
UAB School of Public Health
Department of Health Behavior
MPH/MSN
Student Handbook
2016-17

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Introduction to the Program

The [Department of Health Behavior](#) trains students to conduct research, and to develop, evaluate, implement and disseminate programs that address the public's health. The Department offers Master of Public Health (MPH), Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees.

The MPH degree in Health Behavior addresses the behavioral, social, and cultural factors related to individual and population health and health disparities. Students in our program are able to apply social and behavioral science theories to public health problems, develop health promotion interventions and disease prevention programs, and evaluate health promotion interventions and disease prevention programs. We emphasize the importance of community based participatory research and the application of research findings through a variety of behavioral and social science health promotion strategies. Classes are designed to be engaging, interactive, and relevant to current health behavior issues. Health behavior students have opportunities to become involved in faculty research projects on a broad range of health issues such as behavioral interventions, family and adolescent health, obesity prevention, prevention and control of addictive behaviors, sexual health risks including HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, community based health promotion, health communication, program evaluation, and translation of research findings.

Graduates of our health behavior program are well positioned for opportunities in local, state, and federal agencies, non-profit/community based organizations, private research foundations, as well as the academic setting.

Mission of the UAB School of Public Health

To create, disseminate, and apply scientific knowledge to improve public health and well-being in Alabama and beyond by nurturing a diverse community of outstanding scholars.

Goal of the Health Behavior MPH Program

The primary educational goal of the Department of Health Behavior MPH program is to teach you to assess health behaviors and needs in specific populations and to develop, manage, and evaluate health promotion and disease prevention programs.

MPH/MSPH Programs offered by the Department of Health Behavior

MPH

The *MPH* program admits students having a bachelor's degree. Students in this track take 44-47 credit hours. The number of credit hours you are required to complete is determined before admission by examining your education and professional experiences. The MPH may be completed in as few as four semesters and is also offered online.

- **MPH Fifth Year Program**

The MPH Fifth-year program admits students who are juniors at UAB. Students in this track take 44-47 credit hours. You generally complete this program one year after you complete your undergraduate degree.

Coordinated MPH (Health Behavior)/PhD (Sociology or Psychology)

The Coordinated MPH (Health Behavior)/PhD (Sociology or Psychology) degree program is offered with the University of Alabama at Birmingham Departments of Psychology and Sociology and the University of Alabama Department of Psychology. This program will enable you to obtain an MPH in Health Behavior simultaneously with a PhD in psychology or sociology. To be considered for this program, you must first be admitted to the PhD program in psychology or sociology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham or psychology at the University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa). The MPH degree requires a minimum of 43-46 (sociology) or 42-45 (psychology at UAB) credit hours.

Coordinated MSN (School of Nursing)/MPH (Health Behavior)

The Coordinated MSN (School of Nursing)/MPH (Health Behavior) degree program is offered with the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing. This program enables you to obtain an MPH in Health Behavior simultaneously with a MSN from the School of Nursing. The MPH degree requires a minimum of 44-47 credit hours.

MSPH in Clinical Research (Health Behavior)

The MSPH in Clinical Research degree program is a post-medical degree-training program primarily aimed at fellows and faculty members interested in developing skills required for the conduct of clinical research. The MSPH degree requires a minimum of 42 credit hours.

MPH Program Objectives

The goal of the MPH program in Health Behavior is to prepare you with the knowledge and skills necessary to assess health behaviors and needs in specific populations and to develop, implement, and evaluate health promotion and disease prevention programs. The MPH Program is designed to prepare you for public health practice, research, or doctoral study.

The objectives of the MPH program in Health Behavior are to enable you to:

- Apply social and behavioral science theories to public health problems.
- Develop evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention programs.
- Apply principles of evaluating health promotion and disease prevention programs.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical standards of public health research and practice.
- Evaluate the literature concerning individual and social influences on health behavior.

