

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH BY COURSEWORK

Course Coordinators:

Dr Catherine Bennett
Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic and
Analytic Epidemiology
School of Population Health
Tel: +61 3 8344 0736
Fax: +61 3 9349 5815
Email: c.bennett@unimelb.edu.au

Course Administration/inquiries:

Academic Programs Office
School of Population Health
Tel: +61 3 8344 9339
Fax: +61 3 8344 0824
Email: sph-gradinfo@unimelb.edu.au

Course information:

The MPH course is designed to build sound skills and expertise in Australian and international public health. More specifically, this course aims to provide graduates with the knowledge and skills necessary to develop, analyse and implement policy, plan and evaluate health services and programs, and understand how research and project work are conducted, within the public health context. The MPH also provides the practical skills needed to design, conduct, analyse and report on research.

Part 1 of this course is offered jointly by the University of Melbourne, and Monash, La Trobe and Deakin universities, which together form the Victorian Consortium of Public Health. The Master of Public Health course is therefore unique, bringing together key expertise from Victoria's four leading universities. Students are exposed to a breadth of disciplines delivered by academic staff with extensive experience and depth of knowledge, but have the opportunity to specialise in the advanced public health training streams offered through the University of Melbourne.

The Master of Public Health aims to build public health capacity via public health education through:

- the provision of a multi-disciplinary Master of Public Health degree by public health specialisation coursework and minor thesis or project
- ensuring that graduates have a broad-based understanding of the determinants of health in populations
- contributing to the development and vigour of the greater public health community
- equipping students with the knowledge and skills necessary to maintain and improve existing health promoting environments
- the training, retraining and up-skilling of health professionals to meet public health workforce needs
- carrying out research to identify public health priorities and generating initiatives for policy and action
- developing strategies to equip graduates to ensure equity in the health system and interventions to promote the health of disadvantaged groups
- developing understanding of health issues and contribute to the improvement of public health research capability worldwide
- instilling in students the rigorous standards required for excellence in research, and
- creating an environment which will attract and retain quality teaching and research staff.

Course Objectives:

On completion of the Master of Public Health, graduates will be able to:

- Identify the scope, role and functions of public health in relation to the health system, other sectors and to society
- Understand health system structures
- Develop a broad understanding of the determinants of, and influences on, the health status of populations
- Identify the political and institutional context of population health
- Be familiar with the legal and ethical bases for public health and health services
- Understand the drivers of health system change including regulatory systems, public health and other health networks, and other institutional and political influences
- Identify the role of cultural, social, and behavioural factors in determining the delivery of public health services
- Critically reflects on own social, cultural and professional standpoint and implications for own public health practice in relation to other social groups
- Understands statistical inference, precision and the principles of hypothesis testing
- Develop skills in data presentation
- Understand the methods of qualitative inquiry
- Understand principles of sampling, bias and confounding as appropriate in qualitative and quantitative inquiry
- Understand the basic principles and concepts of descriptive epidemiology
- Understand the basic methods of analytical epidemiology
- Understand the principles of disease causation including the contribution of the biological, environmental, behavioural, social and cultural determinants of health

- Understand methods and theories in the prevention and control of disease
- Understand the principles of health promotion for an individual, community or organisation
- Identify and apply appropriate methods to interpret evidence for policy, programming, evaluation and management.
- Have the capacity to priorities and develop policy
- Apply the principles and processes of program planning and management
- Apply the principles of health promotion using theory and evidence to develop implement and evaluate health promotion strategies
- Understand the principles of advocacy, lobbying, and capacity building to develop intersectoral public health action
- Be able to develop and adapt approaches to problems that take into account the cultural, physical and socio-economic aspects of gender, social, religious, geographical and ethnic (particularly Aboriginal) health issues
- Have the capacity to develop critical and supportive professional relationships to enable reflexivity in own and others public health practice with diverse social groups.

Study Mode: Most subjects in this course are taught face-to-face in classrooms. However, students can elect to take optional elective subjects that may be offered in alternative mode (see also timetable information and subject descriptions).

Course Structure: See below. The MPH specialisations described here guide students in the subject choices that will best prepare them for a research project in that stream. Some research projects have set pre-requisites. Students can select electives across streams, but should plan their course to gain sufficient depth in their area of specialisation. Subject choices are made under the guidance of the MPH course and stream coordinators.

Mid Year Entry: Yes. Only to local students who meet Entry pathway 1 requirements. International students may be considered on a case by case basis by the Course Coordinator.

CRICOS Code: 020358D

Campus Information: The eight public health consortium subjects are currently taught at the Parkville campus of the University of Melbourne. Prospective students should check the website (<http://www.publichealth.vic.edu.au>) for location updates.

