Department of Community Health Behavior and Education

The Department of Community Health Behavior and Education at Georgia Southern University’s Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health is designed to prepare you for community-based public health interventions. You will learn to solve problems in the field of public health and prepare for a variety of leadership positions, especially those in community health programs.

Doctoral Degree


Masters Degree


CHBE 9130 Research Methods in Community and Behavioral Health
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course introduces doctoral students to research methods in health science. Development and presentation of research proposals will be the focus of the course. Additional emphasis will be placed on writing skills in research and grant applications.

CHBE 9132 Ecological Determinants of Public Health
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
The course provides students with an examination of the social and behavioral determinants of health at all ecological levels, and their relationships with health equity. It also explores social and behavioral interventions to address community health inequity at multiple ecological levels (individual through policy).

CHBE 9230 Community-Based Public Health Program Planning and Evaluation
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course introduces students to the theory and application of community-based program planning and evaluation. Concepts in community assessment, organization, and mobilization for the purpose of addressing identified public health concerns will serve as the foundation for the public health planning process. Appropriate techniques of partnership building, planning strategies, data collection, data analysis, and evidence-based decision making will also be introduced.

CHBE 9235 Communication and Advocacy
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course will provide students with the ability to evaluate the history and current applications of health communication theory and strategies to public health practice and research. Emphasis is placed on use of health communication theory and strategies designed to create change across the ecological spectrum, from individual to policy levels. Students will gain the skills to structure, develop, implement and evaluate social marketing, media advocacy, risk communication and advocacy efforts for policy change. In addition, ability to lead systematic qualitative and mixed method data collection processes involving interviewing skills, participant observation and focus group development will be developed. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking skills to help students analyze and utilize these skills in research and practice in diverse public health settings.

CHBE 9331 Health Disparities and the Rural Underserved
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course provides an in-depth look at health disparities, including factors related to the history, politics, socioeconomics, race/ethnicity, and access to and utilization of health care. The extant literature in each of these areas will be examined and discussed.

CHBE 9335 Global Health and Preparedness
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course will focus on global public health and preparedness for domestic and global emergencies. Students will explore patterns of health and disease around the world, and compare them to public health issues in the United States. An ecological framework will be employed to illustrate the complex political, social, economic, and environmental determinants of global health inequity. Concepts from the social sciences, epidemiology, health systems, and policymaking will be incorporated. The course will emphasize issues related to humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters both globally and domestically, and the need to build public health infrastructure and preparedness to mitigate them.

CHBE 9630 Doctoral Seminar in Community Health
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course will provide students with the opportunity to analyze the history and current applications of social and behavioral science theories, approaches, models and strategies (learned throughout the curriculum) to public health practice and research. This seminar will examine the breadth of epistemologies employed as we develop effective methods to create change across the ecological spectrum, from individual to policy levels. Emphasis will be placed on critical thinking skills to help students engage in dialogue about what will be effective research and practice in diverse public health settings over the next ten years.

COHE 6130 Research Methods in Health Science
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Introduces students to research methods in health science. Development and presentation of practicum and research proposals will be the focus of the course. Additional emphasis will be placed on writing skills in research and grant applications.

COHE 7090 Selected Topics in Community Health Education
1-3 Credit Hours. 1-3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Allows the student the opportunity to receive specialized and/or focused instruction in a community health topic not generally offered by the department.

COHE 7232 Health Promotion Planning
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Introduces the student to the theory and application of planning and evaluation principles. Planning and evaluation skills will be developed that can be utilized in a variety of health-related settings. Familiarizes students with theories and models from the social and behavioral sciences and health education used in behavior change interventions. Emphasizes the planning and implementing of community health interventions at multiple ecological levels.
COHE 7233 Ecologically Focused Program Evaluation
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course provides an overview of the principles of program evaluation. It explores the methods associated with systematic evaluation of public health education programs. Students will learn the skills needed to plan, conduct, and critique evaluation research. The content of the course includes: program logic models, formative, process, impact, outcome, and summative evaluation; theory driven evaluation; a review of validity issues as they relate to evaluation; sampling in a complex context; operationalizing variables; assessment of measurement instruments; and analysis of quantitative evaluation designs. In addition, issues that impact evaluation across the ecological model, specifically the importance of context and equity issues, will be examined. Qualitative methods used in program evaluation and mixed method designs for evaluation will be highlighted. Supporting the needs of all stakeholders in the evaluation will be emphasized.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "B" in COHE 7232.

