**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/LHBAI/index.html&r=&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&r=&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  
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

**Keywords:** Ph.D. in Behavioral and Community Health. Areas of study including but not limited to: Health Behavior, Stress Management, Violence Prevention, Women's Health, Health Disparities, Traffic Safety, Sexual Health, Health Communication, Community Health.

**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. 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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<tr>
<td><strong>Domestic Applicants</strong></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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<td><strong>International Applicants</strong></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

Courses: HLTH
Behavioral and Community Health (BCHL)

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 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.

Faculty

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>First/Middle Name</th>
<th>Graduate Faculty Status</th>
<th>Academic Credentials</th>
<th>Positions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arria</td>
<td>Amelia</td>
<td>Full Member</td>
<td>B.S., Cornell University, 1986; Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh, 1993.</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Behavioral and Community Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baur</td>
<td>Cynthia</td>
<td>Full Member</td>
<td></td>
<td>Professor, Behavioral and Community Health</td>
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Beck Kenneth H. Full Member
B.S., Pennsylvania State University, 1972; M.A., Syracuse University, 1975; Ph.D., 1977. Professor, Behavioral and Community Health

Boelke Bo Bradley O. Full Member

Borzekowski Dina Full Member

Clark Pamela I. Full Member

Curbow Barbara Full Member

Research Professor, Behavioral and Community Health

Research Professor, Behavioral and Community Health

Chair, Behavioral and Community Health
Desmond Sharon M.  Full Member  B.A., University of Toledo, 1982; M.S., 1984; Ph.D., 1988.
Associate Professor, Behavioral and Community Health

Holt Cheryl L.  Full Member  B.S., SUNY-Brockport; M.S., East Tennessee University; Ph.D., St. Louis University
Associate Professor, Behavioral and Community Health

Professor, Behavioral and Community Health

Howard Donna E.  Full Member  B.S., University of Massachusetts-Behavioral and Community Health

Garza Mary  Full Member  Assistant Professor, Behavioral and Community Health

Chair, Epidemiology Professor, Behavioral and Community Health

Sawyer Robin G.  Full Member  B.S., George Mason University, 1978; M.Ed., University of Virginia, 1980; Ph.D., University of Maryland-College Park, 1990.
Associate Professor, Behavioral and Community Health

Portnoy Barry  Special Member  Distinguished University Professor, Behavioral and Community Health

Green Kerry  Full Member  B.S., College of William and Mary; M.A., University of Maryland; Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University
Assistant Professor, Behavioral and Community Health
Sharp Katherine E. Full Member B.S., University of Maryland, 1990; MPH, Emory University, 1996; Ph.D., Kent State University, 2005.
Graduate Director, Behavioral and Community Health
Associate Clinical Professor, Behavioral and Community Health
Associate Professor, Behavioral and Community Health

Wang Min Qi Full Member Ed.D., Syracuse University; B.S., M.S., The City College of New York
Professor, Behavioral and Community Health
Professor, Behavioral and Community Health