

# **Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS)**

# Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS)

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## 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.

Currently, FHS hosts four departments: Epidemiology and Population Health (EPH), Environmental Health (EH), Health Promotion and Community Health (HPCH), Health Management and Policy (HMP), and a Medical Laboratory Sciences Program in collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine. FHS offers two BS degrees in Environmental Health and in Medical Laboratory Sciences; a Master degree in Public Health (MPH) (concentrations in Epidemiology and Biostatistics-EPBS, Health Promotion and Community Health-HPCH or Health Management and Policy HMP); an MS in Epidemiology; an MS in Population Health; and an MS in Environmental Sciences (concentrating in Environmental Health). FHS also provides courses in public health to students in the Faculty of Medicine.

## Accreditation

In October 2006, the Graduate Public Health Program (GPHP) of the Faculty of Health Sciences became accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). CEPH is an independent agency in the United States which is recognized to accredit schools and programs of public health. The GPHP at FHS is the first graduate public health program to be accredited by CEPH outside the Americas. Accreditation indicates that the GPHP of the FHS meets standards for Public Health Education of leading schools of public health in the World.

# 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 Lebanon and 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 accomplished through state-of-the-art research that addresses public health problems particularly relevant to Lebanon, the region, and the developing world, as well as through transfer of that knowledge to policy makers, program managers, and other practitioners in relevant organizations and fields.

# Graduate Programs

## Graduate Public Health Program (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 competently assess, research, and respond to health needs and current public health issues in Lebanon and the region. The Program promotes 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

Our teaching, research, and service are guided by core values. These values derive from our context as a school of public health in a developing world setting and from basic principles of professional conduct and human rights. These values are translated by us as follows:

- We are committed to cultivating critical thinking that allows us and our graduates to question reality and tackle the root causes of health problems.
- We believe in equality among people and act to enhance health equity by focusing on underserved communities, and working for social justice.
- We believe that each of us has a role to play in advancing knowledge and improving health, and we work to instill a sense of civic responsibility.
- We focus our efforts on our region of the world to bring to light local/regional health issues and to enhance our relevance.

- Our work is reinforced by our commitment to integrity and professional ethics.
- Recognizing the complexity of health, we value teamwork, interdisciplinary engagement, and partnerships with stakeholders.
- We believe in integrating our instruction, research, and service to bring theory and practice together for maximum impact.
- We believe that diversity in our faculty and students and in our practice sites enhances our ability to understand the perspectives and the circumstances that influence health, and thus create change.
- We are committed to excellence in all we do, and believe our faculty and alumni provide leadership and vision to improve the health of people and communities.

# Admission

## Master of Public Health (MPH)

### Admission Requirements

A candidate is eligible to be considered for admission to the MPH program if s/he (a) holds a bachelor's degree from AUB, or an equivalent degree from another recognized institution, with a cumulative average of at least 75 and an average of at least 80 or its equivalent in the major field of study, (b) holds a graduate degree from AUB or another recognized institution with a cumulative average of 80 or its equivalent.

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 from AUB, or an equivalent degree from another recognized institution. When only a cumulative average is available, the applicant will qualify for this category if his/her average is between 75 and 80.

On exceptional basis and upon the recommendation of the Department, applicants with a cumulative average below 75 can be considered for admission as a special student.

A student registered as a special student not working for a degree can register for a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 9 credits and must obtain an average of at least 80 in the registered courses to be considered for admission to the MPH program.

A student registered as special student not working for a degree can register for less than 5 credits but not more than 9 credits if he/she is NOT intending to apply for admission to the MPH program.

Mid-year admissions are accepted on a case-by-case basis if places are available. 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 3-credit hour practicum. Applicants for exemption are assessed on a case-by-case basis (see policy on exemption).

Students who join the program as full timers can complete requirements within a minimum of a year and a half. 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.

## **Selection Criteria**

Applicants to the MPH program must specify the area of concentration of their choice by priority on the application form. Admission into the concentration areas within the MPH program is based on the following criteria:

- **Choice of Faculty:** Priority for consideration for admission goes to applicants who indicate FHS as their first choice.
- **Choice of concentration:** Priority for consideration for admission in a concentration area goes to applicants indicating that concentration as their first choice.
- **Grade point average:** Normally priority for consideration for admission goes to applicants with higher grade point average.

Other factors taken into consideration include diversity in background (prior degree and previous academic institution), geographic diversity, years and type of work experience, personal statement and interview when applicable.