COHE 7234 Community Health Analysis
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Advanced concepts in the purpose and methods of community health organization, social action, organizational development, policy influence, capacity building, community diagnosis (needs assessment), social networking and coalition formation to bring about health behavior change and improved quality of life. Special focus on the application of methods presented to develop and enhance community health education intervention efforts.

COHE 7237 Rural Community Health Issues
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A study of social, economic, political, and cultural influences that impact the health of individuals and families in rural communities. Designed for health professionals, this course focuses on improving health status and developing culturally appropriate and effective intervention services in rural settings.

COHE 7238 Communication for Change
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course is designed to familiarize students with the history and current applications of health communication theory and strategies to public health practice and research. This course examines how to structure, develop and evaluate social marketing, media advocacy, risk communication and advocacy skills for change. In addition, systematic qualitative data collection processes such as interviewing skills, participant observation and focus groups will be developed. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking skills to help students analyze and utilize these skills in research and practice.

COHE 7890 Directed Individual Study
1-3 Credit Hours. 1-3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Provides the student with an opportunity to investigate an area of interest under the direction of a faculty mentor.

PUBH 5520G Introduction to Public Health
2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course is designed to give students a foundation in the core functions of the population-based public health (assessment, policy development and assurance). In addition, this course will examine the 10 essential services of public health within these core functions. Defining effective public health practice and providing knowledge about the technical, social, and political parameters related to public health research and practice are goals for this class. Students will gain an understanding of public health as a broad area of work that applies the benefits of current biomedical, environmental, social, and behavioral knowledge in ways that maximize the health status of all populations.

Cross Listing(s): PUBH 5520.

PUBH 6532 Environmental Health
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course is a survey of specific environmental conditions and factors that contribute to the development of health problems in communities. Health effects, policy issues, intervention strategies and control programs for community environmental health protection are discussed.

PUBH 6533 Epidemiology
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course provides an introduction to many important topics in epidemiology for public health practice, including but not limited to the evolution of the discipline, causal concepts in the natural history of disease, critical features of infectious and chronic diseases, elements of public health screening, basic measures used in epidemiology, design of epidemiologic investigations, consideration of random error and systematic bias, calculation and interpretation of confidence intervals and p values, discussion of confounding and interaction, criteria for evaluation of cause and effect relationships and the implications for ethical public health practice. Students are expected to gain a foundation for the application of epidemiologic methods for exploration of the causes and conditions that influence the origin, propagation, mitigation, and prevention of diseases in population health.

PUBH 6534 Health Policy and Management
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
The course provides a comprehensive introduction and overview to public health management and administration. The course context is based on managerial decision making and the practical knowledge, tools, processes and strategies required by organizational management. This course overviews the basics of administration, including public health law, human resources management, budgeting and financing, health information management, performance measurement and improvement, ethics, leadership, communication, media relations, and legislative relations in public health; introduced as processes are strategic planning, program development and evaluation, budget preparation, and constituency building for collaboration. Emerging areas of public health policy and management are also discussed as contexts to apply practical knowledge, tools and strategies.

PUBH 6535 Social and Behavioral Sciences and Public Health
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course is designed to familiarize students with the history and current applications of social and behavioral sciences as they are applied to public health practice and research. It explores social and behavioral science models, theories, and approaches that inform public health, and their philosophical roots. The course also examines social and behavioral determinants of health equity across the ecological spectrum. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking skills to help students synthesize and utilize information in research and practice. An important contribution of this course is the emphasis on recognizing the contributions of social and behavioral science research and practice to enhanced public health.

PUBH 6541 Biostatistics
4 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.
This course examines statistics in public health and related health sciences, including sampling, probability, basic discrete and continuous distributions, descriptive statistics, hypotheses testing, confidence intervals, categorical data analysis, regression, and correlation. Emphasis will be on the development of critical thinking skills and health data analysis applications with computer software.

Cross Listing(s): BIOS 6541.

PUBH 7090 Selected Topics in Public Health
1-3 Credit Hours. 1-3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Allows the student the opportunity to receive specialized and/or focused instruction in a public health topic not generally offered by the department.

Cross Listing(s): PUBH 7090.
PUBH 7090S Selected Topics in Public Health
1-3 Credit Hours.  1-3 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
Allows the student the opportunity to receive specialized and/or focused instruction in a public health topic not generally offered by the department. 
Cross Listing(s): PUBH 7090.

