements or partially cover several of our courses, but none of them completely, meaning the course is eligible for transfer credit, but not necessarily as a substitute for our core requirement.

  • Students having completed coursework prior to their matriculation at UNC Charlotte are strongly advised to submit their courses (with syllabi) to the MSPH Director for review prior to their first semester to ensure they do not mistakenly skip the UNC Charlotte required course.

  • Students planning to take an outside course after matriculation into the MSPH Program are encouraged to submit the course syllabus to the MSPH Program Director for review/approval prior to registering for the outside course.

  • It takes at least several weeks for transfer requests to be processed and for courses to appear on the official UNC Charlotte transcript. Students need to anticipate this lag when planning their graduation applications, etc., as only courses that appear on the UNC Charlotte transcript (either as having been completed or in process) can be listed on the application for graduation. If a transfer class does not
appear on the transcript at the time graduation applications are due, the course cannot be used toward the credits required for the degree.

**Residency Requirement**

In accordance with University policy, students who have entered the thesis/project phase (e.g., have successfully defend their thesis/project proposal and submitted a topic approval form to the Graduate School) must maintain continuous residency* (e.g., be enrolled each spring and fall semester) until graduation. Students having accumulated sufficient credits (including grades of I or IP which are being resolved) are advised to register for the “residence” course in lieu of taking additional courses. *This requirement however means that students who have otherwise completed all requisite coursework but have not defended their final capstone project must register for one credit of capstone (thesis or project) each fall and spring semester until graduated.*

Note: while maintaining residence in the summer is not required, students must be enrolled during the semester in which they graduate. Please discuss questions related to residency requirements with the Program Director.

*Please note: Residency, as used here, is distinct from tests of residency within the state of North Carolina for purposes of assessing in-state versus out-of-state tuition. See the Graduate School catalog for further details.

**Graduation Requirements**

To graduate from the program a student should have

- Satisfactorily complete all courses and sufficient electives required by the program (15 credits for the certificate and 45 credits for the MSPH) within the allotted time.
- Maintained at least a 3.0 grade point average on the courses put forth on the candidacy form.
- Complied with relevant university policies and procedures including
  - Candidacy & Diploma. The timely application and payment of fees for candidacy and for the diploma (See Graduate School website for specific deadlines and fees)
  - Thesis/Projects. The timely completion and acceptance of theses/projects by the graduate school (see the Graduate School website and the MSPH Thesis/Project manual for further details) following a successful final defense.
  - Registration. Students must be registered during the semester in which they intend to graduate. Students who have completed all coursework register for GRAD 7999 Residency (through the online graduate petition process) rather than a course or – if defending their thesis/project in a fall or spring semester – register for one credit of capstone (thesis/project) credit.

These three steps must be completed prior to the end of add/drop for the intended semester of graduation:

- apply to graduate [Banner, pay]
- submit a candidacy form [Banner, print]
- be registered for the semester in which they intend to graduate.
The application for graduation is completed (and paid for) online via Banner. This process orders the diploma and regalia and includes students on the graduation list. The candidacy form is prepared online via Banner, printed, signed by the student, and brought to the Program Director for review and endorsement. Students select the 45 credits of courses chosen to complete the MSPH program. It must include all core requirements. The program then ensures the candidacy form is filed with the Graduate School. The review process can take several days. Thus, students planning to graduate are strongly advised to complete the process well in advance of the deadline. A preliminary review of coursework is recommended during the prior semester’s advising session to avoid any unexpected surprises that could delay graduation plans.

**Deadlines**

Students are advised in the strongest possible terms to closely monitor and follow university-imposed deadlines for such important benchmarks as registration, payment, application for candidacy and for graduation, and submission of defended thesis and projects. Likewise, students are advised to closely monitor and follow college, departmental, and program policies and procedures, with special emphasis on internship planning, thesis and project planning and completion, and application for transfer credits, graduation, and the like. The consequences for missing these deadlines could result in registration being terminated or having graduation delayed by a semester.

**Policy Appeals**

To resolve disputes, students are directed to first discuss the issue with the course instructor. If the issue is not resolved at that level it should be brought to the Program Director (program or student-conduct related matters) or the Department Chair (faculty conduct related matters). If not resolved informally, students are directed to the formal college policy summarized below. Students may wish to consult with their academic advisor if unsure of their options.