## **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. 31-42, 460).

# Graduation Requirements

All recommendations for graduation are made by vote of the faculty on the recommendation of the Graduate Studies 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
- Successfully complete a minimum of 42 credit hours

Credit requirements for the MPH program are tabulated below:

Course Type	Credits
Required Core	19
Required concentration*	12-13
Required public health experience*	3-6
Electives*	4-8
<b>Total number of credits required for graduation</b>	<b>42</b>

## Master of Science in Epidemiology

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

Credit requirements for the MS in Epidemiology are tabulated below:

Course Type	Credits
Required	21
Electives	3
Thesis	6
<b>Total number of credits required for graduation</b>	<b>30</b>

## Master of Science in Population Health

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

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

Course Type	Credits
Required	21
Electives	3
Thesis	6
<b>Total number of credits required for graduation</b>	<b>30</b>

\* depends on concentration

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

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

For information on curriculum and credit requirements, refer to p. 460-469 in this catalog.

## **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 less 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.

All core courses are offered in the fall semester. All concentration courses are offered in the spring semester. Students can register for concentration courses only upon completion of the core course(s) in their concentration area. Students can register for the public health experience courses with only one core and/or concentration course(s) along with the seminar course, as long as the course(s) not yet taken does not consist of material needed to effectively undertake activities of the practicum or the research project.

## **Policy on Changing Concentration**

The MPH program has three options for concentration: Epidemiology and Biostatistics (EPBS), Health Promotion and Community Health (HPCH), and Health Management and Policy (HMP). Students are accepted into the program in a particular concentration area. Students may petition to transfer to another area of concentration. Petitions are reviewed in current and prospective departments in light of student academic performance, justification for 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 or courses having the same number of credits). 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. Request for course exemption for MPH students is only possible if the student completed the course in which exemption is sought within 5 years from the date of exemption request. MPH students are allowed to be exempted from a maximum of 6 graduate credits.

#### **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 an exemption form to the FHS practicum coordinator, along with a two-page report describing the applicant's previous work experience (responsibilities and duties) in fulfillment of departmental practicum competencies. Decisions on practicum exemption must be made in the departments concerned prior to the advising week of the following semester. In cases where students are exempted from the practicum, they must still complete 42 credit hours to graduate from the MPH program. The practicum exemption must be in the student's file prior to their registering for the Culminating Experience (CE).

### **Policy on Transfer of Credits**

#### **For courses taken outside FHS or outside AUB**

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 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.

## For courses taken within FHS

A transfer of credit may be considered for all passed courses.

The number of credits that can be transferred cannot exceed 12 credits of comparable courses at FHS.

## Procedure for Exemption and Transfer of Credits

To exempt or transfer courses, the candidate should petition the Academic and Curriculum Committee and attach the following official documents after consulting with the advisor.

- 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 department offering the course should seek the opinion of the course instructor(s) and the department faculty in writing, 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 Graduate Studies 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 Graduate Studies Committee that the student has not made 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

I. Core Courses (Required of all MPH Students)			Lecture Hrs./ Week	Lab Hrs./ Week	Credit Hrs.
HPCH	310	Social and Behavioral Foundations of Public Health	2	2	3
ENHL	300 <sup>1</sup>	Introduction to Environmental Health	2	0	2
PBHL	310	Research Design	2	2	3
EPHD	300 <sup>2</sup>	Principles of Epidemiology	2	2	3
EPHD	310 <sup>3</sup>	Basic Biostatistics	2	2	3
HMPD	300	Health Care Systems	2	2	3
HPCH	315 <sup>4</sup>	Communication Skills for Health Professionals	1	2	2

### II. Concentration Courses

#### A. Epidemiology and Biostatistics (EPBS)

Required Concentration Courses			Lecture Hrs./ Week	Lab Hrs./ Week	Credit Hrs.
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 Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases	3	0	3
EPHD	340	Seminar	1	0	0

Required Public Health Experience Courses			Lecture Hrs./ Week	Lab Hrs./ Week	Credit Hrs.
EPHD	345	Research Project	1	2	2
EPHD	365	Practicum <sup>5</sup>	0	30	3
PBHL	355	Orientation to the Practicum Site <sup>6</sup>			0
PBHL	398	Culminating Experience			1

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

1 Students who hold a BS degree in EH from FHS are automatically exempted from ENHL 300. The course credits should be replaced by an elective in EH.