PUBH 7131 Continuous Quality Improvement
3 Credit Hours.  3 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
This course will use Statistical Process Control and Quality Improvement (QI) techniques to address the pressing need for the adoption of quality improvement methods and techniques in public health today. The course also includes an overview of health quality initiatives in general and the progress of QI in public health systems.

PUBH 7132 Scientific Basis of Public Health
3 Credit Hours.  3 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
This course explores the scientific basis of 21st century disease processes including a survey of the origins, natural history, factors influencing individual and community risk. Clinical symptoms of diseases impacting humans, both acute and chronic, as well as epidemiologic trends will be also be discussed. Students will obtain an understanding of scientific mechanisms associated with the disease processes with particular focus on using this information in health-related professions and public health decision-making. As such, emphasis will be placed on the understanding and application of proposing community-based solutions designed to break the cycle of disease.

PUBH 7530 Integrated Capstone Experience
3 Credit Hours.  3 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
This course serves as a culminating experience designed to promote refinement of the hard and soft skills necessary for the public health workforce. Throughout the semester, students acquire skills in the integration of basic public health concepts and refine the application of discipline specific knowledge. This course relies on a case-based format that promotes problem solving and critical thinking in the context of real world public health problems.

PUBH 7790 Practicum in Public Health
1-4 Credit Hours.  0 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
Permits the student to receive practical experience in a selected public health-related setting. 
Prerequisite(s): Permission of instructor. 
Cross Listing(s): PUBH 7790S.

PUBH 7790S Practicum in Public Health
1-4 Credit Hours.  0 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
Permits the student to receive practical experience in a selected public health-related setting. 
Prerequisite(s): Permission of instructor. 
Cross Listing(s): PUBH 7790.

PUBH 7890 Directed Individual Study
1-3 Credit Hours.  1-3 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
Provides the student with an opportunity to investigate an area of interest under the direction of a faculty mentor.

PUBH 7991 Public Health Capstone Research Project
1-3 Credit Hours.  0 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
Requires the completion of an independent research project in the preferred field requiring the defense of the design, methods, analysis, and interpretation of the data. MPH Students may register for more than 3 credits of PUBH 7991 while working on their Capstone Research Project, but only 3 credits of PUBH 7991 may be applied toward the degree requirements. Excess PUBH 7991 credits cannot be used for electives or required coursework. Extra (greater than 3) credits of PUBH 7991 will simply increase the number of credits the student earns to more than 45. 
Cross Listing(s): PUBH 7991S.

PUBH 7991S Public Health Capstone Research Project
1-3 Credit Hours.  0 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
Requires the completion of an independent research project in the preferred field requiring the defense of the design, methods, analysis, and interpretation of the data. MPH Students may register for more than 3 credits of PUBH 7991 while working on their Capstone Research Project, but only 3 credits of PUBH 7991 may be applied toward the degree requirements. Excess PUBH 7991 credits cannot be used for electives or required coursework. Extra (greater than 3) credits of PUBH 7991 will simply increase the number of credits the student earns to more than 45. 
Cross Listing(s): PUBH 7991.

PUBH 7999 Thesis
1-6 Credit Hours.  0 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
Requires the completion of an independent research project in the preferred field requiring the defense of the design, methods, analysis and interpretation of the data.

PUBH 8130 Advanced Topics in Biostatistics
3 Credit Hours.  3 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
This course provides an overview of advanced biostatistical descriptive and inferential methods including multiple regression, logistic regression, longitudinal data, survival analysis, and repeated measures with applications to public health and biomedical studies. Emphasis will be placed on developing statistical reasoning and critical thinking skills in addition to programming skills using statistical software (SAS) to analyze public health and biomedical data.

PUBH 8132 Environmental and Occupational Health
3 Credit Hours.  3 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
This course is designed to reinforce basic concepts of environmental and occupational health. Students will be exposed to the current impact of potential environmental and occupational health and safety hazards. Students will also be exposed to current concepts associated with environmental and occupational regulatory standards, assessment protocols, sampling and monitoring techniques, and remediation strategies.