Department of Health Behavior Faculty and Staff

Kevin Fontaine, Ph.D.	Professor & Chair
David Coombs, Ph.D., M.P.H.	Associate Professor, retired
Susan Davies, Ph.D.	Associate Professor
Frank Franklin, M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D.	Professor Emeritus
Melissa Galvin, Ph.D., M.P.H.	Professor Emerita
Peter Hendricks, Ph.D.	Associate Professor
Connie Kohler, Dr.P.H.	Professor Emerita
Robin Gaines Lanzi, Ph.D., M.P.H.	Associate Professor & Director of Academic Programs
Ann Elizabeth Montgomery, Ph.D., M.P.A., M.S.W.	Assistant Professor
Greg Pavela, Ph.D.	Assistant Professor
Dori Pekmezi, Ph.D.	Associate Professor
Julie Brown, M.S.	Coordinator of Graduate Academic Programs

Faculty contact information and research interests can be found in [Appendix A](#).

2

MPH Coursework Requirements

Department of Health Behavior MPH/MSN Curriculum Planning Worksheet

Name: _____

Banner ID: _____

Current GPA: _____ Graduation Date: _____

MPH core courses (except for PUH 695) MUST be taken before students register for the internship. PUH 695, MUST be taken in the final semester of enrollment (students graduating in summer must take in spring).

Course Name	Term Course Available			Credit Hours	Term /Year Taken	Grade
	Fall	Spr	Sum			
Core Requirements: 17 Hours						
BST 601: Biostatistics I	C	O	O	4		
ENH 600: Fundamentals of Environmental Health	O	C	O	3		
EPI 600: Introduction to Epidemiology	CO		O	3		
HB 624: Advanced Theory*	CO			3		
HCO 600: Introduction to Pub Hlth Systems	C	O	O	3		
PUH 695: Integrative Experience	CO	CO		1		
SOPH Requirements: 3 - 6 hours						
PUH 627 or GRD 727: Writing & Reviewing Research	CO	CO	CO	3		
HB Focus Courses: 18 hours						
HB 636: Intervention Development		CO		3		
HB 641: Research Methods*	CO			3		
HB 643: Health Program Evaluation	CO			3		
HB 697: Internship	I	I	I	3		
HB Elective	CO	CO	CO	3		
HB Elective	CO	CO	CO	3		
SOPH Coursework Total (at least 30 hours required)*				38-41		
Shared Hours from Coordinated Program (6 hours)						
NUR 604: Leadership in Advanced Nursing Practices Roles	O	O	O	3		
NUR 606: Translating Evidence into Practice	O	O	O	3		
Shared Hours/MPH Total**				44 -47		

* Meets the Graduate School requirement of minimum of 30 semester hours of graduate work.

** Meet CEPH MPH degree requirements of 42 hours

C= In class; O= Online; CO = Either Option Available; I = On Preceptor site

*HB 624 is a pre-requisite for HB 636, and HB 641 is a pre-requisite for HB 643.

Academic Advising

Upon admission to the program, you are assigned a faculty advisor. Advisors provide guidance about course selection, course substitutions, internships, research opportunities, and possible employment opportunities. You will need to consult with your advisor and the Coordinator of Graduate Academic Programs for the Department prior to registering for classes.

Should you wish to change advisors, consent must be obtained from the new advisor before the change can be completed. Please see the Coordinator of Graduate Academic Programs for the required paperwork. The *School of Public Health Change of Advisor* form can be obtained from [the School of Public Health Website](#). You must complete this form, obtain the appropriate signatures and submit it to the Office of Student Affairs for processing in order to change advisors.

Program Completion

You are responsible for meeting deadlines for graduation. Graduation deadlines are available on the School of Public Health Academic Calendar. You must submit an *Application for Degree* form (see [Appendix D](#)) which can be obtained online on the [school's website](#). The *Application for Degree* form must be submitted to the Coordinator of Graduate Academic Programs no later than two weeks into the expected semester of graduation. *You are expected to be enrolled for at least three credit hours of graduate work in your final semester prior to graduation.*

Degree Completion Time

As a master's student you are generally expected to complete all degree requirements within *five* years of matriculation. ***Only one extension of this time limit can be requested when circumstances preclude completion of requirements within five years.*** The recommendation for an extension should include a plan and timeline for completion. Courses taken more than five years before graduation may not be applied toward a degree without the approval of the Director of Graduate Academic Programs for the Department and the Graduate School Dean.

