



Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS)

Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS)

Officers of the Faculty

John Waterbury	President
Peter Heath	Provost
Huda Zurayk	Dean of the Faculty
Iman Nuwayhid	Associate Dean
Mona Katul	Executive Officer

Ex Officio Members

Moueen Salameh	Registrar
Salim Kanaan	Director of Admissions
Hilda Nassar	Medical Librarian
Helen Bikhazi	University Librarian
Karma El Hassan	Director, Office of Institutional Research and Assessment

Historical Background

The Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) was first established in 1954 as an independent School of Public Health, the first of its kind in the region. The name of the school was changed to the Faculty of Health Sciences in 1978 to accommodate programs in allied health.

FHS serves to educate and train professionals and competent leaders to help meet the health needs of Lebanon and the region. Currently, FHS hosts four departments: Epidemiology and Population Health (EPH), Environmental Health (EH), Health Behavior and Education (HBE), Health Management and Policy (HMP), and a Medical Laboratory Technology Program in collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine. FHS offers a BS degree in Health Sciences (major: Environmental Health or Medical Laboratory Technology); a master's degree in Public Health (MPH) (concentrating in EB-Epidemiology and Biostatistics, HBE, or HMP); an MS in Epidemiology; an MS in Population Health; and an MS in Environmental Sciences (concentrating in EH). FHS also provides courses in public health to students in the Faculty of Medicine.

Mission

The Faculty of Health Sciences prepares professionals in the disciplines of public health and health sciences through graduate and undergraduate programs, and introduces future physicians to public health. It contributes to knowledge and the improvement of the public's health in the region by conducting scholarly and relevant research and by responding to priority health issues and training needs in collaboration with stakeholders. In all of its functions, FHS promotes and adheres to the principles of ethics, social justice, and collective responsibility.

Vision

The vision of FHS is to contribute to the promotion of the health and well being of populations through the provision of quality higher education in public health and related disciplines. This is to be accomplished through state-of-the-art research that addresses public health problems particularly relevant to Lebanon, the region, and the developing world, and through transfer of that knowledge to policy makers, program managers, and other practitioners in relevant organizations and fields.

Graduate Programs

GPHP Mission Statement

The Graduate Public Health Program at FHS provides advanced training in public health to prepare professionals, both practitioners and academicians, who can ably identify, assess, research, and respond to current public health challenges in the region. The Program undertakes multidisciplinary and community based research as well as community service as means to improve instruction, advance knowledge, and address public health issues and needs of relevance to the population served.

GPHP Value Statement

A separate stand-alone statement of values for the GPHP has been developed as follows: The Graduate Public Health Program educates students in a worldly perspective that is grounded in the social context of Lebanon and the region. The Program instills in its graduates ethical behavior, and the values of integrity, professionalism, civic responsibility, and social justice.

Admission

Master of Public Health

A candidate is eligible to be considered for admission to the MPH program if s/he holds a bachelor's degree from AUB, or an equivalent degree from another recognized institution, with a cumulative average of at least 80, or its equivalent in the major field of study.

When only a cumulative average is available, the applicant will qualify for this category if his/her average is 80 or more. A candidate with a major and cumulative average of at least 75, but less than 80, may be considered for admission on probation if s/he holds a bachelor's degree in a health-related field.

When only a cumulative average is available, the applicant will qualify for this category if his/her average is between 75 and 80. Mid-year admissions are accepted on a case-by-case basis if space allows. Students admitted at mid-year may only register as part-timers.

Students entering the MPH program are evaluated on their previous experience in a health-related field and may be exempt from a 4-credit hour practicum. Applicants for exemption are assessed on a case-by-case basis (see policy on exemption).

A candidate who wishes to enroll as a part-time student may do so provided s/he completes the requirements within a period of four years.

Master of Science in Epidemiology

For full details on admission requirements to the Master of Science in Epidemiology, see the Admissions section of this catalogue. Mid-year admissions are only accepted for part-time students.

Master of Science in Population Health

For full details on admission requirements to the Master of Science in Population Health, see the Admissions section of this catalogue. Mid-year admissions are only accepted for part-time students.

Master of Science in Environmental Sciences (Major: Environmental Health)

For full details on the admission requirements for this interfaculty program, see the Admissions section of this catalogue and the admission policies for the Interfaculty Graduate Environmental Sciences Program (pp. 38-42, 399).

Graduation Requirements

All recommendations for graduation are made by vote of the faculty on the recommendation of the Academic and Curriculum committee.