2 Students who have taken EPHD 203/226 may be exempted from EPHD 300 provided they take an exam before the end of the drop and add period. The course credits should be replaced by an elective.

3 Students who have taken EPHD 225 may be exempted from EPHD 310 provided they take an exam before the end of the drop and add period. The course credits should be replaced by an elective.

4 Students who have taken HBED/HPCH 203 are automatically exempted from HPCH 315. The course should be replaced by HPCH 333.

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

6 Not required for students exempted from the practicum

<b>B. Health Promotion and Community Health (HPCH)</b>					
<b>Required Concentration Courses</b>			<b>Lecture Hrs./ Week</b>	<b>Lab Hrs./ Week</b>	<b>Credit Hrs.</b>
HPCH	331	Theory and Practice in Health Promotion	3	0	3
HPCH	332	Community Health and Development	2	0	2
HPCH	333	Health Communication	2	0	2
HPCH	334	Qualitative Health Research	2	0	2
HPCH	335	Evaluation of Health Programs	2	0	2
HPCH	336	Advocacy for Health	1	0	1
HPCH	340	Seminar	1	0	0
HPCH	344	Workshop Development	1	0	1

<b>Required Public Health Experience Courses</b>			<b>Lecture Hrs./ Week</b>	<b>Lab Hrs./ Week</b>	<b>Credit Hrs.</b>
HPCH	345	Research Project	1	2	2
HPCH	365	Practicum <sup>7</sup>	0	30	3
PBHL	355	Orientation to the Practicum Site <sup>8</sup>			0
PBHL	398	Culminating Experience			1

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

<b>C. Health Management and Policy (HMP)</b>					
<b>C1. Hospital Management Track</b>					
<b>Required Concentration Courses</b>			<b>Lecture Hrs./ Week</b>	<b>Lab Hrs./ Week</b>	<b>Credit Hrs.</b>
HMPD	311	Health Information Systems	2	0	2
HMPD	315	Performance Improvement	3	0	3
HMPD	318	Policy and Decision Making in Health Care	3	0	3
HMPD	342	Financial Management and Accounting	3	0	3
HMPD	351	Healthcare Economics and Finance	2	0	2
HMPD	340	Seminar	1	0	0
<b>Required Public Health Experience Courses</b>			<b>Lecture Hrs./ Week</b>	<b>Lab Hrs./ Week</b>	<b>Credit Hrs.</b>
HMPD	345	Research Project	1	2	2
HMPD	365A	Practicum <sup>9</sup>	0	30	3
PBHL	355	Orientation to the Practicum Site <sup>10</sup>			0
PBHL	398	Culminating Experience			1

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

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

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

10 Not required for students exempted from the practicum.

<b>C2. Laboratory Management Track</b>					
<b>Required Concentration Courses</b>			<b>Lecture Hrs./ Week</b>	<b>Lab Hrs./ Week</b>	<b>Credit Hrs.</b>
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	2	0	2
HMPD	340	Seminar	1	0	0

<b>Required Public Health Experience Courses</b>			<b>Lecture Hrs./ Week</b>	<b>Lab Hrs./ Week</b>	<b>Credit Hrs.</b>
HMPD	345	Research Project	1	2	2
HMPD	365B	Practicum <sup>11</sup>	0	30	3
PBHL	355	Orientation to the Practicum Site <sup>12</sup>			0
PBHL	398	Culminating Experience			1

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

## Master of Science in Epidemiology

<b>Required Courses</b>			<b>Lecture Hrs./ Week</b>	<b>Lab Hrs./ Week</b>	<b>Credit Hrs.</b>
HPCH	310	Social and Behavioral Foundations of Public Health	2	2	3
PBHL	310	Research Design	3	0	3
EPHD	300	Principles of Epidemiology	3	0	3
EPHD	310	Basic Biostatistics	3	0	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 Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases.	3	0	3
EPHD	340	Seminar	1	0	0

<sup>11</sup> Students may be exempted from doing the practicum if they have sufficient health related experience in their concentration area.

<sup>12</sup> Not required for students exempted from the practicum.

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 three credits of electives.

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.
		Social and Behavioral Foundations of Public Health			
HPCH	310		2	2	3
PBHL	310	Research Design	3	0	3
EPHD	300	Principles of Epidemiology	3	2	3
EPHD	310	Basic Biostatistics	2	2	3
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

Students should take at least three credits of electives.

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

