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 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 MCH Ph.D program.

Contact
For additional information, please contact: Dr. Sandra Quinn (MCH Program Director) or Dr. Kevin Roy (Graduate Director).

Maternal and Child Health Ph.D. Program
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Website: http://www.sph.umd.edu

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.
• Test scores. GRE and English proficiency (IELTS and TOEFL) scores must be sent to 5688 & 5814.
• 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

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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>13 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>13 Dec</td>
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Requirements

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.