BEHAVIORAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH (MBCH)

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 health professionals with specific skills and the ability to implement theoretical knowledge in a practical setting.

The mission of the MPH program is to promote the development of behavioral and community health professionals who understand the science, theory, and practice of public health and can apply this knowledge toward the enhancement of health status of communities. The MPH program is designed as a professional degree to prepare behavioral and community health professionals working in public health service as practitioners, administrators, supervisors, educators, consultants, and researchers. Students will participate in both academic and applied training in program planning and implementation, program evaluation, public policy analysis, research, and management.

Degree programs may be completed either full-time or part-time. All classes are held from in the late afternoon and evening typically starting at 4:00pm or later Monday through Friday. 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 and Intervention and The Center for Health Behavior Research.

Financial Assistance
The Department offers a limited number of fellowships, and graduate teaching and research assistantships. 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 (EPID) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/epidemiology-epid/), 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 MPH 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

- A Bachelor’s degree
- Minimum 3.0 undergraduate GPA
- At least one undergraduate math course
- 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 areas of interest, and faculty you are interested in working with

PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- SOPHAS application (Step 1) & UMD Supplemental application (Step 2)
- Three letters of recommendation
- Resume or curriculum vitae
- Fit between applicant’s goals and expectations and program degree competencies
- Official GRE Test Score submission is optional*. If you decide to submit your GRE scores, please have ETS send scores to SOPHAS (code 0485) and UMD (code 5814).
- A writing sample is optional

*The review committee will evaluate GRE scores if they are submitted. The lack of scores will not impact applications. If submitted, the program considers competitive scores to be 50th percentile or higher in each of the three parts.

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 (https://
sph.umd.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/graduate-application-process/

APPLICATION DEADLINES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Applicant</th>
<th>Fall Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Applicants</td>
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<tr>
<td>US Citizens and Permanent Residents</td>
<td>SOPHAS - Priority: 17 Dec / Final: 6 May</td>
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<td>Supplemental - Priority: 14 Jan / Final: 3 Jun</td>
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<td>International Applicants</td>
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<td>F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A,E,G,H,I and L visas and immigrants</td>
<td>SOPHAS - Priority: 17 Dec / Final: 11 Feb</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Supplemental - Priority: 14 Jan / Final: 11 Mar</td>
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RESOURCES AND LINKS:


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


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
- Treatment of nicotine dependence

Specialized laboratories operating within the Department include:

- The Prevention Research Center
- The Center for Health Behavior Research
- The Center for Young Adult Health and Development

The proximity of the nation’s capital, the National Institutes of Health, the National Library of Medicine, the 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.