

Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS)

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Maha Haidar	Instructor (Master Card Foundation Scholars Program)
Roua Dalli	Accreditation Officer
Nida' Helou	Instructor (Practicum Coordination and Career Services)

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 Division of Health Professions hosting three programs in collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine: Medical Laboratory Sciences, Medical Audiology Sciences and Medical Imaging Sciences. FHS offers a BS degree in: Environmental Health, Medical Laboratory Sciences, Medical Imaging Sciences and Medical Audiology Sciences; a Graduate Public Health Program, including: a Master's degree in Public Health (MPH) (concentrations in Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Health Promotion and Community Health, and Health Management and Policy); Master of Science (MS) in Epidemiology; an MS in Population Health; and an MS in Environmental Sciences (major in Environmental Health); and an Executive Master in Health Care Leadership. FHS also provides courses in public health to students in the Faculty of Medicine.

Accreditation

The Graduate Public Health Program (GPHP) of the Faculty of Health Sciences became accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) in 2006 and was reaccredited in 2011 for seven years. CEPH is an independent agency in the United States which is recognized to accredit schools and programs of public health. The GPHP at FHS was 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 and programs 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 trains future physicians in public health. It contributes to knowledge and the improvement of the public's health in the region by conducting scholarly and relevant interdisciplinary research and responding to priority health issues and training needs in collaboration with stakeholders. In all its functions, FHS promotes and adheres to the principles of ethics, social justice, and collective responsibility.

Vision

The Faculty of Health Sciences is the leading school of public health in the region serving the wellbeing of people and communities by conducting research and service that influence policy and practice and preparing competent health professionals who are agents of change in society. Through its vital regional role in knowledge production and advocacy for social justice, FHS aspires to shape the global public health discourse.

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, to competently assess, research, and respond to the health needs and public health issues in Lebanon and the region. The program applies multidisciplinary and community-based research as well as community service to improve instruction, to advance knowledge, and to address the public health issues and needs of 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 :

- 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; or (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 an exceptional basis only and upon the recommendation of the Department, an applicant with a cumulative average below 75 and with relevant and sufficient work experience can be considered for admission as a non-degree graduate student.

A student registered as a non-degree graduate student 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 non-degree graduate student 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.

Spring/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 2-credit hour practicum. Applicants for exemption are assessed on a case-by-case basis (see policy on exemption). In the case exemption is granted, the course but not the credits are exempted.

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 a 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, recommendation letters, 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 IGNEP (pages 33–46).

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 (MPH)

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	4-6
Electives*	4-5
Total number of credits required for graduation	42

Master of Science in Epidemiology (MS-EPID)

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
Total number of credits required for graduation	30

Master of Science in Population Health (MS-PopH)

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
Total number of credits required for graduation	30

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

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

Credit requirements are tabulated below.

* Depends on concentration

Course Type	Credits
Core (outside the faculty)	6
Core (inside the faculty) ¹	9-11
Electives ²	9-12
Thesis	6
Project	3
Total number of credits required for graduation	30

Academic Rules and Regulations

Master of Science in Epidemiology, Master of Science in Population Health and Master of Science in Environmental Sciences (Major: Environmental Health)

Credit Load

A full-time student must carry a minimum load of nine 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 Graduate Studies Committee for approval.

For full information on academic rules and regulations and general requirements for the Master of Science in Epidemiology, Master of Science in Population Health, and Master of Science in Environmental Sciences (Major: Environmental 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 Graduate Studies 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 Graduate Studies Committee for approval.

Policy on Course Registration

All core courses are offered in the fall semester. Two of the core courses (ENHL 300 and HPCB 315) are also offered in the spring 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.

¹ Students who do not have an Environmental Health background are required to take an additional course

² Thesis track students are required to take 9 credits and those in the project track are required to take 12 credits

Public Health Experience courses consist of four main courses that are usually offered in the fall and spring: the Practicum, the Research Project 1, the Research Project 2 and the Culminating Experience. Students can register for the Practicum and Culminating Experience courses with only one core and/or one concentration course(s) along with the seminar course, as long as the course(s) not yet taken does/(do) not consist of material needed to effectively undertake activities of the Practicum or the Culminating Experience. Students can register for the Research Project 1 upon completion of, or when simultaneously enrolled in PBHL 310, EPHD 300, and EPHD 310. Students can register for the Research Project 2 upon completion of PBHL 310, EPHD 300, and EPHD 310. In addition, students must have completed all or all but one of the concentration courses, not counting the seminar course, as long as the course not yet taken does not consist of material needed to effectively undertake the activities of the Research Project 1 and the Research Project 2.

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). Every year, a quota for admissions is set for each. 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. The final decision is made by the Graduate Studies Committee. Students cannot transfer to another concentration before the grades of the first semester of enrolment in the current concentration are released.