3

Internship Requirements

As a student in the MPH program, you are required to complete three credit hours of an internship experience. The internship is a field experience which bridges professional academic preparation and public health practice. It should be project-oriented and focus on an issue relating to public health. Knowledge and skills learned in coursework are applied in an agency setting under the supervision and guidance of an experienced public health specialist, who has been approved to serve as a MPH Internship preceptor. You may check with the school's internship coordinator, [Mrs. Kimberly Hunter](#) (205/934-7791), the school's website or the Office of Public Health Practice student weekly newsletter for internship opportunities. Learning objectives for the internship must be set based on the MPH School-wide and departmental competencies relevant to the student's course of study. Faculty research projects are not appropriate venues for an internship, neither are positions which are primarily administrative or focused on data management.

Registering for the Internship Experience

Before the hold on the internship course can be lifted, we require that the internship description and agreement form are completed and on file. This form is to be completed in the online internship database, Intern Track. You can log in to this program with your Blazer ID and password at this [site](#). Your faculty advisor and site supervisor (preceptor) will be required to sign this document, so it is important that you communicate with them as you complete the form, and do not wait until the deadline to register. A hyperlink allowing you to formally request the hold to be lifted will become active once all the signatures are on file.

You should register under your academic advisor for HB 697 – Internship in Health Behavior. You are required to complete your core course work before registering for internship hours. For three credit hours, you are required to spend **a minimum of 180 hours** during the semester working for the agency. The internship must be completed in one semester, and all hours must be completed by the last day of exams. You are required to complete your core course work before registering for internship hours. Credit cannot be applied retroactively to work you have done prior to registering for the internship. Students should feel free to contact your advisor, the Coordinator of Graduate Academic Programs, or Internship Coordinator ([Mrs. Kimberly Hunter](#)) if you have any questions or problems during the internship.

Grading and Requirements

The internship is a pass/no pass course. Your grade will be assigned by your faculty advisor based on the completion of all the components below. All forms related to the MPH internship will be completed in the Intern Track program.

- Internship Description and Agreement Form
- Midpoint Meeting Form, and confirmed meetings with the faculty advisor and site supervisor
- Final student evaluation
- Final student paper

- Completion of poster and attendance at the internship poster session
- Evaluations (Midpoint and Final) from the site supervisor
- Any additional product required by your internship site

Midpoint meeting:

You will be required to complete a form halfway through your internship. This is to prompt your reflection on the internship to that point, and steps to make the remainder of the internship a success. You will set up times to individually meet with your faculty advisor and site supervisor; use the midpoint form as a guide for your conversation. If you are not able to meet in person, discussions via telephone, email, or Skype will be accepted. Your faculty advisor and site supervisor will need to confirm the meeting took place in the Intern Track system.

Internship Poster Session:

At the end of the internship, prior to the end of exams for that semester, a poster session will be held to showcase the internships completed during that semester. You will receive additional instructions on creating your poster prior to the event. Attendance is mandatory, as it is a required component to the internship experience. Limited exceptions will be made for students completing internships out of the state or country or who are completing the MPH program online.

For complete internship requirements please review the [syllabus](#) on the UAB School of Public Health website.

4

Useful Information

Departmental Office Policies and the names of key personnel and places are outlined below. Other helpful documents are the [SOPH Catalog](#), the [UAB Academic Calendar](#) and the [UAB Graduate School Catalog](#).

Office Policies

Phones:

Phones are available for student use in the Ryals Building first floor lobby near the elevators.

Mail:

Faculty mailboxes are in the departmental reception area. You may leave material for faculty in these boxes.

Reserving Conference and Classrooms and Equipment (e.g., pointer, laptop):

Conference* and classrooms are to be reserved through [25 Live](#). Equipment is to be reserved for use and will be addressed by the MITS Department. Contact information for MITS: Phone: (205) 934-7731; Location: Ryals 127

*The Health Behavior Conference Room can be reserved through the HB office staff.

