Maternal and Child Health (MCHS)

Graduate Degree Program
College: Public Health

Abstract
Maternal and Child Health is an interdisciplinary field in which empirical research, epidemiological data, and policy analyses are used to understand individual, family, community, and sociocultural factors that influence health behaviors, health outcomes, and use of health services by mothers, children, adolescents, and their families (including fathers). The MCH doctoral program prepares students to advance research, policy, and practice to improve the health, safety, and well-being of these groups, with a particular emphasis on low income and ethnic minority populations. The program equips students to address MCH issues at both the family and population levels. It is unique in its focus on the whole family system and family health policy.

Ph.D. graduates in MCH are prepared for academic and research positions in colleges and universities; high level administrative or research positions in city/county/state/national health and human service agencies; and leadership positions in nongovernmental and advocacy organizations. MCH graduates are also increasingly hired by private healthcare organizations such as hospitals, HMOs, and health insurers.

The Department of Family Science prepares students to describe, explain, and improve the quality of family life through applied research, education, therapy, human services, policy analysis, and advocacy. The approach is interdisciplinary, emphasizing individual, interpersonal, and social change. The program of study is based on a systems or ecological paradigm, combining the perspectives of interrelated professional fields of maternal and child health, family science, couple and family therapy, family policy, behavioral science, and human services. Graduates are prepared for careers in the public, non-profit and private sectors, including university teaching, research, family policy analysis, and administrative positions in human service and public health programs.

Financial Assistance
Fellowships and Graduate Assistantships are available to students admitted into the Ph.D. program in MCH.

Contact
Maternal and Child Health Ph.D. Program
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Fax: 301.314.9161
Email: fmsc@umd.edu
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Relationships: Family Science (FMSC) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/family-science-fmsc/)

Courses: FMSC (https://umd-curr.courseleaf.com/graduate/courses/fmsc/)

Admissions
The Ph.D. in Maternal and Child 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 master’s degree in relevant field
• 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)
• Three letters of recommendation
• Resume or curriculum vitae
• A writing sample is required.
• Fit between applicant’s goals, expectations and research interests and program competencies and faculty expertise
• Please do not submit a GRE test score. The GRE requirement is waived for Fall 2022 admissions.

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

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<th>Type of Applicant</th>
<th>Fall Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Applicants</td>
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<td>US Citizens and Permanent Residents</td>
<td>SOPHAS - 3 Dec</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 - 3 Dec</td>
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<td>Supplemental - 7 Dec</td>
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RESOURCES AND LINKS

**Program website:** [https://sph.umd.edu/academics/doctoral-degrees/phd-family-science](https://sph.umd.edu/academics/doctoral-degrees/phd-family-science)

**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**

- Maternal and Child Health, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

**Facilities and Special Resources**

Center for Healthy Families: This Center is the training and research arm of the Couple and Family Therapy Program in the Department of Family Science. Departmental graduate students and faculty provide clinical and educational services to families from surrounding communities in this state-of-the-art facility. Master's and doctoral students use data collected at the Center for research projects.

The University's close proximity to the nation's capital, the state capital in Annapolis, federal executive departments, and headquarters of national professional and public interest associations provide research and internship placements for studying family policy unmatched by any other graduate program in the discipline. The Washington-Baltimore metropolitan area offers rich opportunities for research on culturally and socioeconomically diverse families. The campus and department have excellent computer facilities. Students have ready access to the University's extensive library systems, as well as holdings from the Library of Congress, the National Institutes of Health, National Library of Medicine, National Archives, and many other library collections.