Policy on Exemption

Course Exemption

Exemption from a required 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 had 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. Students seeking exemption must submit both the Practicum Exemption Form and the Report by November 15th of the academic year preceding the practicum. 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 approval 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 the student has satisfactorily completed a course with a minimum grade of 80, or equivalent, at a recognized university, faculty, or program. The transferred credits are accepted in lieu of credits earned in a comparable course in FHS. Request for transfer of credits for MPH students is only possible if the student completed the course in which transfer is sought within the previous five years from the date of transfer request.
- The number of credits that can be transferred cannot exceed 12 credits of comparable courses at FHS.
- For courses taken within FHS, a transfer of credit may be considered for all passed courses.

Procedure for Exemption and Transfer of Credits

To exempt or transfer courses, the candidate should petition the Graduate Studies 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 in writing, and then submit the recommendation of the department, along with the supporting documents, to the FHS Graduate Studies 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 cumulative average of 80 in graduate courses.
- Part timers can only be evaluated after completion of at least 10 credits. Their cumulative average is evaluated every semester thereafter.

A student with an admission score (major and cumulative averages) 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, if s/he has passed all courses and attained a cumulative average of 80.
- Part timers are first evaluated after completion of at least 10 credits. Their cumulative average is evaluated every semester thereafter.

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 (10 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 and University.
- Placement on probation more than once (not counting the probation at admission time).

Curricula

Master of Public Health

I. Core Courses (Required of all MPH Students)

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

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.

II. Concentration Courses

A. Epidemiology and Biostatistics (EPBS)

			Lecture Hrs./ Week	Lab Hrs./ Week	Credit Hrs.
Required Concentration 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 Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases	3	0	3
EPHD	340	Seminar	1	0	0
Required Public Health Experience Courses					
EPHD	345A	Research Project 1	0	1	1
EPHD	345B	Research Project 2	0	1	1
EPHD	365 ⁵	Practicum	0	30	2
PBHL	355	Orientation to the Practicum Site			0
PBHL	398 ⁶	Culminating Experience			2

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

B. Health Promotion and Community Health (HPCH)

			Lecture Hrs./ Week	Lab Hrs./ Week	Credit Hrs.
Required Concentration Courses					
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

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

⁶ This course replaces the comprehensive exam requirement.

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

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

C. Health Management and Policy (HMP) Health Service Management Track

			Lecture Hrs./ Week	Lab Hrs./ Week	Credit Hrs.
Required Concentration Courses					
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
Required Public Health Experience Courses					
HMPD	345A	Research Project 1	0	1	1
HMPD	345B	Research Project 2	0	1	1
HMPD	365A ⁹	Practicum	0	30	2
PBHL	355	Orientation to the Practicum Site			0
PBHL	398 ¹⁰	Culminating Experience			2

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 This course replaces the comprehensive exam requirement.

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

¹⁰ This course replaces the comprehensive exam requirement.

Master of Science in Epidemiology

			Lecture Hrs./ Week	Lab Hrs./ Week	Credit Hrs.
Required Courses					
PBHL	300	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
EPHD	395	Comprehensive Exam			0
Electives					
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					
EPHD	399	Thesis			6

Master of Science in Population Health

			Lecture Hrs./ Week	Lab Hrs./ Week	Credit Hrs.
Required Courses					
PBHL	300	Foundations of Public Health	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
EPHD	395	Comprehensive Exam			0
Electives					
EPHD	312	Analysis of Continuous Data	2	2	3
EPHD	324	Special Topics in Biostatistics	–	–	1-3

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

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

Course Type	Credits	
A. Core Courses Inside the Faculty	9-11	
ENHL 300 ¹¹	Introduction to Environmental Health	2
ENHL 310	Toxicology and Environmental Health Hazards	3
EPHD 300	Principles of Epidemiology	3
PBHL 300	Foundations of Public Health	3
B. Core Courses Outside the Faculty	6	
ENSC 630	Natural Resources Management	3
ENSC 650/PSPA 316	International Environmental Policy	3
ENSC 660	Environmental Technology	
is replaced by one of the following courses:		
ENSC 600	Air Pollution and Control I	3
ENSC 610	Solid Waste Management I	3
ENSC 620	Water and Wastewater Treatment Technology	3
ENSC 690 ¹²	Seminar in Environmental Sciences	0
C. Electives	9-12	
D. Thesis or Project	3-6	
ENSC 699	Thesis	6
ENSC 697	Project	3
Total number of credits required for graduation	30	

Interdisciplinary Courses

PBHL 300 Foundations of Public Health 2.2; 3 cr.

This course explores the field of public health, its foundations, disciplines, values and ethics. The course develops students' analytical thinking through cooperative learning techniques and case studies. Case studies of global and regional public health issues are analyzed in relation to each of the core disciplines of public health (biostatistics, environmental health, epidemiology, health management and policy, health promotion). *Prerequisite: EPHD 300.*

¹¹ Recommended for students who do not have an Environmental Health background.

¹² ENSC 690 course should be registered twice by the program's students during their residency at AUB. Otherwise, they are equally encouraged to attend the seminar when offered.

