

School of Public Health

The Chinese University of Hong Kong



香港中文大學
公共衛生學院
CUHK School of
Public Health

Public Health

Master of Public Health (Full-time and Part-time)

Programme Director Professor Sian GRIFFITHS
Deputy Director Professor Emily Ying-yang CHAN

Postgraduate Diploma in Health Services Management and Public Health (Part-time)

Programme Director Professor Sian GRIFFITHS
Deputy Director Professor Frank Wan-kin CHAN

BACKGROUND

The mission of the School of Public Health is to contribute to the improvement of the health of populations locally, nationally, and internationally through excellence in research, teaching, and training in public health, working in collaboration with partners from all relevant disciplines and institutions.

One of our key objectives for the School is to gain international recognition as a centre of public health excellence in teaching and research. A major part of this ambition is to deliver a world-class Master of Public Health (MPH). During the past year, we have developed a new MPH course. In addition to the revised part-time programme, the School now offers a full-time option for students wishing to undertake the MPH.

WHY STUDY HERE

Our programmes offer modules across areas of public health practice. We give all students grounding in professionally recognised competencies, and in areas increasingly recognised as being core to public health, including epidemiology, environmental health, health promotion, and health services management.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

Our target candidates are health professionals, administrators, nurses, veterinarians, academics, teachers, social workers, and researchers who are committed to protecting and improving the health of communities.

AIMS AND FEATURES

The MPH programme is an integrated, theory-practice curriculum that will enable students to achieve public health competency. It provides the broad public health perspectives and skills necessary to assume effective leadership in public health practice, reflecting the three domains of health improvement, health protection, and health services quality, underpinned by epidemiology, biostatistics, law, and ethics.

Postgraduate Diploma in Health Services Management and Public Health is a one-year, part-time course that shares the same core courses as the MPH programme, and can be viewed as a more compact version of the Master's course.

All students will be expected to take the core courses, which share common teaching, but they will also be able to choose concentrations in their areas of special interest. These include environmental and occupational health, communicable diseases, health promotion, health policy and service management, women's health, and healthy ageing. These concentrations will, where possible, link with other Masters' courses taught in the SPH so that students get the best opportunities to learn from not only our local and international teachers, but also from each other.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

A minimum total of 36 credit units must be accumulated from the programme's core courses, concentration areas, and electives courses for the conferment of the MPH degree. Students are required to take 16 units from the core courses; 16 units from the concentration areas, including either a practicum or selected project work depending on the area of concentration; and 4 units from accepted electives for the concentration areas.

For the Postgraduate Diploma programme, students must accumulate 16 units in total.

	Code	Title	Units
Core	PBH7000	Foundations of Public Health	1
	PBH7001	Epidemiology I	3
	PBH7002	Biostatistics I	3
	PBH7003	Health Policy and Management	3
	PBH7004	Environmental Health Sciences I	1
	PBH7005	Environmental Health Sciences II	2
	PBH7006	Sociomedical (Behavioural) Sciences	3
	Subtotal		16
Concentrations	PBH7100 series	Epidemiology & Biostatistics	16
	PBH7200 series	Infectious Diseases	16
	PBH7300 series	Occupational Health*	15
	PBH7500 series	Health Services Management	16
	PBH7700 series	Men's Health	16
	PBH7800 series	Women's Health	16
	PBH7900 series	Public Health in Practice	16
	Subtotal required		16
Electives	Students can choose elective modules from the PBH series, offered by the Division of Public Health, to fulfil their unit requirements.		
	Subtotal required		4
TOTAL UNITS			36

* Students shall select 5 units instead of 4 units from the accepted electives.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The core courses of the MPH, outlined below, are equivalent to the required courses of the Postgraduate Diploma in Health Services Management and Public Health.

Core Courses

PBH7000 Foundations of Public Health (1 unit)

This course discusses the basic precepts of public health and its history, and describes public health systems and the framework for public health practice. Students will be expected to gain an understanding of the underlying principles and approaches of modern public health and its applications.

PBH7001 Epidemiology I (3 units)

Students will learn how to: 1) describe the role of epidemiology within the broader field of public health; 2) discuss the principles of health protection and disease prevention; 3) describe key epidemiological concepts and terms; 4) compare disease rates within and between populations; 5) make appropriate estimations and use basic measures of association and etiology fractions in groups and populations; 6) apply appropriate epidemiologic study designs; and 7) identify, assess and control for bias and confounding in research.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

PBH7002 Biostatistics I (3 units)

The course should enable students to: 1) describe the nature of biostatistics and its applications; 2) enumerate statistical issues due to sampling errors; 3) apply basic statistical techniques to research problems; 4) use statistical package computer programmes; 5) gain an overview of different types of commonly used statistical methods; 6) critically appraise research results based on the validity and power of statistical methods; and 7) interpret statistical results correctly.

