Subject: Research Project

Policy Number: MPHP&P-07

1. Background

The ability to conduct research is considered an essential part of the MPH training. In their future jobs, graduates are likely to be asked to conduct research projects of some kind, as well as to use results of other’s research to develop and implement programs. Exposure to research methods in the classroom and the development of a research proposal are critical elements of research competence but not sufficient to conduct research. Thus the Research Project course provides the opportunity to apply the appropriate skills.

2. Policy

All MPH students are required to satisfactorily complete a Research Project as part of the public health experience component of their MPH degree.

The Research Project is taken in the department of concentration and is supervised by a faculty member in that department. As a result, the focus, substance, and approach of the Research Project will vary depending on the student's area of concentration. It is highly recommended that students be exposed to all phases of research: from development of the research question to design of the research instrument to implementation of the instrument, data entry and analysis, and generation of conclusions.

The research project course consists of two parts: Research Project 1 (RP1) and Research Project 2 (RP2), each one credit. Research Project 1 is a prerequisite for Research Project 2. Scholarship students completing the MPH degree over a period of 12 months can register for the RP1 and RP2 simultaneously during the summer term provided they have completed PBHL 310, EPHD 300, and EPHD 310. In RP1, students develop the research idea, complete the literature review, develop the proposal for the research they want to conduct, and send in and receive IRB approval to conduct the research. In RP2, the students implement their research and write it up.

Students can register for the RP 1 upon completion of, or when simultaneously enrolled in PBHL 310, EPHD 300, and EPHD 310. Students can register for the RP 2 upon completion of RP1 and 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 RP 1 and the RP 2.

The RP1 and RP2 should be taken over two consecutive semesters and should be registered with the same instructor. In case of leave, the chairperson is responsible for finding a replacing faculty member who will follow up on the implementation of the Research Project.

The Research Project can follow a quantitative and/or qualitative method of inquiry. Up to three students can be involved in the same Research Project as long as all get experience in all phases of research.
The product of this course is a research paper written in the style of a publishable manuscript.

The Research Project is a graded course.

**Related policies**

- Curriculum

3. **Procedures**

During their enrolment in the Research Project 1 course:

- Students should decide on their groups.

- Students should finalize their research proposal that includes: rationale (including short literature review), objectives, research methods, plans for analysis, and ethical issues.

- Subsequently, IRB approval is sought. The IRB application goes in the name of the RP supervisor/advisor.

During their enrolment in the Research Project 2 course, students should work on the implementation of the instrument, data entry, analysis of data, and generation of conclusions.

The Research Project can be a new project or a follow-up to the proposal developed in PBHL 310 (Research Design).

Students should retain a copy of the certificate of completion of the online Research Ethics course to be submitted with the application for IRB approval.

Students should refer to the FHS Research Project Guide found on the FHS website ([http://fhs.aub.edu.lb/degrees_programs/graduate_courses.html](http://fhs.aub.edu.lb/degrees_programs/graduate_courses.html)) to write up the results of their research.

4. **Latest Revision**

Date last approved by GSC: September 2, 2014