PUBH 8133 Epidemiologic Methods
3 Credit Hours.  3 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
An advanced epidemiology class designed to reinforce epidemiological concepts, as well as build a foundation for epidemiologic research in public health practice. Specific course content includes observational and experimental epidemiologic research methods. Emphasis will also be placed on appropriate analytic techniques necessary for biostatistical inference.

PUBH 8134 Health Economics, Policy and the Political Process
3 Credit Hours.  3 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
Foundational economic and specific health economic theory, trends, market issues, and applications are presented to include health insurance and payment theory, processes, and applications. Comparison between rational and irrational theory is explored. Evolution of health policy, considering past, current and future major legislation and executive directives, are explored within the political process.

PUBH 8136 Theoretical Perspectives of the Social and Behavioral Sciences in Public Health
3 Credit Hours.  3 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
This course will explore social and behavioral science theories, models, and approaches that inform public health research and practice, as well as their philosophical foundations. With emphasis on an ecological perspective, students will apply relevant theories to understanding community health issues and to developing interventions. The course also examines social and behavioral determinants of health equity across the ecological spectrum. In this course students will gain an enhanced understanding of the contributions of the social and behavioral sciences to Public Health.
PUBH 9130 Sampling Methodology  
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course focuses on study design and sampling methods as well as data analysis of small and large, national and local health surveys and vital statistics in order to gain experience describing data using effective graphical and numerical methods. Students will use statistical software (SAS) to analyze data originating from various national surveys such as the National Crime Victimization Survey, National Survey of Drug Use and Health, National Assessment of Educational Progress, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, and NHANES. Students will be introduced to sampling design, methods of data collection, nonresponse, writing and evaluating questions and answers in surveys, survey interviews, processing survey data and principles and practices related to ethical research.  
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "B" in PUBH 8130.

PUBH 9132 Public Health Perspectives in Community-Based and Translational Research  
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course will familiarize students with concepts, issues, and skills relevant to translational research approaches in public health, particularly as it relates to how research is applied across all public health concentrations (epidemiology, behavioral health sciences, management and policy, biostatistics, and environmental health). Emphasis will be placed on utilizing qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches within an ecological theoretical framework. Students will gain an understanding of the Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) approach, as well as issues related to the ethics of community-based research. Students will learn advocacy skills to catalyze community-level intervention and structural change based on research findings.

PUBH 9134 Professionalism and Ethics in Public Health Practice  
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course explores critical issues related to the professional development of public health practitioners and ethical responsibilities necessary to assume leadership roles in the field. Leadership roles include, but are not limited to, recognizing the ecological complexities of factors influencing quality of life for individuals and health status of communities. Students will focus on professional attributes, skills, styles, and strategies required to advance public health goals. In addition, students will examine ethics associated with professionalism, research and public health practice.

PUBH 9135 Public Health, Funding and Grantsmanship  
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course will review the major sources of funding for public health programs, including public and private sources, and the components of successful funding proposals. Students will gain experience in writing funding proposals and creating program budgets. Students will learn appropriate techniques to planning and writing research grants for large-scale and small-scale community projects. As a part of this process, students will learn effective means of locating and soliciting funding agencies responsible for financing public health activity.

PUBH 9630 Public Health Doctoral Seminar  
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course is designed to give doctoral candidates the opportunity to determine and refine their dissertation research topics including identifying potential dissertation committee members particularly the chair.

PUBH 9790 Doctoral Preceptorship in Public Health  
1-3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
The doctoral preceptorship/field experience consists of 300 hours of field experience under the joint direction of a public health faculty member and a qualified specialist working in selected areas of public health. A written report specifying activities, products, and outcomes of the experience is required upon completion of the preceptorship.
Cross Listing(s): PUBH 9790S.

PUBH 9790S Doctoral Preceptorship in Public Health  
1-6 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
The doctoral preceptorship/field experience consists of 300 hours of field experience under the joint direction of a public health faculty member and a qualified specialist working in selected areas of public health. A written report specifying activities, products, and outcomes of the experience is required upon completion of the preceptorship.
Cross Listing(s): PUBH 9790.

PUBH 9999 Dissertation  
1-9 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
The doctoral dissertation is a culminating experience that requires the student to synthesize and integrate knowledge and apply theory and principles learned to an area of public health practice within the area of concentration. A written product must be submitted and must take the form of a manuscript that is suitable for publication in a national-level public health journal, a grant proposal, a technical report, a case analysis, or other similar document. The dissertation must also be presented and successfully defended before the faculty.