A student who wishes to appeal a policy of the MSPH may do so by submitting a written appeal to the Chair of the Department of Public Health Sciences in accordance with the "Academic Grievance Policy of the College of Health and Human Services" (in the College of Health and Human Services Handbook). This appeal will be reviewed and judgment made by the faculty of the department.

**Final Grade Appeals.** Appeals of final grades must follow the UNC Charlotte final grade appeal procedure described at [http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-430](http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-430).

*Note: As discussed separately, appeals for suspension, termination, and academic integrity violations are adjudicated through separate processes. See the relevant policies and procedures at the Graduate School and University websites.*

**Non-discrimination Policy**

The Department of Public Health Sciences is committed to equality of opportunity and does not discriminate in recruiting or admitting students, or in the hiring or promoting of faculty.
and staff, based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, or ability/disability.

**Letters of Recommendation**

When asking faculty for a letter of recommendation, students should send them the following information at least 2 weeks before the letter is due; 3 weeks would be even better:

- Current resume/CV as an attachment.
  
  *Note: Be sure the resume has been reviewed by someone in the UNC Charlotte Career Center, is free of typographical errors, and is saved as a "doc" or "docx" in Word or as an Adobe (*.pdf) with a meaningful file name, e.g., "SmithAdam_Resume_Fall2010.doc" rather than just "resume.doc" Good resumes take time to develop. Students are advised to begin working with the Career Center ASAP.*

- Anticipated date of graduation

- Current GPA

- The name, title and address of the contact person for each letter

  **Example**

  Susan Smith, MSPH [or if no master’s degree or higher, would be: Ms. Susan Smith]
  Program Coordinator
  Mecklenburg County Health Department
  249 Billingsley Rd
  Charlotte, NC 28211

  - A brief statement for each organization, immediately below the name and address: (1) why interested in the opportunity; and (2) why well qualified for the opportunity. This information is intended to help faculty write a more compelling letter of support, so please write this BRIEF statement with that purpose in mind. Note special training or skills (e.g., accounting, finance, gerontology, health information technology) or if completing a Graduate Certificate (e.g., Gerontology, Health Information Technology) in the statement.

Letters of recommendation will be provided to students in a sealed envelope, signed and dated over the seal or mailed/emailed as a PDF directly to the recipient.

**Professional Organizations**

University Student Organizations can provide professional development and socialization for students with similar interests and goals. Students are encouraged to consider student membership in relevant university organizations. To learn more about the following organizations or others, go to [http://studentorgs.uncc.edu/](http://studentorgs.uncc.edu/).

- Graduate Public Health Association (GPHA). The purpose of GPHA is to foster an environment that contributes to the enhancement of the academic and professional
concerns, goals, and careers of public health students and others at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte interested in the professions of Public Health. (See also link from the Department website.)

The GPHA also is the official voice of students in the governance and continuous quality improvement processes within the graduate public health programs. While students are always welcomed and encouraged to directly contact faculty and administrators with course and/or program concerns and suggestions, the GPHA provides an official voice. The GPHA appoints one graduate student member as a full voting member of the Graduate Public Health Programs Committee. The GPHPC oversees the operations of the MSPH and Graduate Certificate programs, managing by policies, statements of principles, and by providing guidance and support to the program Directors.

**NOTE:** While the GPHA representative has a standing agenda item of student concerns on the GPHPC, the MSPH Director serves as the faculty advisor to the GPHA and meets formally with the GPHA at least once each semester. This practice allows the Director to hear first-hand student issues, suggestions, and concerns, providing a second line of input into the department’s quality improvement efforts to supplement that of the GPHPC representative.

- **Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG).** The GPHG is operated by graduate students for graduate students as an arm of the Student Government Association. The GPSG is the governing body for graduate students designed to meet the academic, social, and logistical needs of graduate and post-baccalaureate students enrolled at the University.

