

Health Care Organization and Policy

Requirement	Fulfilled By:
Degree Offered:	M.P.H., M.S.P.H., Dr.PH.
Chair:	Martha S. Wingate, DrPH, MPH
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Overview

Programs in **Health Policy and Organization** provide training and education at the master's and doctoral level. At the master's level, programs are available for those desiring a career in the analysis of health services policy or in the management of public health services resources. At the doctoral level, our program offers rigorous training in research methods and evidence-based public health practice suitable for careers in public health leadership, or academic settings.

Our programs require mastering major concepts of health economics, public health management and planning, health policy, and outcomes research. Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) degrees are offered in health policy and organization and maternal and child health policy and leadership. The Master of Science in Public Health (M.S.P.H.) in outcomes research, and the Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) degree has concentrations in health policy and organization, outcomes research or maternal and child health policy.

Degree Programs

- Master of Public Health (MPH) concentration in Health Policy and Organization (Including the Fast Track Program, Accelerated Bachelors/Masters (ABM) and Online Degree Program)
- Master of Public Health (MPH) concentration in Maternal and Child Health Policy and Leadership (Including the Fast Track Program, Accelerated Bachelors/Masters (ABM) and Online Degree Program)
- Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH) concentration in Outcomes Research Online
- Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) concentration in Health Policy and Organization
- Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) concentration in Maternal and Child Health Policy
- Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) concentration in Outcomes Research

Admissions

Requirement	Fulfilled By:
Master Program Deadline:	www.uab.edu/soph/home/apply/graduate
DrPH Program Deadline:	April 1
GPA:	3.0

Number of Evaluation Forms Required:	Three
Entrance Tests: GRE	www.uab.edu/soph/home/apply/graduate
SOPH Admissions:	www.uab.edu/soph/home/apply/graduate

UAB has many degree programs (both face-to-face and online) that can lead to professional licensure or certification. Licensure requirements vary from state to state and by professional organization. Federal Regulations require UAB to provide public or general disclosures on educational programs designed to meet educational requirements for a specific professional license or certification, that is required for employment in an occupation, or is advertised as meeting such requirements. For a list of programs that customarily lead to professional licensure or certification, please visit the [UAB Professional Licensure and Certification webpage](#).

Master in Public Health with a Concentration in Health Policy and Organization

Including the Fast-Track, Accelerated Bachelors/Masters (ABM) and Online Degree Program

This program is designed for individuals who are planning on management-focused careers in public health. Perhaps you aspire to be the Executive Director of a non-profit charitable organization or a senior-level manager in a health department or federal agency. Perhaps you are a physician, nurse, pharmacist, or other clinician who wants to move from direct patient care into a supervisory position with a broad focus on the health of a community. Students in this program are introduced to the public health system and the fundamental skills necessary for practice in the public health sector and managing health care organizations.

Required coursework includes basic management disciplines and selected content in economics, finance, marketing, law, and health policy.

Curriculum

Students in this track must complete 44 credit hours. This includes the MPH core requirements, departmental and concentration requirements, electives and internship. Full-time students generally complete this degree in 2 years or less (4-5 semesters). Part-time students may take up to 5 years.

Requirements	Hours
MPH Core Requirements: (14 hours)	
PUH 601 This is Public Health	3
PUH 602 Community Assessment	3
PUH 603 Quantitative Methods in Public Health	3
PUH 604 Programs and Policies	3
PUH 607 Public Health Professional Passport	1
ENH 690 Environmental Health Perspectives	1
Department Requirements: (9 hours)	
HPO 603 Public Health Policy	3
HPO 609 Public Health Program Planning, Implementation and Evaluation	3
HPO 615 Finance for Health Professionals	3
HPO Concentration Requirements: (12 hours)	