People and Places

Dean's Office:

Max Michael, M.D. is Dean of the School of Public Health.

Peter Ginter, Ph.D. is the Associate Dean for Graduate Education

Office of Student and Academic Services:

Cheryl Johnson, MEng is Director of Academic Accountability Services. Her number is (205) 934-4996.

Internships & Career Services:

[Kimberly Hunter, M.Ed.](#) is the Student Engagement and Internship Coordinator for the School of Public Health. Her number is (205) 934-7791.

Financial Aid:

The UAB Office of [Student Financial Aid](#) number is (205) 934-8223.

Registration:

You will register by computer through [BlazerNet](#). Before registering, you should meet with your faculty advisor. You will obtain your Registration Access Code from the Coordinator of Graduate Academic Programs.

Other Useful Phone numbers:

Barnes & Noble Blazer Bookstore	(205) 996-2665
International Scholar and Student Services	(205) 934-3328
Graduate School	(205) 934-8227
Key Control	(205) 934-3708
Lister Hill Library	(205) 934-2230
Mervyn Sterne Library	(205) 934-6364
Student Health Services	(205) 934-3580
Student Housing	(205) 934-2092
UAB Parking	(205) 934-3513
UAB Police	(205) 934-4434
Emergency	911
Escort Service	(205) 934-8772

Public Health Student Association Representative:

Public Health Student Association (PHSA) elections are typically held during the fall term for departmental representatives. Students from each department elect one to two representatives. [Kimberly Hunter, M.Ed.](#) is the staff advisor. Her number is (205) 934-7791.

Computer and Network Access

Computers are available for your use in the Computer Resource Lab (CRL) located on the first floor in the Ryals Building. **You need to obtain an access account and an e-mail address (Blazer ID) by contacting the CRL staff at (205) 934-7731.** Hardware and software support for the CRL is provided by the CRL staff. You must email your advisor and the Coordinator of Graduate Academic Programs your e-mail address. **It is your responsibility to ensure that the department has your current UAB e-mail address and telephone number.** This will enable you to receive important information from the Department regarding School and University deadlines as well as research, internship, and employment opportunities.

Professional Meetings

Student involvement in national public health organizations, as well as attendance at national professional meetings, is encouraged. Below is a list of recommended organizations in which you are encouraged to participate.

- Alabama Public Health Association www.alphassoc.org
- American Association of Cancer Education www.aaceonline.com
- American College of Preventive medicine www.acpm.org
- American Diabetes Association www.diabetes.org
- American Evaluation Association www.eval.org
- American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children www.apsac.org
- American Psychological Association www.apa.org
- American Public Health Association www.apha.org
- Association for Prevention Teaching & Research www.aptrweb.org
- Association for Psychological Science..... www.psychologicalscience.org
- International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect..... www.ispcan.org
- Society for Adolescent Health & Medicine www.adolescenthealth.org
- Society for Research in Child Development www.srcd.org
- Society of Behavioral Medicine www.sbm.org
- Society of Public Health Educators www.sophe.org
- The Obesity Society..... www.obesity.org

Seminars

There are a variety of seminars that take place on campus. In the department, we offer monthly seminars. We also have a monthly journal club. Please look for announcements on the bulletin boards in the student lounge and outside the department suite and via emails from faculty and the Coordinator of Graduate Academic Programs.

Appendix A: Department of Health Behavior Faculty Research Interests and Contact Information