- **Student Government Association (SGA).** The executive power of SGA is vested in the Student Body President and Student Body Vice President, their staffs, the Student University Advocates, the Student Defense Chief, the Elections and Publicity Chair, and a number of committees to which the President appoints students each year. This body has the responsibility of enacting law as necessary to promote the general welfare of the student body. Campus-wide issues are debated in the SGA Legislature. The Student Judiciary of SGA is composed of elected Hearing Panel Members, the University Advocate’s Office, and the Student Defense Office and their assistants. They have jurisdiction over cases involving violations of the Code of Student Responsibility, the Student Body Constitution, and various student statutes.

State and National Professional Organizations can provide professional development in terms of broadening one's views on health and wellness across the state or nation and keeping one up-to-date on current events, new information, job opportunities, and much more. Aspiring Public Health professionals and Health Educators should be members of professional associations that are relevant to furthering the professions of Public Health, Health Education, and Health Promotion. Several professional associations are listed below with their web links. Students are encouraged to consider student membership in relevant professional organizations. Most organizations have discounted student and recent graduate rates.

- North Carolina Chapter, Society for Public Health Education (NC SOPHE), http://www.ncarolinasophe.org/
- American Academy for Health Behavior (AAHB), http://www.aahb.org/
- American Association for Health Education (AAHE), http://www.aahperd.org/aahe/
- American Public Health Association (APHA), http://www.apha.org/
- American School Health Association (ASHA), http://www.ashaweb.org/

**Check Email Daily**

The Public Health Graduate Programs expects students to use their UNC Charlotte (name@uncc.edu) email accounts, and to check their accounts at least once per day while school is in session (including summer sessions, if students are attending). This facilitates good communication between the Department, the Director, your advisor/Chair and students. **Students are responsible for any and all information that is delivered by email.** Students who choose to use another email account as their primary account are advised to set an “auto forward” rule from their UNC Charlotte account to ensure timely receipt of messages.

**Cancellations and Severe Weather Policy**

Students should follow the UNC Charlotte severe weather guidelines for class attendance. In the case of severe weather that results in the cancellation of University classes, students are not required to report to their internship assignments. Students are responsible for obtaining information about school closings and delays. Call 704-687-2877 or visit the home page at http://www.uncc.edu/ for information about University closings or delays.

Faculty may have need, related to weather or other circumstances, to unexpectedly cancel classes. Every effort will be made to notify students of these changes in advance. This is typically accomplished via email communication to your UNC Charlotte email account (see email policy) and/or a notice placed on the classroom door.
Appendix A: Seven Areas of Responsibility

Areas of Responsibilities and Competencies for the Health Education Specialists, 2010
(Summary)

condensed from http://www.nchec.org/credentialing/responsibilities/

The Seven Areas of Responsibility contain a comprehensive set of Competencies and Sub-competencies defining the role of the health education specialist. These Responsibilities were verified through the 2010 Health Educator Job Analysis Project and serve as the basis of the CHES exam beginning in April 2011 and the MCHES exam in October 2011. The Sub-competencies shaded are advanced-level only and will not be included in the entry-level, CHES examination. However the advanced-level Sub-competences will be included in the October 2011 MCHES examination.

Area of Responsibility I:
ASSESS NEEDS, ASSETS AND CAPACITY FOR HEALTH EDUCATION

Competency 1.1: Plan Assessment Process
Competency 1.2: Access Existing Information and Data Related to Health
Competency 1.3: Collect Quantitative and/or Qualitative Data Related to Health
Competency 1.4: Examine Relationships Among Behavioral, Environmental and Genetic Factors That Enhance or Compromise Health
Competency 1.5: Examine Factors That Influence the Learning Process
Competency 1.6: Examine Factors That Enhance or Compromise the Process of Health Education
Competency 1.7: Infer Needs for Health Education Based on Assessment Findings

Area of Responsibility II:
PLAN HEALTH EDUCATION

Competency 2.1: Involve Priority Populations and Other Stakeholders in the Planning Process
Competency 2.2: Develop Goals and Objectives
Competency 2.3: Select or Design Strategies and Interventions
Competency 2.4: Develop a Scope and Sequence for the Delivery of Health Education
Competency 2.5: Address Factors That Affect Implementation

Area of Responsibility III:
IMPLEMENT HEALTH EDUCATION

Competency 3.1: Implement a Plan of Action
Competency 3.2: Monitor Implementation of Health Education
Competency 3.3: Train Individuals Involved in Implementation of Health Education