HPO 601	Health Economics	3
HPO 612	Strategic Management in Health Programs	3
HPO 619	Health Policy Analysis	3
HPO 636	Public Health and Healthcare Delivery Systems	1
HPO 637	Design and Management of Complex Public Health Systems	1
HPO 638	Current Issues in Public Health Policy	1
Applied Practice Experience: (3 hours)		
PUH 688	Public Health Internship	3
Approved Electives: (3 hours)		
Select 3 hours from 600-level or higher (HPO) courses		3
Integrative Learning Experience: (3 hours)		
HPO 689	HPO Integrative Learning Experience	3
Total Hours		44

Master of Public Health with a Concentration in Maternal and Child Health Policy and Leadership

Including the Accelerated Bachelors/Masters (ABM), and Online Degree Program

The MPH program in the [Maternal and Child Health](#) concentration is designed to educate individuals who will plan, administer, and evaluate programs in maternal and child health. The program provides information about the special problems faced by women and children, including children with special health care needs, and their families. The program develops and integrates skills from maternal and child health, health policy, and leadership and demonstrate their application in problem solving and systems development.

Curriculum

Students in this track must complete 44 credit hours. This includes the MPH core requirements, departmental and concentration requirements, electives and internship. Full-time students generally complete this degree in 2 years or less (4-5 semesters). Part-time students may take up to 5 years.

Requirements	Hours	
MPH Core Requirements: (14 hours)		
PUH 601	This is Public Health	3
PUH 602	Community Assessment	3
PUH 603	Quantitative Methods in Public Health	3
PUH 604	Programs and Policies	3
PUH 607	Public Health Professional Passport	1
ENH 690	Environmental Health Perspectives	1
Department Requirements: (9 hours)		
HPO 603	Public Health Policy	3
HPO 609	Public Health Program Planning, Implementation and Evaluation	3
HPO 615	Finance for Health Professionals	3
MCH Concentration Requirements: (9 hours)		
HPO 605	Evidence-Based Foundations of Maternal and Child Health Systems	3
HPO 606	Health and Development through the Life Course: Perspectives, Programs, and Policies	3
HPO 632	Leadership in Maternal and Child Health	3
Choose one of the following methods courses: (3 hours)		3

HPO 608	Reproductive Health	
HPO 633	Policy and Women's Health	
HPO 635	Policy and Child and Adolescent Health	
HPO 672	Perinatal Health: Issues, Data, and Policies	
Applied Practice Experience: (3 hours)		
PUH 688	Public Health Internship	3
Approved Electives: (3 hours)		
Select 3 hours from 600-level or higher (HPO) courses		3
Integrative Learning Experience: (3 hours)		
HPO 689	HPO Integrative Learning Experience	3
Total Hours		44

Master of Science in Public Health with a Concentration in Outcomes Research Online

The health care field is placing increasing emphasis on the identification and measurement of clinical decision-making and cost/utility analysis. Continuing pressure for the development and measurement of both efficient and effective protocols and health care policies is the driving force underlying this emphasis.

Increasingly, employers are seeking qualified analysts to study treatment effectiveness. This program is designed for individuals who want to evaluate the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of specific health care treatments. You may be a physician who plans on a career in clinical research and wants to determine not only that a treatment works but that it is better than some alternatives after taking into account both cost and a patient's own treatment preferences.

You may also be a non-clinician who likes solving complicated modeling problems that may involve simulation or clinical process modeling. Graduates of this track will work in clinical settings, government agencies, managed care organizations, insurance companies, health associations, pharmaceutical firms, and consulting firms analyzing cost effectiveness, utilization, and treatment effectiveness.

Curriculum

Students in this track must complete 42 credit hours. This includes the MSPH core, Outcomes Research track requirements, electives and project research. Full-time students generally complete this degree in 2 years or less (4-5 semesters). Part-time students may take up to 5 years.

