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, Laboratory for Health Behavior Assessment (http://webhelper.centurylink.com/index.php?origURL=http%3A//www.hhp.umd.edu/dpch/research/LHBA/index.html&c=&bc=) and intervention, and The Center for Health Behavior Research (http://webhelper.centurylink.com/index.php?origURL=http%3A//www.hhp.umd.edu/dpch/CHBR/index.cfm&c=&bc=)

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
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Email: ksharp1@umd.edu
Website: 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

Admission Requirements
- Minimum 3.0 undergraduate GPA; 3.5 graduate GPA
- GRE scores for exam taken within the last five years (UMD SPH code = 0485)
- Three Letters of recommendation that address your academic capabilities
- Statement of purpose and research interests
- Resume or CV

Program Admission Pre-Requisites
- 6 credits Psychology or Sociology or Anthropology

For admission to the doctoral program, the Department requires an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 (if a masters degree has not been obtained) and/or a graduate GPA of 3.5. In addition, the Department requires satisfactory GRE scores, three letters of recommendation, a resume or curriculum vitae, and a statement of purpose from all applicants. Completed admission applications (those that include all supporting materials including GRE scores and letters of recommendation) must be received by November 15th for best consideration. February 15th is the final deadline to be considered for Fall enrollment.

How to Apply: Applications should be submitted through the Schools of Public Health Application Service (SOPHAS) at www.SOPHAS.org (http://www.sophas.org). Remember to designate the University of Maryland School of Public Health, College Park, as one of your school choices along with your desired program. The University of Maryland School of Public Health GRE Code in SOPHAS is 0485 (the GRE is required in all applications).

For information please see http://sph.umd.edu/content/graduate-admissions.

Application Deadlines

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Applicant</th>
<th>Fall Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Applicants</td>
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<tr>
<td>US Citizens and Permanent Residents</td>
<td>Best Consideration: 16 Nov / Final: 15 Feb</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Applicants</td>
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<tr>
<td>F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A,E,G,H,I and L visas and immigrants</td>
<td>Best Consideration: 16 Nov / Final: 15 Feb</td>
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Other Deadlines: Please visit the program website at http://www.sph.umd.edu/bch

Requirements
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 Laboratory for Health Behavior Assessment and Intervention
- 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.