Area of Responsibility IV:
CONDUCT EVALUATION AND RESEARCH RELATED TO HEALTH EDUCATION

Competency 4.1: Develop Evaluation/Research Plan
Competency 4.2: Design Instruments to Collect
Competency 4.3: Collect and Analyze Evaluation/Research Data
Competency 4.4: Interpret Results of the Evaluation/Research
Competency 4.5: Apply Findings From Evaluation/Research
Area of Responsibility V:  
ADMINISTER AND MANAGE HEALTH EDUCATION

Competency 5.1: Manage Fiscal Resources
Competency 5.2: Obtain Acceptance and Support for Programs
Competency 5.3: Demonstrate Leadership
Competency 5.4: Manage Human Resources
Competency 5.5: Facilitate Partnerships in Support of Health Education

Area of Responsibility VI:
SERVE AS A HEALTH EDUCATION RESOURCE PERSON

Competency 6.1: Obtain and Disseminate Health-Related Information
Competency 6.2: Provide Training
Competency 6.3: Serve as a Health Education Consultant

Area of Responsibility VII:
COMMUNICATE AND ADVOCATE FOR HEALTH AND HEALTH EDUCATION

Competency 7.1: Assess and Prioritize Health Information and Advocacy Needs
Competency 7.2: Identify and Develop a Variety of Communication Strategies, Methods, and Techniques
Competency 7.3: Deliver Messages Using a Variety of Strategies, Methods, and Techniques
Competency 7.4: Engage in Health Education Advocacy
Competency 7.5: Influence Policy to Promote Health
Competency 7.6: Promote the Health Education Profession

Reference
Appendix B: Code of Ethics

Code of Ethics for the Health Education Profession
http://www.sophe.org/ethics.cfm

The Health Education profession is dedicated to excellence in the practice of promoting individual, family, organizational, and community health. Guided by common ideals, Health Educators are responsible for upholding the integrity and ethics of the profession as they face the daily challenges of making decisions. By acknowledging the value of diversity in society and embracing a cross-cultural approach, Health Educators support the worth, dignity, potential, and uniqueness of all people.

The Code of Ethics provides a framework of shared values within which Health Education is practiced. The Code of Ethics is grounded in fundamental ethical principles that underlie all health care services: respect for autonomy, promotion of social justice, active promotion of good, and avoidance of harm. The responsibility of each health educator is to aspire to the highest possible standards of conduct and to encourage the ethical behavior of all those with whom they work. Regardless of job title, professional affiliation, work setting, or population served, Health Educators abide by these guidelines when making professional decisions.

Article I: Responsibility to the Public. A Health Educator's ultimate responsibility is to educate people for the purpose of promoting, maintaining, and improving individual, family, and community health. When a conflict of issues arises among individuals, groups, organizations, agencies, or institutions, health educators must consider all issues and give priority to those that promote wellness and quality of living through principles of self-determination and freedom of choice for the individual.

Section 1: Health Educators support the right of individuals to make informed decisions regarding health, as long as such decisions pose no threat to the health of others.

Section 2: Health Educators encourage actions and social policies that support and facilitate the best balance of benefits over harm for all affected parties.

Section 3: Health Educators accurately communicate the potential benefits and consequences of the services and programs with which they are associated.

Section 4: Health Educators accept the responsibility to act on issues that can adversely affect the health of individuals, families, and communities.

Section 5: Health Educators are truthful about their qualifications and the limitations of their expertise and provide services consistent with their competencies.

Section 6: Health Educators protect the privacy and dignity of individuals.

Section 7: Health Educators actively involve individuals, groups, and communities in the entire educational process so that all aspects of the process are clearly understood by those who may be affected.

Section 8: Health Educators respect and acknowledge the rights of others to hold diverse values, attitudes, and opinions.

Section 9: Health Educators provide services equitably to all people.

Article II: Responsibility to the Profession. Health Educators are responsible for their professional behavior, for the reputation of their profession, and for promoting ethical conduct among their colleagues.

Section 1: Health Educators maintain, improve, and expand their professional competence through continued study and education; membership, participation, and leadership in professional organizations; and involvement in issues related to the health of the public.