PBH7003 Health Policy and Management (Health Services) (3 units)

The focus of this course is on assessing the impact on health policy options of social, political, economic, and cultural forces, and applying basic management techniques to address organisational challenges to providing health care.

PBH7004 Environmental Health Sciences I (Health Protection) (1 unit)

Students will be able to describe the environmental influence on health and the environmental causes of diseases.

PBH7005 Environmental Health Sciences II (Health Protection) (2 units)

The course aims to explain disease causation and the diagnostic process in relation to public health, with emphasis on the environment, communicable diseases and their epidemiology, and health information as it relates to specific diseases.

PBH7006 Sociomedical (Behavioural) Science (Health Improvement) (3 units)

Students will examine health issues and responses from a socio-behavioural science perspective, and explain cultural, political, economic, and behavioural determinants of health disparities among population subgroups.

Concentration Areas

Students can take 16 units from any of the following areas:

Epidemiology and Biostatistics

1. PBH7100 series: Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Health Protection

2. PBH7200 series: Infectious Diseases
3. PBH7300 series: Occupational Health*

* 15 units for this area, students shall take 5 units from the accepted electives

Health Services

4. PBH7500 series: Health Services Management
5. PBH7700 series: Men's Health
6. PBH7800 series: Women's Health

Health Improvement

7. PBH7900 series: Public Health in Practice (including health promotion and global health)

Electives

Students can select 4 units from the approved elective courses offered by the Division of Public Health to fulfil their course requirements. The course selection will take place after consultation with the Programme Advisor on the student's fields of interest.

Remarks

A general degree of Master of Public Health will be conferred upon a student who has accumulated 16 units from the core courses, and the remaining 20 units from the concentration areas or electives.

Students may choose to do both the MPH and the Master of Business Administration (MBA) programme in Health Care, and be granted 'en bloc' unit exemptions. The opportunity for full-time study is also available.

TEACHING FORMAT

The teaching format will include lectures, tutorials, group project work, literature reviews, critical appraisals, and visits. The medium of instruction is English.

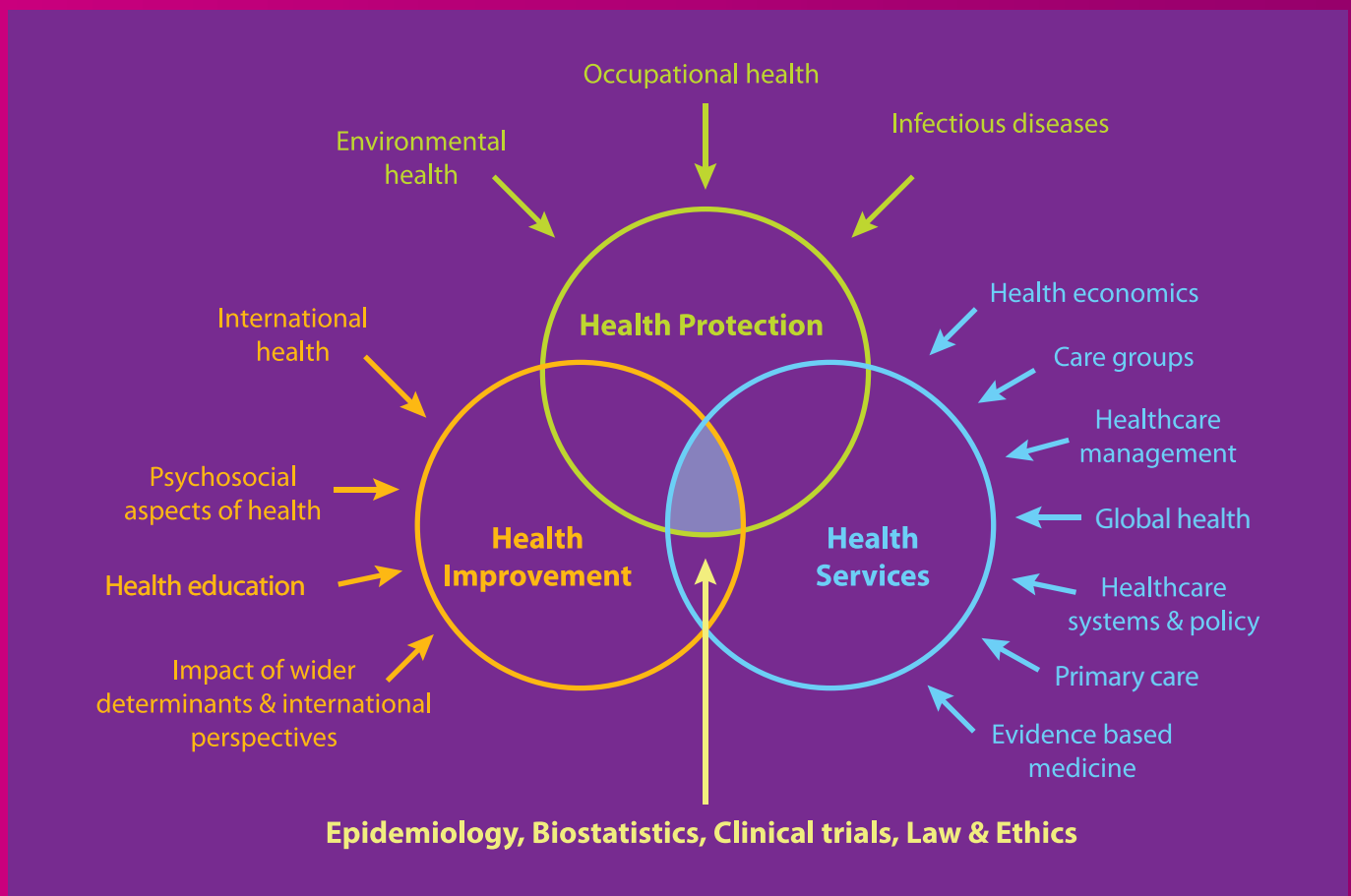
Part-time students will attend sessions at least two evenings per week. Full-time student will attend lectures three to four evenings a week, together with daytime tutorial sessions and weekly lunchtime seminars offered by the School.