Master of Public Health

To be eligible for graduation in the MPH program, a student must accomplish the following:

- pass all required courses with a minimum grade of 70
- earn a cumulative average of at least 80
- pass a minimum of 40 credit hours or 36 credit hours if exempted from the practicum

Master of Science in Epidemiology

Credit requirements for the MS in Epidemiology are tabulated below:

Course Type	Credits
Required	19
Electives	5
Thesis	6
Total number of credits required for graduation	30

For additional information regarding graduation requirements, refer to the General University Requirements in this catalogue.

Master of Science in Population Health

Credit requirements for the MS in Population Health are tabulated below:

Course Type	Credits
Required	18
Electives	6
Thesis	6
Total number of credits required for graduation	30

For additional information regarding graduation requirements, refer to the General University Requirements in this catalogue.

Academic Rules and Regulations

Master of Science in Epidemiology or Population Health

Credit Load

A full-time student must carry a minimum load of 9 credits per semester. Students can register for up to 12 credits per semester. Students who wish to register for more than 12 credits must petition the Academic and Curriculum committee for approval.

For full information on academic rules and regulations and general requirements for the Master of Science in Epidemiology and Master of Science in Population Health, refer to the General University Policy section in this catalogue.

Master of Public Health Program

Credit Load

A full-time student must carry a minimum load of 12 credits per semester. Students can register for up to 18 credits per semester. Students who wish to register for more than 18 credits must petition the Academic and Curriculum committee for approval.

A part-time student must carry a minimum load of 5 credits per semester. Students who wish to register for fewer than 5 credits must petition the Academic and Curriculum committee for approval.

Policy on Course Registration

MPH students are not allowed to register for more than 6 credits of electives outside FHS without completing a minimum of 12 credits in the program.

Core courses are offered in the fall semester except for PBHL 301, which is offered in the spring only. All concentration courses are offered in the spring semester. All students must begin their studies toward the MPH with at least PBHL 300 and the core course in their area of concentration.

Policy on Changing Concentration

The MPH program has three options for concentration: Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Health Behavior and Education, Health Management and Policy. Additionally, students with at least five years of work experience in public health practice may be eligible to apply to a customized MPH program. The customized MPH program allows students to take courses in two concentration areas.

Students may petition to transfer to another concentration. Petitions are reviewed in current and prospective departments in light of student academic performance, justification of transfer, and implications on the quota.

Policies and Procedures on Exemption and Transfer of Credits

Policy on Exemption

Course Exemption

Exemption from an FHS course may only be considered when the student has proof that s/he has satisfactorily completed a comparable course in a recognized university, faculty, or program, normally with a minimum grade of 80 or the equivalent. The requirement of this particular course may be waived, but not its credits (i.e., the candidate has to replace the exempted course credits with another course having the same number of credits) except in the case of a practicum exemption when both the course and the credits are waived. The course instructor may require that the petitioning student take an exam in order to demonstrate proficiency in the subject prior to the official registration period for the required course. In cases where students want to take a course in another faculty and equate it for a required course in the MPH program, the course instructor (or relevant department chairperson) must approve the petition for equating courses prior to the student registering in the course.

Practicum Exemption

In cases where students are judged to have public health experience that is both relevant and sufficient to their chosen area of concentration, they may be exempted from the practicum. Decisions related to exemption are based on the submission of a petition letter to the FHS practicum coordinator, along with supporting evidence of experience. In cases where students are exempted from the practicum, they are required to complete only a total of 36 credit hours of course work. The practicum exemption must be in the student's file prior to registering for the final semester of study.

Policy on Transfer of Credits

A transfer of credits may be considered when a course is satisfactorily completed with a minimum grade of 80, or equivalent, at a recognized university, faculty, or program. This is accepted as such in lieu of credits earned in a comparable course in FHS, provided that the candidate has not already used the credits of the course to obtain or be awarded a degree, diploma, or certificate. Credits are to be used only once as a currency unit toward only one degree or diploma or certificate. However, for courses taken within the Faculty of Health Sciences, the Academic and Curriculum committee will consider a minimum grade of 75 for transfer of credits.

The number of credits that can be transferred can not exceed 12 credits of comparable courses at FHS. It is considered preferable not to exempt or transfer core-required courses unless the instructor, department, or committee concerned is fully confident of the nature and content of the courses in relation to FHS courses.