Section 2: Health Educators model and encourage nondiscriminatory standards of behavior in their interactions with others.
Section 3: Health Educators encourage and accept responsible critical discourse to protect and enhance the profession.

Section 4: Health Educators contribute to the development of the profession by sharing the processes and outcomes of their work.

Section 5: Health Educators are aware of possible professional conflicts of interest, exercise integrity in conflict situations, and do not manipulate or violate the rights of others.

Section 6: Health Educators give appropriate recognition to others for their professional contributions and achievements.

**Article III: Responsibility to Employers.** Health Educators recognize the boundaries of their professional competence and are accountable for their professional activities and actions.

Section 1: Health Educators accurately represent their qualifications and the qualifications of others whom they recommend.

Section 2: Health Educators use appropriate standards, theories, and guidelines as criteria when carrying out their professional responsibilities.

Section 3: Health Educators accurately represent potential service and program outcomes to employers.

Section 4: Health Educators anticipate and disclose competing commitments, conflicts of interest, and endorsement of products.

Section 5: Health Educators openly communicate to employers, expectations of job-related assignments that conflict with their professional ethics.

Section 6: Health Educators maintain competence in their areas of professional practice.

**Article IV: Responsibility in the Delivery of Health Education.** Health Educators promote integrity in the delivery of health education. They respect the rights, dignity, confidentiality, and worth of all people by adapting strategies and methods to the needs of diverse populations and communities.

Section 1: Health Educators are sensitive to social and cultural diversity and are in accord with the law, when planning and implementing programs.

Section 2: Health Educators are informed of the latest advances in theory, research, and practice, and use strategies and methods that are grounded in and contribute to development of professional standards, theories, guidelines, statistics, and experience.

Section 3: Health Educators are committed to rigorous evaluation of both program effectiveness and the methods used to achieve results.

Section 4: Health Educators empower individuals to adopt healthy lifestyles through informed choice rather than by coercion or intimidation.

Section 5: Health Educators communicate the potential outcomes of proposed services, strategies, and pending decisions to all individuals who will be affected.

**Article V: Responsibility in Research and Evaluation.** Health Educators contribute to the health of the population and to the profession through research and evaluation activities. When planning and conducting research or evaluation, health educators do so in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations, organizational and institutional policies, and professional standards.

Section 1: Health Educators support principles and practices of research and evaluation that do no harm to individuals, groups, society, or the environment.

Section 2: Health Educators ensure that participation in research is voluntary and is based upon the informed consent of the participants.

Section 3: Health Educators respect the privacy, rights, and dignity of research participants, and honor commitments made to those participants.
Section 4: Health Educators treat all information obtained from participants as confidential unless otherwise required by law.

Section 5: Health Educators take credit, including authorship, only for work they have actually performed and give credit to the contributions of others.

Section 6: Health Educators who serve as research or evaluation consultants discuss their results only with those to whom they are providing service, unless maintaining such confidentiality would jeopardize the health or safety of others.

Section 7: Health Educators report the results of their research and evaluation objectively, accurately, and in a timely fashion.

**Article VI: Responsibility in Professional Preparation.** Those involved in the preparation and training of Health Educators have an obligation to accord learners the same respect and treatment given other groups by providing quality education that benefits the profession and the public.

Section 1: Health Educators select students for professional preparation programs based upon equal opportunity for all, and the individual’s academic performance, abilities, and potential contribution to the profession and the public’s health.

Section 2: Health Educators strive to make the educational environment and culture conducive to the health of all involved, and free from sexual harassment and all forms of discrimination.

Section 3: Health Educators involved in professional preparation and professional development engage in careful preparation; present material that is accurate, up-to-date, and timely; provide reasonable and timely feedback; state clear and reasonable expectations; and conduct fair assessments and evaluations of learners.

Section 4: Health Educators provide objective and accurate counseling to learners about career opportunities, development, and advancement, and assist learners secure professional employment.