Name	Research Interests	Campus Address	Telephone	UAB E-Mail
David Coombs, Ph.D. (Retired)	Mental Health Issues/Suicide Prevention; Community-Based Interventions	RPHB 227	(205) 305-9210	dcoombs@uab.edu
Susan Davies, Ph.D., Associate Professor	Adolescent pregnancy/ HIV/STI prevention, mental health of men/boys, family resilience in low-resource communities	RPHB 227	(205) 975-8049	sdavies@uab.edu
Kevin Fontaine, Ph.D., Professor & Chair	Obesity Treatment; Resistance Exercise; Placebo & Expectancy Effects; Ketogenic Diets; Healing	RPHB 241C	(205) 975-8397	kfonta1@uab.edu
Frank A. Franklin, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., (Emeritus)	Nutrition Problems and Policies, Pediatrics, School Nutrition Promotion Programs, International Nutrition	RPHB 227	No office phone	frankln@uab.edu
Melissa Galvin, Ph.D., M.P.H. (Emerita)	Community Participatory Research, Hepatitis; Senior Citizens, Health Communications	RPHB 227	(205) 934-6020	mgalvin@uab.edu
Peter Hendricks, Ph.D., Associate Professor	Addiction, Novel Interventions, Clinical Trials, Expectancies, Motivation, Positive Psychology	RPHB 434E	(205) 934-6020	phendricks@uab.edu
Connie Kohler, Dr.P.H. (Emerita)	Tobacco, Chronic Disease, Health Communication, Entertainment-education	RPHB 227	(205) 975-6020	ckohler@uab.edu
Robin Gaines Lanzi, Ph.D., M.P.H., Associate Professor, Graduate Program Director	Overall: reducing family and child health disparities and promoting positive youth development; parenting and home visiting programs; faith and spirituality; mental health needs of women and children; HIV/STI; mHealth; community based participatory research (CBPR)	RPHB 227	(205) 934-8071	rlanzi@uab.edu
Ann Elizabeth Montgomery, PhD, MPA, MSW, Assistant Professor	Homelessness and housing; Veterans; universal screening to identify individuals experiencing homelessness and risk; interventions to prevent and end homelessness; vulnerable populations and related health disparities	RPHB 227M	(205) 934-0505	aemontgo@uab.edu
Greg Pavela, Ph.D. Assistant Professor	Environmental and early life determinants of health and adiposity; methods for causal inferences about the effects of social determinants on adiposity; socioeconomic status and health	RPHB 227	(205) 934-6020	pavela@uab.edu
Dori Pekmezi, Ph.D., Assistant Professor	Chronic Disease Prevention, Health Communication, Physical Activity, Health Disparities	RPHB 227	(205) 934-6020	dpekmezi@uab.edu

Appendix B:

BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE ELECTIVE COURSES FOR HEALTH BEHAVIOR MASTER'S STUDENTS

This is not an exhaustive list of appropriate electives. Other behavioral science courses may be taken as electives with the approval of your advisor. School of Public Health course descriptions may be found in the [School of Public Health Catalog](#). Courses from departments outside of the School of Public Health may be found in The [Graduate School Catalog](#). This is a tentative list and schedule.

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BEHAVIOR

HB 602: Alcohol and Drug Abuse

HB 605: Physical Activity in Public Health

HB 608: Women's Health and Social Behavior - online

HB 609: African American Health Issues - online

HB 627: GIS for Public Health

HB 635: Communities, Family, & Health

HB 638: Public Health Aging - online

HB 660: Adolescent Health: A Social and Behavioral Science Perspective

HB 692: Principles and Practices of Community Organization - online

HB 706: Energetics: Scientific Foundations of Obesity and Other Health Aspects

DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

EPI 603: Injury – Epidemiologic Principles

EPI 613: Cancer and Epidemiology

EPI 621: AIDS/HIV & STD's

EPI 635: Genetics in Public Health

EPI 708: Tropical/Infectious Disease

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATION AND POLICY

HCO 608: Reproductive Health

HCO 619: Social Work in Public Health

HCO 628: Qualitative & Mixed Methods Research in Public Health

HCO 631: Public Health Demography

HCO 670: Social and Ethical Issues in Public Health

HCO 677: Patient-Based Outcomes Measurement

Appendix C:

**Department of Health Behavior
MPH/MSN Curriculum Planning Worksheet**

Name: _____

Banner ID: _____

Current GPA: _____

Graduation Date: _____

MPH core courses (except for PUH 695) MUST be taken before students register for the internship. PUH 695, MUST be taken in the final semester of enrollment (students graduating in summer must take in spring).