Procedure for Exemption and Transfer of Credits

To exempt or transfer courses, the candidate should submit the following official documents to the appropriate department chairperson, after consulting with the adviser.

- a letter of request for exemption and/or transfer
- the official catalogue of the transferring institution
- a detailed description of course content and syllabus
- an official statement of records/grades earned for the course(s)

For both the exemption and transfer of credits, the transferring programs, departments, and universities must be considered to have comparable standards to those of AUB.

The chairperson of the relevant department should seek, in writing, the opinion of the course instructor(s) and the department faculty, and then submit the recommendation of the department, along with the supporting documents, to the FHS Academic and Curriculum committee for final approval.

Probation

Placement on Probation

A student is placed on probation if one of the following occurs:

- s/he fails in any graduate course taken for credit (passing grade is 70)
- s/he fails to obtain a minimum semester average or its equivalent (12 credit hours for part-time students) of 80 in graduate courses

A student with an admission score of at least 75, but less than 80, will be admitted on probation.

Removal of Probation

A student will be removed from probation at the end of a semester or its equivalent for part-timers (12 credit hours) if s/he has passed all courses and attained a semester average of 80.

Dismissal from the Program

A student on probation may be dismissed upon the recommendation of the Academic and Curriculum committee if one of the following occurs:

- failure to be removed from probation after one semester or its equivalent for part-timers (12 credit hours)
- determination by the Academic and Curriculum committee that the student is not making satisfactory academic progress, has not shown sufficient professional promise, or has behaved in contempt of the norms and values upheld by the faculty

Curricula

Master of Public Health

			Lecture Hrs./ Week	Lab Hrs./ Week	Credit Hrs.
I. Core Courses (Required of all MPH Students)					
PBHL	300	Health and Environment I	2	2	3
PBHL	301	Health and Environment II	2	0	2
IDHL	310	Research Design	3	0	3
EPHD	311	Epidemiology and Biostatistics ¹	3	2	4
HMPD	302	Health Management and Policy	3	0	3
HBED	305	Communication Skills for Health Professionals ²	1	2	2

II. Concentration Courses

A. Epidemiology and Biostatistics

			Lecture Hrs./ Week	Lab Hrs./ Week	Credit Hrs.
Required Courses					
EPHD	312	Analysis of Continuous Data	2	2	3
EPHD	313	Analysis of Categorical Data	2	2	3
EPHD	320	Design and Analysis of Epidemiological Studies	2	2	3
EPHD	323	Epidemiology of Infectious and Chronic Diseases	3	0	3
EPHD	340	Seminar			0

¹ Students may be exempted from EPHD 311 provided they satisfy the exemption criteria (p.290). For non-EB concentrators, two of the exempted credits must be replaced with an Epidemiology or Biostatistics course.

² Not required for those who took HBED 203 (Health Communication). Credits must be replaced.

			Lecture Hrs./ Week	Lab Hrs./ Week	Credit Hrs.
Public Health Experience					
EPHD	345	Research Project ³	1	2	2
EPHD	365	Practicum ⁴	0	30	3
PBHL	355	Orientation to Health Programs and Health Care Facilities ⁵			0
PBHL	398	Culminating Experience			1

To complete credit requirements, students in this group should take at least seven credits of electives (depending on practicum exemption).

B. Health Behavior and Education

			Lecture Hrs./ Week	Lab Hrs./ Week	Credit Hrs.
Required Courses					
HBED	331	Theories of Behavior Change	3	0	3
HBED	332	Community Health and Development	2	0	2
HBED	333	Communication for Health	2	2	3
HBED	334	Qualitative Health Research	1	2	2
HBED	335	Design and Evaluation of Health Programs	2	0	2
HBED	340	Seminar			0
HBED	344	Workshop Development	1	0	1

			Lecture Hrs./ Week	Lab Hrs./ Week	Credit Hrs.
Public Health Experience					
HBED	345	Research Project	1	2	2
HBED	365	Practicum ⁴	0	30	3
PBHL	355	Orientation to Health Programs and Health Care Facilities ⁵			0
PBHL	398	Culminating Experience			1

Students in this group should take at least four credits of electives to complete their credit requirements.

³ Students concentrating in Epidemiology and Biostatistics are exempted from doing the research project if a practicum is taken.

⁴ Students may be exempted from doing the practicum if they have sufficient health related experience in their concentration area.

⁵ Not required for students exempted from the practicum.