Section 5: Health Educators provide adequate supervision and meaningful opportunities for the professional development of learners.
Appendix C: Plagiarism (extract)

PLAGIARISM from the UNCC Code of Student Academic Integrity
http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-407

Plagiarism is use of the distinctive ideas or words belonging to another person without adequate acknowledgment of that person's contribution. In the context of academic work the standards for acknowledging sources are very high. An author must give due credit whenever quoting another person's actual words, whenever using another person's idea, opinion or theory, and whenever borrowing facts, statistics or illustrative material, unless the information is common knowledge.

Direct Quotation: Every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or by appropriate indentation, and must be promptly acknowledged. The citation must be complete and in a style appropriate to the academic discipline.

- EXAMPLE: The following is an example of an unacknowledged direct quotation: Original Source: "To push the comparison with popular tale and popular romance a bit further, we may note that the measure of artistic triviality of works such as Sir Degare or even Havelok the Dane is their casualness, their indifference to all but the simplest elements of literary substance. The point is that high genre does not certify art and low genre does not preclude it." (From Robert M. Duran, Chaucer and the Shape of Creation, Howard University Press, 1967, p. 187.)

- Student Paper: "To push the comparison with popular tale and popular romance a bit further, you can note that the measure of the artistic triviality in some works of Chaucer's time period is their casualness, their indifference to all but the simplest elements of literary substance. The point is that high genre does not certify art and low genre does not preclude it."

Paraphrase: Prompt acknowledgment is required when material from another source is paraphrased or summarized in whole or in part in one's own words. To acknowledge a paraphrase properly, one might state: "to paraphrase Locke's comment ..." or "according to Rousseau ..." and conclude with a citation identifying the exact reference. A citation acknowledging only a directly quoted statement does not suffice to notify the reader of any preceding or succeeding paraphrased material.

- EXAMPLE: The following is an example of an unacknowledged paraphrase: Original Source: "The era in question included three formally declared wars. The decision to enter the War of 1812 was made by Congress after extended debate. Madison made no recommendation in favor of hostilities, though he did marshal a telling case against England in his message to Congress of June 1, 1812. The primary impetus to battle, however, seems to have come from a group of War Hawks in the legislature." (From W. Taylor Reveley III, "Presidential War-Making: Constitutional Prerogative or Usurpation?", University of Virginia Law Review, November 1969, footnotes omitted.)

- Student Paper: "There were three formally declared wars during this era. The decision to enter the war in 1812 was made by Congress after extended debate. Madison actually made no recommendation in favor of hostilities in his message to Congress of June 1, 1812, though he presented a persuasive case against Britain. The primary impetus to battle, however, appears to have come from a group of War Hawks in the legislature."

Borrowed Facts or Information: Information obtained in one's reading or research which is not common knowledge must be acknowledged. Examples of common knowledge might include the names of leaders of prominent nations, basic scientific laws, etc. If there is doubt whether information is common knowledge the citation should be given.

- Materials which contribute only to one's general understanding of the subject may be acknowledged in the bibliography and need not be immediately cited. One citation is usually sufficient to acknowledge indebtedness when a number of connected sentences in the paper or report draw their special information from one source. When direct quotations are used, however, quotation marks must be inserted and prompt acknowledgment made. Similarly, when a passage is paraphrased, prompt acknowledgment is required.
## Appendix D: 2015-2016 Academic Calendar