All students in an MSPH, MS, DrPH, or PhD program are required to complete PUH 600 Overview of Public Health. PUH 600 is a required, free, non-credit course. The course must be completed in a single semester (Fall or Spring); students must complete the course by the end of their second semester in the program. For students beginning their program in the spring, PUH 600 must be completed by the end of their third semester if not offered during the summer term. Students who already possess a Bachelor of Public Health (BS) or a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree from an institution that was CEPH-accredited at the time their degree was awarded are exempt from this requirement.

Requirements	Hours	
MSPH Core Requirements: (9 hours)		
HPO 610	Introduction to Health Services and Outcomes Research	3
HPO 611	Statistical Analysis in Healthcare Settings	3
HPO 616	Introduction to Secondary Data	3
Outcomes Research Track: (21 hours)		

HPO 601	Health Economics	3
HPO 621	Clinical Decision Making and Cost-Effectiveness Analysis	3
HPO 623	Pharmacoeconomics and Regulation	3
HPO 670	Social and Ethical Issues in Public Health	3
HPO 677	Patient-Based Outcomes Measurement	3
HPO 687	Empirical Methods for Health Research	3
HPO 691	Policy Analysis: Modeling and Simulation	3
Approved Electives: (3 hours)		
Select 3 hours of 600-level or higher (HPO) courses		3
Master's Directed Research (9 credit):		
HPO 698	Master's Level Directed Research Health Policy and Organization	9
Total Hours		42

Doctor of Public Health with a Concentration in Health Policy and Organization

The DrPH degree is the highest professional degree in public health. The DrPH program in the [Department of Health Policy and Organization](#) develops leaders and research faculty who have proficiency in data analysis, management, critical thinking, teaching, and translating research into policy and practice. Students will be exposed to complex practical problems facing public health practitioners and policy-makers. The DrPH program has three concentrations (1) **Health Policy and Organization**, (2) Maternal and Child Health Policy, (3) Outcomes Research, and (4) Preparedness Leadership.

Curriculum

All students in an MSPH, MS, DrPH, or PhD program are required to complete PUH 600 Overview of Public Health. PUH 600 is a required, free, non-credit course. The course must be completed in a single semester (Fall or Spring); students must complete the course by the end of their second semester in the program. For students beginning their program in the spring, PUH 600 must be completed by the end of their third semester if not offered during the summer term. Students who already possess a Bachelor of Public Health (BS) or a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree from an institution that was CEPH-accredited at the time their degree was awarded are exempt from this requirement.

A minimum of 62 credit hours are required to complete the degree. Students will complete at least 12 credit hours of analytical or methodological courses; 15 hours of DrPH core course, 12 hours of HPO concentration courses, 3 hours of any 700-level electives (as approved by advisor). Students must also complete the doctoral seminars (HPO 796) comprehensive examination (HPO 797), practicum (HPO 793), dissertation proposal/Proposal development (HPO 798), and dissertation research (HPO 799).

Students in the Health Policy and Organization concentration will be required to meet concentration specific prerequisites (or their equivalent as determined by the program director and advisor). **These credits do not count towards the total degree hours:**

Requirements		Hours
HPO Concentration Prerequisites: (9 hours)		
HPO 601	Health Economics	3
HPO 609	Public Health Program Planning, Implementation and Evaluation	3

HPO 636	Public Health and Healthcare Delivery Systems	1
HPO 637	Design and Management of Complex Public Health Systems	1
HPO 638	Current Issues in Public Health Policy	1
Total Hours		9