C1. Health Management and Policy-Hospital Management Track

Required Courses			Lecture Hrs./ Week	Lab Hrs./ Week	Credit Hrs.
HMPD	311	Health Information Systems	2	0	2
HMPD	314	Project Management	2	0	2
HMPD	315	Performance Improvement	3	0	3
HMPD	342	Financial Management and Accounting	3	0	3
HMPD	351	Healthcare Economics and Finance ⁶	2	0	2
HMPD	340	Seminar			0

Public Health Experience			Lecture Hrs./ Week	Lab Hrs./ Week	Credit Hrs.
HMPD	345	Research Project	1	2	2
HMPD	365A	Practicum ⁷	0	30	3
PBHL	355	Orientation to Health Programs and Health Care Facilities ⁸			0
PBHL	398	Culminating Experience			1

Students in this group should take at least five credits of electives to complete their credit requirements.

⁶ A prerequisite for this course is HMPD 251 or an undergraduate course in Economics.

⁷ Students may be exempted from doing the practicum if they have sufficient health related experience in their concentration area.

⁸ Not required for students exempted from the practicum.

C2. Health Management and Policy-Lab Management Track

Required Courses			Lecture Hrs./ Week	Lab Hrs./ Week	Credit Hrs.
HMPD	311	Health Information Systems	2	0	2
HMPD	330	Clinical Lab Management: Principles and Applications	3	0	3
HMPD	332	Quality Assurance Practices in Health Care Laboratories	3	0	3
HMPD	342	Financial Management and Accounting	3	0	3
HMPD	351	Healthcare Economics and Finance ⁶	2	0	2
HMPD	340	Seminar			0

Public Health Experience			Lecture Hrs./ Week	Lab Hrs./ Week	Credit Hrs.
HMPD	345	Research Project	1	2	2
HMPD	365B	Practicum ⁷	0	30	3
PBHL	355	Orientation to Health Programs and Health Care Facilities ⁸			0
PBHL	398	Culminating Experience			1

Students in this group should take at least four credits of electives to complete their credit requirements.

⁶ A prerequisite for this course is HMPD 251 or an undergraduate course in Economics.

⁷ Students may be exempted from doing the practicum if they have sufficient health related experience in their concentration area.

⁸ Not required for students exempted from the practicum.

		Lecture Hrs./ Week	Lab Hrs./ Week	Credit Hrs.
III. Electives⁹				
EPHD 321	Design and Analysis of Clinical Trials	1	2	2
EPHD 322	Special Topics in Epidemiology	2	0	2
EPHD 324	Special Topics in Biostatistics	–	–	1-3
EPHD 330	Demographic Methods for PH Decision Making	2	0	2
EPHD 331	Population Change and Health	3	0	3
EPHD 332	Population and Health Policy	3	0	3
EPHD 333	Special Topics in Population Health	3	0	3
HBED 341	Special Topics in Health Behavior and Education—Special Populations	1	2	2
HBED 342	Special Topics in Health Behavior and Education—Exploring the Context of Intervention	1	2	2
HBED 343	Anthropology and Public Health	2	2	3
HBED 344	Workshop Development	1	0	1
HMPD 316	Marketing in Health Care	2	0	2
HMPD 317	Materials Management in Health Services Organizations	2	0	2
HMPD 318	Policy and Decision Making in Health Care	2	0	2
HMPD 319	Strategic Management of Health Care Organizations	2	0	2
HMPD 320	Governance in Health Care	1	0	1
HMPD 325	Quality Management and Accreditation in Health Care	1	0	1
HMPD 339	Tutorial in Health Management and Policy	–	–	1-3
HMPD 354		1	0	1

Master of Science in Epidemiology

Required Courses		Lecture Hrs./ Week	Lab Hrs./ Week	Credit Hrs.
PBHL 300	Health and Environment I	2	2	3
IDHL 310	Research Design	3	0	3
EPHD 311	Epidemiology and Biostatistics ¹⁰	3	2	4
EPHD 313	Analysis of Categorical Data	2	2	3
EPHD 320	Design and Analysis of Epidemiological Studies	2	2	3
EPHD 323	Epidemiology of Infectious and Chronic Diseases	3	0	3
EPHD 340	Seminar	1	0	0

⁹ Consent of department is required.

¹⁰ Students may be exempted from EPHD 311 provided they satisfy the exemption criteria (p.290).