TEACHING FACULTY

Courses will be taught by the academic staff, and the affiliated local and international staff, of the School of Public Health. The School is comprised of the Department of Community and Family Medicine, Centre for Systems for Health, Centre for Emerging Infectious Diseases, Medical Research Support Centre (Clinical Trials, Evidence-Based Medicine, and Epidemiology and Biostatistics), and Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health Studies.

To meet the multi-disciplinary demands of the curriculum, the School of Public Health will solicit support from schools and faculties, including those in nursing, economics, law, pharmacy, business, journalism, geography, and social sciences, within and outside of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. The school will also seek collaboration with stakeholders in the arena of public health practice, such as the Department of Health, Hospital Authority, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, and other institutions serving the public.

The School of Public Health will continue to capitalise on its already established network of international schools of public health (e.g. Johns Hopkins University; University of California, Berkeley; University of Oxford; London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Peking University; and Fudan University), and public health institutions around the world (e.g. the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC); Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC); Shenzhen CDC, Bureau of Health of Shenzhen Municipality, and British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (BC CDC) of Canada).



The three domains of health improvement, health protection and health services.

DURATION / MODES OF STUDY / TUITION FEES

Programme	Duration	Mode of Study	Tuition Fee
Master of Public Health	1 year	Full-time	HK\$130,000
Master of Public Health	2 years	Part-time	HK\$65,000 (per year)
Postgraduate Diploma in Health Services Management and Public Health	1 year	Part-time	HK\$42,000

RECOGNITION OF THE PROGRAMMES

The Hong Kong Medical Council recognises the Master of Public Health and Postgraduate Diploma in Health Services Management and Public Health as quotable qualifications.

CME credits for non-specialists can also be obtained from The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

COURSE AND UNIT EXEMPTIONS

- Students opting for the MBA in Health Care / Master of Public Health Study Scheme may be granted 'en bloc' exemptions of 16 credit units, which form the core courses of both the MPH and the health care component of the MBA.
- Graduates from the Postgraduate Programme in Health Services Management and Public Health in the School of Public Health, with an average result of B- or above, may be exempted from the core courses (16 credit units) should they apply for further studies in the Master of Public Health Programme.
- Graduates from other Postgraduate Programmes in the School of Public Health who apply for further studies in the Master of Public Health Programme, may also apply for unit exemptions.
- The credits are transferable, within a validation period of up to 3 years after graduation, from the recognised Postgraduate Programme.

GRADUATE REQUIREMENTS

Student performance is assessed on a course-by-course basis. Students are required to attend at least 80% of the lectures, seminars, tutorials, and practical sessions, and to obtain a 'satisfactory pass' in the assessment of each module, with a cumulative overall GPA of at least 2.0.

In addition, students have to comply with the requirements of proficiency in information technology (IT) before they can be awarded the Master of Public Health or Postgraduate Diploma in Health Services Management and Public Health, as stipulated by the Graduate School.

HOW TO APPLY

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Bachelor's honours degree (not lower than second-class lower division honours, or B grade); or Bachelor's degree in medicine or an approved health related field.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES

Local requests for application materials can be made:

- by completing the online request form in the Graduate School website (www.cuhk.edu.hk/gss); or
- in person from the Course Administrator, Room 202, 2/F, School of Public Health, Prince of Wales Hospital, Sha Tin, New Territories, Hong Kong.

Completed application forms should be sent to the School of Public Health, Prince of Wales Hospital, Sha Tin, New Territories, Hong Kong by the end of May of each academic year. Applicants are encouraged to use the online application procedures to save time and postage. Please visit the Graduate School website at www.cuhk.edu.hk/gss.