DrPH Concentration in Health Policy and Organization Degree Requirements

Requirements		Hours
DrPH Core Requirements: (15 hours)		
HPO 716	Advanced Leadership and Practice Seminar	3
HPO 717	Seminar in Public Health Policy	3
GRD 717	Principles of Scientific Integrity	3
BST 703	Methods in Evidence-Based Public Health	3
PUH 685	Training in Public Health Teaching	3
Concentration Core: (12 hours)		
HPO 715	Finance for Health Professionals	3
AH 775	Strategic Planning and Management Health Care Organizations	3
HPO 718	Management Concepts in Public Health Programs	3
PUH 703	Public Health Grant Writing	3
Methods Core (12 hours):		
HPO 728	Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research in Public Health	3
HPO 781	Research Methods and Study Design	3
HPO 787	Empirical Methods for Health Research	3
Additional 700 Level Methods Elective		3
Approved Electives: (3 hours)		
Select 3 hours of approved 700-level courses		3
Doctoral Seminar: (Minimum 2 hours)		
HPO 796	Doctoral Seminar in Health Policy and Organization	1
HPO 796	Doctoral Seminar in Health Policy and Organization	1
DrPH Practicum and Research: (18 hours)		
HPO 793	DrPH Practicum	6
HPO 797	Directed Readings for DrPH Comprehensive Examination	3
HPO 798	Doctoral Level Directed Research Health Policy and Organization	3
HPO 799	Dissertation Research HPO	6
Minimum Course Credit Hours:		62

Doctor of Public Health with a Concentration in Maternal and Child Health Policy

The DrPH degree is the highest professional degree in public health. The DrPH program in the [Department of Health Policy and Organization](#) develops leaders and research faculty who have proficiency in data analysis, management, critical thinking, teaching, and translating research into policy and practice. Students will be exposed to complex practical problems facing public health practitioners and policy-makers. The DrPH program has three concentrations (1) Health Policy and Organization, (2) **Maternal and Child Health Policy**, (3) Outcomes Research, and (4) Preparedness Leadership.

Curriculum

All students in an MSPH, MS, DrPH, or PhD program are required to complete PUH 600 Overview of Public Health. PUH 600 is a required, free, non-credit course. The course must be completed in a single semester (Fall or Spring); students must complete the course by the end of their second semester in the program. For students beginning their program in the spring, PUH 600 must be completed by the end of their third semester if not offered during the summer term. Students who already possess a Bachelor of Public Health (BS) or a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree from an institution that was CEPH-accredited at the time their degree was awarded are exempt from this requirement.

A minimum of 62 credit hours are required to complete the degree. Students will complete at least 12 credit hours of analytical or methodological courses; 15 hours of DrPH core course, 12 hours of HPO concentration courses, 3 hours of any 700-level electives (as approved by advisor). Students must also complete the doctoral seminars (HPO 796) comprehensive examination (HPO 797), practicum (HPO 793), dissertation proposal/Proposal development (HPO 798), and dissertation research (HPO 799).

Students in the **Maternal and Child Health Policy concentration** will be required to meet concentration-specific prerequisites (or their equivalent as determined by the program director and advisor). **These credits do not count towards the total degree hours:**

Requirements	Hours
MCH Concentration Prerequisites: (12 hours)	
HPO 601 Health Economics	3
HPO 605 Evidence-Based Foundations of Maternal and Child Health Systems	3
HPO 606 Health and Development through the Life Course: Perspectives, Programs, and Policies	3
HPO 609 Public Health Program Planning, Implementation and Evaluation	3
Total Hours	12

DrPH Concentration in Maternal and Child Health Degree Requirements

Requirements	Hours
DrPH Core: (15 hours)	
HPO 716 Advanced Leadership and Practice Seminar	3
HPO 717 Seminar in Public Health Policy	3
GRD 717 Principles of Scientific Integrity	3
BST 703 Methods in Evidence-Based Public Health	3
PUH 685 Training in Public Health Teaching	3
Concentration Core: (12 hours)	
HPO 714 Life Course Seminar	3
HPO 718 Management Concepts in Public Health Programs	3
HPO 720 Health Insurance and Managed Care	3
PUH 703 Public Health Grant Writing	3
Methods Core: (12 hours)	
HPO 728 Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research in Public Health	3
HPO 781 Research Methods and Study Design	3
HPO 787 Empirical Methods for Health Research	3
Additional 700 Level Methods Elective	3
Approved Elective: (3 hours)	
Select 3 hours of additional 700 level electives ¹	3

Doctoral Seminar: (Minimum 2 hours)

HPO 796	Doctoral Seminar in Health Policy and Organization	1
HPO 796	Doctoral Seminar in Health Policy and Organization	1
DrPH Practicum & Research: (18 hours)		
HPO 793	DrPH Practicum	6
HPO 797	Directed Readings for DrPH Comprehensive Examination	3
HPO 798	Doctoral Level Directed Research Health Policy and Organization	3
HPO 799	Dissertation Research HPO	6
Total Hours		62

¹ Must be 700 level & may be selected from anywhere within the university with advisor approval.

