

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

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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/>)

academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/maternal-child-health-mchs/)

Admissions

PART 1. SOPHAS APPLICATION

- Complete the online SOPHAS application (<http://www.sophas.org/>).
- Choose the University of Maryland College Park School of Public Health program (<http://sophas.org/program-finder/?institution=1016>) to which you would like to apply.
- You may apply to only one UMD SPH program per application cycle.
- You must send an official transcript for all completed college courses. These transcripts go directly to SOPHAS.
- We require 3 letters of recommendation. Your references will receive an email invite from SOPHAS to complete the recommendation online.
- Pay the SOPHAS application fee.
- Your SOPHAS application will go through several phases including submission, completion and verification. Verification can take up to four weeks, therefore we recommend starting the application early.

PART 2: UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION

- The supplemental application is completed online via an emailed invitation from the UMD graduate school.
- The invite is sent within one week of your SOPHAS verification date to the email on file with SOPHAS.
- The title of the email is 'please complete the school of public health supplemental application.'
- This application requires demographic and residency questions, transcript, and application fee.
- You must submit a PDF copy of your undergraduate degree transcript (the transcript that indicates degree awarded).
- The application fee is \$75.00
- Upon completion of BOTH parts, you will receive notification of 'Under Committee Review', which means the application has been sent to the review committee.

For more information, please visit the School of Public Health website (<http://sph.umd.edu/content/graduate-admissions/>).

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Type of Applicant	Fall Deadline
Domestic Applicants	
US Citizens and Permanent Residents	Priority: 13 Nov / Final: 15 Feb
International Applicants	
F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A,E,G,H,I and L visas and immigrants	Priority: 13 Nov / Final: 15 Feb

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.