Course Name	Term Course Available			Credit Hours	Term /Year Taken	Grade
	Fall	Spr	Sum			
Core Requirements: 17 Hours						
BST 601: Biostatistics I	C	O	O	4		
ENH 600: Fundamentals of Environmental Health	O	C	O	3		
EPI 600: Introduction to Epidemiology	CO		O	3		
HB 624: Advanced Theory	CO			3		
HCO 600: Introduction to Pub Hlth Systems	C	O	O	3		
PUH 695: Integrative Experience	CO	CO		1		
SOPH Requirements: 3 - 6 hours						
PUH 627 or GRD 727: Writing & Reviewing Research	CO	CO	CO	3		
HB Focus Courses: 18 hours						
HB 636: Intervention Development		CO		3		
HB 641: Research Methods	CO			3		
HB 643: Health Program Evaluation	CO			3		
HB 697: Internship	I	I	I	3		
HB Elective	CO	CO	CO	3		
HB Elective	CO	CO	CO	3		
SOPH Coursework Total (at least 30 hours required)*				38-41		
Shared Hours from Coordinated Program (6 hours)						
NUR 604: Leadership in Advanced Nursing Practices Roles	O	O	O	3		
NUR 606: Translating Evidence into Practice	O	O	O	3		
Shared Hours/MPH Total**				44 -47		
* Meets the Graduate School requirement of minimum of 30 semester hours of graduate work.						
** Meet CEPH MPH degree requirements of 42 hours						
C= In class; O= Online; CO = Either Option Available; I = On Preceptor site						

Appendix D:



Please carefully follow the below Instructions for submitting an application for degree for a **master's or EDS** graduate program.

- All applications for degree must be typed. We cannot accept faxed applications for degree.
- All applications for degree must arrive at the Graduate School with all required signatures (advisor, program director, etc).
- All applications for degree must be submitted with the curriculum planning/advising sheet (list of required courses) from your department. Applications for degree will not be accepted without this form.
- You must be registered for graduate level courses in the semester in which you apply for graduation.
- The graduation fee (\$50 for first time application; \$25 for reorder applications) will be added to your student account within 2-3 weeks after receipt of your application for degree. Please do **not** submit a check with this form.
- The Graduate School's deadline for submitting the application for degree can be found at: <http://www.uab.edu/graduate/deadline-dates#graduation>. However, always check with your graduate program as some programs have earlier deadline dates and slightly different procedures.

If you have any questions about submitting the application for degree, please contact Marla Jones (mcjones@uab.edu).

Note: The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) application for degree can be found at <http://www.uab.edu/nursing/home/nursing-quicklinks/catalogs/115-frontdoor/prospective-student/443-current-student-forms>

**THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM
APPLICATION FOR DEGREE – MASTER’S or EdS
FORM MUST BE TYPED - Use both upper and lower case**

You will be billed for the \$50 graduation fee or the \$25 reorder fee. Your diploma cannot be mailed if you owe any fees to UAB.

Date of Application _____ Degree for which you are applying (e.g., MA, MS, EdS) _____
 December April August
 Indicate month you expect to receive degree; enter year _____

Type your name above as you wish it to appear on your diploma _____ Banner Student Number _____

Street Address _____ Graduate Program _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ UAB Email Address _____
 (Your diploma will be mailed to this address. If you change your address, you must notify the Graduate School). (Notifications will only be sent to your UAB email address)

Check the Plan you are following: If Plan 1, you must enter thesis title below. Plan 1 Plan 2

Thesis Title:

Mentor/Advisor: _____

Chair of Committee if Plan 1 (if different from mentor/advisor): _____

Courses enrolled in for the semester of graduation:

Sem/Year	Course Prefix	Course Number	Hours	Credit
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Transfer of credit from another institution:

Institution Name _____				
Sem/Year	Course Prefix	Course Number	Hours	Credit
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Courses with grades of I, N, or O to be removed:

Sem/Year	Course Prefix	Course Number	Hours	Credit
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Notes

Applicant’s Signature: _____

APPROVALS:

Advisor _____ Date _____ Graduate Program Director _____ Date _____

Dept. Coordinator (For School of Public Health ONLY) _____ Date _____