Doctor of Public Health with a Concentration in Outcomes Research

The DrPH degree is the highest professional degree in public health. The DrPH program in the Department of Health Policy and Organization develops leaders and research faculty who have proficiency in data analysis, management, critical thinking, teaching, and translating research into policy and practice. Students will be exposed to complex practical problems facing public health practitioners and policy-makers. The DrPH program has three concentrations (1) Health Policy and Organization, (2) Maternal and Child Health Policy, (3) **Outcomes Research**, and (4) Preparedness Leadership.

Curriculum

All students in an MSPH, MS, DrPH, or PhD program are required to complete PUH 600 Overview of Public Health. PUH 600 is a required, free, non-credit course. The course must be completed in a single semester (Fall or Spring); students must complete the course by the end of their second semester in the program. For students beginning their program in the spring, PUH 600 must be completed by the end of their third semester if not offered during the summer term. Students who already possess a Bachelor of Public Health (BS) or a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree from an institution that was CEPH-accredited at the time their degree was awarded are exempt from this requirement.

A minimum of 62 credit hours are required to complete the degree. Students will complete at least 12 credit hours of analytical or methodological courses; 15 hours of DrPH core course, 12 hours of HPO concentration courses, 3 hours of any 700-level electives (as approved by advisor). Students must also complete the doctoral seminars (HPO 796) comprehensive examination (HPO 797), practicum (HPO 793), dissertation proposal/Proposal development (HPO 798), and dissertation research (HPO 799).

Students in the **Outcomes Research concentration** will be required to meet concentration-specific prerequisites (or their equivalent as determined by the program director and advisor). **These credits do not count towards the total degree hours:**

Requirements	Hours
Concentration Prerequisites: (3 hours)	
HPO 601 Health Economics	3
Total Hours	3

DrPH Concentration in Outcomes Research

Requirements	Hours
DrPH Core: (15 hours)	
HPO 716 Advanced Leadership and Practice Seminar	3
HPO 717 Seminar in Public Health Policy	3
GRD 717 Principles of Scientific Integrity	3
BST 703 Methods in Evidence-Based Public Health	3
PUH 685 Training in Public Health Teaching	3
Concentration Core: (12 hours)	
HPO 721 Clinical Decision Making and Cost Effectiveness Analysis	3
HPO 777 Patient-Based Outcomes Measurement	3
HPO 791 Policy Analysis: Modeling & Simulation	3
PUH 703 Public Health Grant Writing	3
Methods Core: (12 hours)	
HPO 728 Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research in Public Health	3
HPO 781 Research Methods and Study Design	3
HPO 787 Empirical Methods for Health Research	3
Additional 700 Level Methods Elective	3
Approved Electives: (3 hours)	
Select 3 hours of any 700-level electives ¹	3
Doctoral Seminar: (Minimum 2 hours)	
HPO 796 Doctoral Seminar in Health Policy and Organization	1
HPO 796 Doctoral Seminar in Health Policy and Organization	1
DrPH Practicum & Research: (Minimum 18 hours)	
HPO 793 DrPH Practicum	6
HPO 797 Directed Readings for DrPH Comprehensive Examination	3
HPO 798 Doctoral Level Directed Research Health Policy and Organization	3
HPO 799 Dissertation Research HPO	6
Total Hours	62

¹ Must be 700 level & may be selected from anywhere within the university with advisor approval.