### Fall Semester 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 15, 2015</td>
<td>Academic Year Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 19, 2015</td>
<td>Payment Due Date */ Cancellation for non-payment 11:59 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 23, 2015</td>
<td>Last day to cancel all classes with no charges * 11:59 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 24, 2015</td>
<td>New Student Convocation (8-5pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 24, 2015</td>
<td>First day of classes (for evening classes starting at 5pm only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 29, 2015</td>
<td>Saturday classes begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2, 2015</td>
<td>Last day to change Grade Type (P/NC or Audit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2, 2015</td>
<td>Deadline for graduate students to apply for December 2015 graduation * 11:59 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2, 2015</td>
<td>Deadline for graduate students to file candidacy forms for December 2015 degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2, 2015</td>
<td>2nd Cancellation for non-payment 11:59 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2, 2015</td>
<td>Last day to submit grade replacement request * 11:59 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2, 2015</td>
<td>Policy Info</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2, 2015</td>
<td>Last day to register, add, drop with no grade via the web * 11:59 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 4, 2015</td>
<td>Census Date for Fall Enrollment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 5, 2015</td>
<td>No Saturday Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 7, 2015</td>
<td>Labor Day - University Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 21, 2015</td>
<td>Web Access available for Unsatisfactory Grade submission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 28, 2015</td>
<td>Deadline for Undergraduates to apply for December 2015 graduation * 11:59 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 9, 2015</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory grades due by noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 12 - 13, 2015</td>
<td>Student Recess - no classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 12, 2015</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory Grade emails sent to students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 12, 2015</td>
<td>Spring 2016 Schedule of Classes available on the Web</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 14, 2015</td>
<td>Doctoral dissertation formatting deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 27, 2015</td>
<td>Last day to withdraw from course (s); grade subject to Withdrawal Policy* 11:59 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2, 2015</td>
<td>Registration for Spring 2016 begins *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 25-28, 2015</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break - no classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 26-27, 2015</td>
<td>University Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 30, 2015</td>
<td>Web Grading Access available for final grading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2, 2015</td>
<td>Master’s thesis defense deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 5, 2015</td>
<td>Optional Class Make-Up Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 9, 2015</td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 9, 2015</td>
<td>Last day to submit master’s thesis for December 2015 graduation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 10, 2015</td>
<td>Reading Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 11-12, 2015</td>
<td>Final Examinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 12, 2015</td>
<td>Final Examinations for Saturday Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 14-18, 2015</td>
<td>Final Examinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 18, 2015</td>
<td>Summer 2016 Schedule of Classes available on the Web</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 19, 2015</td>
<td>Commencement @ 10am (College of Arts and Architecture, Belk College of Business, College of Computing and Informatics, The William States Lee College of Engineering, College of Health and Human Services)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 19, 2015</td>
<td>Commencement @ 3pm (College of Education, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 21, 2015</td>
<td>Grades due by noon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Spring Semester 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 6, 2016</td>
<td>Payment Due Date/Cancellation for non-payment * 11:59 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 10, 2016</td>
<td>Last day to drop all classes (100% refund) * 11:59 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 11, 2016</td>
<td>First day of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 16, 2016</td>
<td>Saturday classes begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 18, 2016</td>
<td>Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day -University Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 21, 2016</td>
<td>Last day to change Grade Type (P/NC or Audit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 21, 2016</td>
<td>Last day to add, drop with no grade * 11:59 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 21, 2016</td>
<td>Last day to submit a grade replacement request * 11:59 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 21, 2016</td>
<td>2nd Cancellation for non-payment 11:59 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 25, 2016</td>
<td>Census date for Spring Enrollment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 29, 2016</td>
<td>Deadline to apply for May 2016 graduation * 11:59 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 15, 2016</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory web grading access available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4, 2016</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory grades due on the web by noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 7, 2016</td>
<td>Fall 2017 Schedule of Classes available on web</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 7, 2016</td>
<td>Student registration appointment times available on web</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 7, 2016 - March 12, 2016</td>
<td>Spring Recess - No Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 14, 2016</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory Grade notices emailed to students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 21, 2016</td>
<td>Last day to withdraw from course(s); grade subject to Withdrawal Policy* 11:59 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 25, 2016 - March 26, 2016</td>
<td>Spring Weekend -No Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 28, 2016</td>
<td>Registration for Summer 2016 and Fall 2016 begins *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 29, 2016</td>
<td>Faculty Final web grading access available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 30, 2016</td>
<td>Final Examinations for Saturday classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 3, 2016</td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4, 2016</td>
<td>Reading Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 5, 2016 - May 7, 2016</td>
<td>Final Examinations begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 9, 2016 - May 12, 2016</td>
<td>Final Examinations continued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 13, 2016</td>
<td>Commencement (Computing and Informatics, Business, Health and Human Services) 1:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 14, 2016</td>
<td>Commencement (Liberal Arts and Sciences) 10:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 14, 2016</td>
<td>Commencement (Arts and Architecture, Education, Engineering) 3:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 16, 2016</td>
<td>Grades due on web by noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 16, 2016</td>
<td>Academic Year ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 19, 2016</td>
<td>Spring 2016 Probation/Suspension notifications sent to students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>