For enquiries, please contact:

MPH Programme
2/F, School of Public Health
Prince of Wales Hospital
Sha Tin, New Territories
Hong Kong

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E-mail mph_cuhk@cuhk.edu.hk

MPH website www.cuhk.edu.hk/prog/mph
SPH website www.sph.cuhk.edu.hk

APPLICATION DEADLINE

31 March 2008 (Main Round)
31 May 2008 (Final Round)

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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ALUMNI

Name	Advancement Gained
 <p>Dr. May-kei Liza TO <i>Graduate of the Master of Public Health programme and the Postgraduate Diploma of Epidemiology and Biostatistics</i> Senior Medical and Health Officer, Programme Management and Professional Development Branch, Centre for Health Protection, Department of Health</p>	<p>I started the Master of Public Health programme (MPH) in September 2001, determined to pursue a public health career. One year after I started the programme, I was given the opportunity to transfer from clinical work to field epidemiology. I was working in the New Territories West Regional Office of the Department of Health from 2002 to 2004. The SARS epidemic struck Hong Kong in the second year of my MPH programme. The stress of combating the SARS outbreak and holding on to my regular studies was almost unbearable. Nevertheless, I was resolved to complete the programme without delay. I graduated in June 2003 and I treasure the experience. The MPH programme also gave me solid foundations in passing the Diplomate Membership examination of the Faculty of Public Health, UK.</p>
 <p>Dr. Louis CHAN <i>Graduate of the Master of Public Health programme</i> Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Adjunct Assistant Professor, The Chinese University of Hong Kong</p>	<p>This Master's degree brought me to a new horizon of learning experience. I was enriched with knowledge in public health, health economics, and management in health care, to which I had little exposure prior to my studies. This course widened my perspective as a health care professional and enabled subsequent development along my career pathway.</p>
 <p>Ms. Georgina HO <i>Graduate of the Master of Public Health programme</i> Chief Nursing Officer, Public Health Nursing Division, Department of Health</p>	<p>The MPH programme offered a wide range of courses that equipped me with extremely useful and up-to-date professional knowledge and skills. They have greatly enhanced my competence and confidence as a nursing researcher and administrator. The courses that gave me the most benefit were Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Health Economics, Management for Health Professionals, and Health Care Systems. Although it was not at all easy to attend lectures, complete all the assignments, and sit for examinations after my heavy workload during the day, I truly enjoyed my studies. All the professors are very knowledgeable, helpful, and understanding, while classmates from different health care disciplines – including doctors, nurses, dentists, and dieticians – offered one another mutual support. Our friendship network has persisted beyond the classroom.</p>
 <p>Mr. Damian SIU <i>Graduate of the Master of Public Health programme</i> Instructor, School of Public Health, The Chinese University of Hong Kong</p>	<p>After receiving the Sir Robert Black Trust Fund Postgraduate Scholarship from the HKSAR government, I started the Master of Public Health (MPH) programme in 2004. The wide range of MPH courses not only strengthened my professional skills in research, but also enriched my practical skills in public health. The programme invited numerous distinguished professors and government officers, from here and overseas, to share their views on global public health issues. This broad educational approach facilitated my critical thinking in this field.</p> <p>As an occupational therapist specialising in primary health care, I treasured working with fellow students in many other professions. The variety of our experiences sparked lively discussions as we collaborated on group projects and assignments, sharing our professional knowledge. The synergistic learning atmosphere and our mutual support extended to our daily lives as we formed firm friendships.</p> <p>The MPH programme has also facilitated my career development in epidemiology and occupational hygiene, here at the School of Public Health. I have learned and gained a lot from doing this course.</p>
<p>Dr. K Y YUEN <i>Graduate of the Master of Public Health programme</i> Medical Officer, Department of Health</p>	<p>The Master of Public Health programme was not the easiest course I have ever taken. The two to three lectures and seminars I had to attend every week were extremely exhausting. However, this was to be expected from studying for a Master's qualification part-time, whilst still holding down a full-time job.</p> <p>The MPH programme was, most importantly, a rewarding experience for me. It strengthened my competence and knowledge of public health, which will be of great benefit to my career. The modules were appropriate, practical, and closely related to the latest developments in the field. The lecturers were clear in their presentation of the subject matter, and the guidance they provided to individual students was exceptional. This excellent course was designed not only for students to achieve a recognisable qualification, but also for creating an arena in which the 'cross-pollination' of ideas and experiences can take place, through a network of instructors and students from different professional backgrounds.</p> <p>The course was a challenge that called for determination, discipline, and commitment to see it through to the end. Nevertheless, I recommend the MPH to all those who wish to broaden their horizons, and sharpen their skills and knowledge in public health.</p>