31

COURSE STRUCTURE – Entry Pathways

LOCAL STUDENTS

	Entry Pathway 1	Entry Pathway 2
Applicant Background:	Students who have completed a minimum of two years' work experience in a health related field and have a health related degree or equivalent.	Students who have either a non-health related degree (or equivalent) and a minimum of two years' work experience in a health related field OR a health related degree (or equivalent) with no health related experience.
Subjects in Course:	10 subjects and a research project	14 subjects and a research project
Structure:	4 x 12.5 point Consortium subjects (400 level) 6 x 12.5 point Elective subjects (500 level) 1 x 25 point Research Project (500 level)	4 x 12.5 point Consortium subjects (400 level) 6 x 12.5 point Elective subjects (500 level) 4 x 12.5 point Elective subjects (400/500 level) 1 x 25 point Research Project (500 level)
Duration:	1.5 years full-time / 3 years part-time	2 years full-time / 4 years part-time
Points in Course:	150 points – with minimum of 100 points of Masters (500) level subjects	200 points – with minimum of 100 points of Masters (500) level subjects

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

	Entry Pathway 1	Entry Pathway 2
Applicant Background:	Students who have completed a minimum of two years' work experience in a health related field and have a health related degree or equivalent.	Students who have either a non-health related degree (or equivalent) and a minimum of two years' work experience in a health related field OR a health related degree (or equivalent) with no health related experience.
Subjects in Course:	12 subjects and a research project	14 subjects and a research project
Structure:	4 x 12.5 point Consortium subjects (400 level) 6 x 12.5 point Elective subjects (500 level) 2 x 12.5 point Elective subjects (400/500 level) 1 x 25 point Research Project (500 level)	4 x 12.5 point Consortium subjects (400 level) 6 x 12.5 point Elective subjects (500 level) 4 x 12.5 point Elective subjects (400/500 level) 1 x 25 point Research Project (500 level)
Duration:	2 years full-time / 3 years part-time	2 years full-time / 4 years part-time
Points in Course:	175 points – with minimum of 100 points of Masters (500) level subjects	200 points – with minimum of 100 points of Masters (500) level subjects

Students must complete the requisite number of subjects from each of the following groups of subjects, according to an approved Entry Pathway and course plan.

Subjects available in the MPH are identified in the “Comments” section with subject descriptions. The Comments section of each subject entry also identifies whether it is Consortium, Group 1 or Group 2. Students should choose subjects that form a logical study pathway or specialization that leads to the final research project.

CONSORTIUM SUBJECTS

A Minimum of FOUR Victorian Consortium of Public Health Subjects (400 level)

Including the two CORE subjects 505-101 Statistics and 505-102 Epidemiology

Subject No.	Subject Title	Type	Semester	Points
505-102	Epidemiology	Core	1	12.5
505-101	Statistics	Core	1	12.5
505-111	Principles and Practices of Public Health	Elective	1	12.5
505-113	Public Health Policy	Elective	1	12.5
505-110	Health Promotion	Elective	2	12.5
505-109	Social and Cultural Perspectives in Public Health	Elective	2	12.5
505-112	Environmental Influences on Health	Elective	2	12.5
505-100	Health Economics and Program Evaluation	Elective	2	12.5

GROUP 1 & 2 ELECTIVES

Students can select elective subjects from the range of subjects listed in the handbook. Elective subjects are offered at 400 or 500 levels (as indicated in the subject descriptions). Students must ascertain which subject level they are required to complete and if the subject of interest is offered at that level before making a choice. Students must take at least six 12.5 point elective subjects (75 points) at 500 level, in addition to the research report (25 points), to ensure they complete 100 points at Masters level to meet the University's Masters requirements. Choices must be approved by the MPH course coordinator.

32

Group 1 subjects are generally taught by the School of Population Health and in limited instances by other departments. These subjects are listed in the "Subject Descriptions – Section 1" part of this handbook.

Group 2 subjects are taught by departments external to the School of Population Health either within the University of Melbourne, or at another university. **You may elect to take UP TO TWO Group 2 Elective Subjects.** These subjects are listed in the "Subject Descriptions – Section 2" part of this handbook.

Approval to enrol in Group 2 subjects taught outside the University of Melbourne must be gained from the Course Coordinator via a Complementary Course application form which can be obtained from the School of Population Health office and a form from the other Institution. For further advice regarding the academic level of Group 2 subjects, contact the MPH Administrator or MPH Course Coordinator.

Please note that not all Group 1 and 2 subjects appear in the MPH Course Plans that follow. Students are advised to check the Subject Descriptions – Sections 1 and 2 of this handbook and discuss their possible elective options with their Course/Stream Coordinator before making a final decision.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International Students from Non-English Speaking Backgrounds are encouraged to enrol in the following Group 2 subject (400 level) offered jointly by the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences and the Centre for Communication Skills and English Language Studies:

Subject No.	Subject Title	Type	Semester	Points
175-501	Presenting Academic Discourse	Elective	1 or 2	12.5

RESEARCH PROJECT

The research project is compulsory and allows students to consolidate their MPH studies in a particular discipline(s). Some research projects have pre-requisites and/or recommended subjects to help guide course planning. These subjects are offered in two consecutive semesters i.e. Semester 1 and 2 or 2 and 1. Students must complete **ONE** of the following:

Subject No.	Subject Title	Type	Semester	Points
505-925	Research Project in Epidemiology/Biostatistics	Core	1 & 2 or 2 & 1	25
505-905	Research Project in Health Program Evaluation	Core	1 & 2 or 2 & 1	25
505-906	Research Project in Health Economics	Core	1 & 2 or 2 & 1	25
505-947	Research Project in Women's Health	Core	1 & 2 or 2 & 1	25
505-919	Research Project in Social Health	Core	1 & 2 or 2 & 1	25
505-903	Research Project in International Health	Core	1 & 2 or 2 & 1	25
585-600	Research Project in Primary Health Care	Core	1 & 2 or 2 & 1	25
505-962	Research Project in Harm Reduction	Core	1 & 2	25

Note regarding Research Projects: All students should consult with the MPH coordinator early in their enrolment to identify possible research project topics and supervisors,