BEHAVIORAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH (BCHL)

Graduate Degree Program
College: Public Health

Abstract
The Department offers graduate study leading to the Master Public Health (MPH) in Behavioral and Community Health and the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Behavioral and Community Health. The graduate programs are designed to prepare behavioral and community professionals with specific skills and the ability to implement theoretical knowledge in a practical setting.

The goal of the doctoral program is to develop health professionals competent in understanding the health needs of populations who are qualified to conduct research in order to implement programs and policies aimed at improving the public’s health. This program is very selective and admission is competitive. The program provides students with the opportunity to develop research skills essential in making significant contributions to the scientific and professional literature in behavioral and community health.

Degree programs may be completed either full-time or part-time, although full-time is preferred. Faculty support coursework, research and practice experiences in many areas, including: health communication; health behavior; adolescent health; women’s health; health literacy and health disparities. Faculty hold doctoral degrees in public health, psychology, health education, sociology and epidemiology. The Department offers excellent research and laboratory facilities including the Center for Young Adult Health and Development and the Prevention Research Center.

Financial Assistance
The Department offers a limited number of fellowships, and graduate teaching and research assistantships. Please contact the Director of Graduate Studies for further information.

Contact
Katherine Sharp
Director of Graduate Studies
Department of Behavioral and Community Health
1234V School of Public Health Building
4200 Valley Drive
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742
Telephone: 301.405.2464
Fax: 301.314.9167
Email: ksharp1@umd.edu

Website: http://www.sph.umd.edu/bch (http://www.sph.umd.edu/bch/)

Courses: HLTH (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/courses/hlth/) SPHL (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/courses/sphl/)

Relationships: Epidemiology (EPDM) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/epidemiology-epdm/), Health Administration (HLSA) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/health-administration-hlsa/), Maternal and Child Health (MCHS) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/maternal-child-health-mchs/)

Admissions
The Ph.D. in Behavioral and Community Health program has a two-step application process. Applicants first submit the SOPHAS application (www.sophas.org (https://sophas.org/)), the centralized application service for schools and programs of public health (Step 1). Once the SOPHAS application has been verified applicants will submit their UMD Supplemental application (Step 2). Applicants will receive an email from the SPH Admissions team with instructions for how to complete the UMD Supplemental application. Applications will not be reviewed until both the SOPHAS and UMD Supplemental applications are completed.

GENERAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
- Minimum 3.0 undergraduate GPA
- Transcripts from all previous coursework
- English proficiency test score (TOEFL, IELTS or PTE) (international applicants (https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-requirements/))
- Statement of purpose and objectives including career and educational goals, professional experience, and research areas of interest

PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS
- SOPHAS application (Step 1) & UMD Supplemental application (Step 2)
- A master’s degree in public health or a related field is preferred, but not required
- Three letters of recommendation
- Resume or curriculum vitae
- Fit between applicant’s goals, expectations and research interests and program competencies and faculty expertise
- A writing sample is optional
- Official GRE Test Score submission is waived for Fall 2022 admissions. GRE scores won’t be reviewed.
- Applicants being considered for the program will be invited for an interview.

For detailed instructions on how to submit your application, please visit the School of Public Health Website: (https://sph.umd.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/graduate-application-process/)
RESOURCES AND LINKS:

Program Website: sph.umd.edu/department/bch (https://sph.umd.edu/department/bch/)
Application Process: https://sph.umd.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/graduate-application-process (https://sph.umd.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/graduate-application-process/)
Admissions FAQ: https://sph.umd.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/graduate-application-faqs (https://sph.umd.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/graduate-application-faqs/)

Requirements
- Behavioral and Community Health, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/behavioral-community-health-bchl/behavioral-community-health-phd/)

Facilities and Special Resources
The Department has research specializations in a variety of areas including:
- Minority health/social inequalities in health
- Alcohol and drug abuse
- Safety and health
- Sexual health
- Adolescent health and risk behavior
- Violence prevention/community violence
- Public health communication
- Health literacy
- Treatment of nicotine dependence

Specialized laboratories operating within the Department include:
- The Center for Young Adult Health and Development
- The Prevention Research Center
- The Center for Health Behavior Research

The proximity of the nation's capital, the National Institutes of Health, the National Library of Medicine, and Food and Drug Administration, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and numerous public health focused private and not-for-profit organizations/agencies render the University of Maryland unusually well suited for graduate work in behavioral and community health.