Electives		Lecture Hrs./ Week	Lab Hrs./ Week	Credit Hrs.
EPHD 312	Analysis of Continuous Data	2	2	3
EPHD 321	Design and Analysis of Clinical Trials	1	2	2
EPHD 322	Special Topics in Epidemiology	2	0	2
EPHD 324	Special Topics in Biostatistics	–	–	1-3

Students should take at least five credits of electives and may choose electives from other departments and faculties.

Thesis		Lecture Hrs./ Week	Lab Hrs./ Week	Credit Hrs.
EPHD 399	Thesis			6

Master of Science in Population Health

Required Courses		Lecture Hrs./ Week	Lab Hrs./ Week	Credit Hrs.
PBHL 300	Health and Environment I	2	2	3
IDHL 310	Research Design	3	0	3
EPHD 311	Epidemiology and Biostatistics ¹¹	3	2	4
EPHD 313	Analysis of Categorical Data	2	2	3
EPHD 331	Population Change and Health	3	0	3
EPHD 334	Reproductive Health	3	0	3
EPHD 340	Seminar	1	0	0

Electives		Lecture Hrs./ Week	Lab Hrs./ Week	Credit Hrs.
EPHD 312	Analysis of Continuous Data	2	2	3
EPHD 324	Special Topics in Biostatistics	–	–	1-3
EPHD 332	Population and Health Policy	3	0	3
EPHD 333	Special Topics in Population Health	3	0	3
EPHD 334	Reproductive Health	2	0	2

Students should take at least 5 credits of electives and may choose electives from other departments and faculties.

Thesis		Lecture Hrs./ Week	Lab Hrs./ Week	Credit Hrs.
EPHD 399	Thesis			6

¹¹ Students may be exempted from EPHD 311 provided they satisfy the exemption criteria (p.290).

Interdisciplinary Courses

PBHL 300 Health and the Environment I 2.2; 3 cr.

An introduction to public health and its professional disciplines. Topics covered include a general overview of health, disease, and public health, as well as the major determinants of health, and their influence on health outcomes. These include demographic, psychosocial, socio-cultural, political, and environmental determinants. Throughout the course students use case studies, apply theory, learn analytical and critical thinking, and discuss ethical issues in public health.

PBHL 301 Health and Environment II 2.0; 2 cr.

Students are introduced to a selection of social-science theories and the way in which they guide contemporary public health practice and policy. Applications through case studies and essay type assignments are used to unveil how these theories underlie global and local public health policy and practice. Theories include: functionalism, conflict theory, social capital and development theories. Of particular interest are the effects of globalization and global environmental issues on health.

PBHL 355 Orientation to Health Programs and Health Care Facilities 0 cr.

This course orients students to the health programs and health care facilities where they will be conducting their practicum. Students rotate among divisions within the health care organization, get insight into the philosophical underpinnings of programs and facilities, understand the mission and objectives of programs and organizations, and interact with staff and clients in an informal or more structured manner.

PBHL 398 Culminating Experience 1 cr.

The objective of the culminating experience is to provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate an ability to apply core and concentration competencies within a chosen professional context. The culminating experience is linked to the research projects for students exempt from the practicum, and to the practicum for all other students. The culminating experience takes place in the last semester and consists of a research/practicum paper and presentation, which broadly addresses all the core disciplines of public health, with a focus on a student's concentration area. *Prerequisite: PBHL 355 and completion of all, or all but one, of the core and concentration courses.*

Interdepartmental Courses

IDHL 310 Research Design 3.0; 3 cr.

An introduction to health research approaches. This course discusses principles of research design and the methods used in both quantitative and qualitative social research methodologies. Topics include formulation of research questions, literature review, sampling issues, methods of data collection, and qualitative analysis. Practical ethical issues are also discussed.

IDTH 206–207 Social and Preventive Medicine¹² 34.46; 4 cr.

A course that explores the inter-relationships among the patient, physician, and society. It is divided into two parts. The first is a lecture and discussion series (2 credits) that examines health and disease, the social and individual determinants of health, health care systems, and the patient-physician relationship. The second part (2 credits) is a field project during which students investigate a health issue at the level of the community.

IDTH 268 Clerkship in Preventive Medicine and Public Health¹² 10.80

A clerkship in which teams of senior medical students assess, critique, and propose solutions to problems of public health or clinical significance. The students examine policy, organizational, social, and individual challenges to these problems, addressing issues such as equity in health and setting public health programs, and identifying opportunities for change. Data collection and statistical analysis are secondary objectives.