

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

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# International Health

## MPH Handbook

## 2015-2016



**Oregon State**  
UNIVERSITY

# **MPH International Health Option**

## **Student Handbook**

**2015-2016**

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Welcome to the College of Public Health and Human Sciences – and the future of health. Built on a strong foundation of public health – biostatistics, epidemiology, social and behavioral sciences, health policy and management, and environmental health sciences – the college takes a holistic approach to disease prevention and health promotion.

### **Our College Vision**

To ensure lifelong health and well-being for every person, every family, every community.

### **Our College Mission**

Inspired by our mission as a leading land-grant university, we create synergy in teaching, research and outreach to develop the next generation of globally minded public health and human sciences professionals. Through interdisciplinary research and innovative curricula, we advance knowledge, policies and practices that improve population health in communities across Oregon and beyond.

### **Our College Values**

We share the values that guide Oregon State University: Accountability, Diversity, Respect, Responsibility and Truth. To these values, we add our dedication to:

- **Health:** We are committed to advancing lifelong health and well-being for all.
- **Care and Compassion:** With compassion and understanding, we commit to caring for ourselves and others.
- **Innovation:** We embrace innovative approaches to addressing challenges and opportunities.
- **Continuous Improvement:** We continually strive toward high standards by optimizing individual and collective strengths.
- **Cooperation and Collaboration:** We promote a collegial learning and work environment that encourages cooperation, collaboration and active participation.

The International Health program prepares students for public health leadership roles in international health, with an emphasis on health development for those in middle- and low-income nations. Courses focus on understanding complex issues, problem solving and developing analytical skills to critically view global health issues in order to promote progressive, comprehensive, sustainable and equitable community ownership of health development. As part of this interdisciplinary program, students acquire wide-ranging knowledge of international health while also developing an individually designed specialization. International Health students have studied topics of interest including maternal and child health, refugee and internally displaced people (IDP) health issues, water and sanitation, gender equity and health, community nutrition and food security, and economic globalization.

**IMPORTANT:** In addition to this handbook, MPH students must reference the MPH Oregon State University Student General Handbook for information pertaining to policies which apply to ALL students.

**GRADUATE SCHOOL:** As an MPH student, you must also follow the guidelines and policies of OSU's Graduate School. You will obtain your program of study form from the Graduate School. Additionally, the Graduate School offers many activities and enrichment opportunities to further your professional development. (<http://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/>)

## **International Health Option Specific Requirements**

### **A. International Health Option Competencies**

Upon satisfactory completion of the MPH in the International Health option, students should be able to:

1. Design and manage health development programs considering health, social, political, cultural, and environmental factors.
2. Work in, and adapt to, any global context for health development.
3. Integrate global, political, economic, and cultural systems knowledge into health development.
4. Manage health development programs in global settings.
5. Develop a disciplinary subspecialty to be applied to international health.
6. Identify culturally sensitive and socio-economically appropriate strategies in health development.
7. Design and manage health development programs in accordance to universally and locally acceptable ethical standard.

## B. Degree Requirements

To complete the MPH degree in the Biostatistics option, students must have a total of at least 60 approved credit hours and successfully complete a final oral exam. These credits include:

- Public Health Core Courses 17
- Required Option Courses 18
- Area of Focus/Electives 18
- Field Experience (Internship) 6

## C. Suggested Course Sequence

Course #	Title	Recommended Sequence	Credits
<b>Public Health Required Core Courses</b>			<b>17</b>
H 512	Intro to Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences	Fall / Yr 1 or 2	3
H 524	Introduction to Biostatistics	Fall / Yr 1 or 2	4
H 525	Principles of Epidemiology	Fall / Yr 1 or 2	4
H 533	Health Systems Organization	Fall / Yr 1 or 2	3
H 571	Principles of Health Behavior	Fall / Yr 1 or 2	3
<b>Option Required Courses</b>			<b>18</b>
H 529	International Health	Fall / Yr 1	3
H 528	Global Health Issues	Winter / Yr 1	3
H 527	Critical Assessment of International Health Programs	Spring / Yr 1	3
<i>International Health students are expected to take the above three courses in sequence: H 529 first, followed by H 528 and H527.</i>			
H511	Community, Culture, and Global Health	Fall / Yr 1 or 2	3
H516	Research Methods for International Health	Winter / Yr 1	3
H519	Displacement, Migration and Global Health	Spring / Yr 1	3
<b>Electives</b>			<b>18</b>
Area of Focus – See below			
<b>Field Experience</b>			<b>6</b>
H510	Field Experience	Yr 2	6
<b>Final Oral Exam</b>			<b>Pass</b>
Final Oral Exam		Spring / Yr 2	

## *Areas of Focus*

Students are required to choose a minimum 18 credit of electives to develop an area of focus within the field of International Health. Students will design an area of focus while working closely with their advisor. Examples of focus areas include:

- Health Behavior (with focus on International Health)
- Health Management & Policy (with focus on International Health)
- Environmental and Occupational Health (with focus on International Health)
- Epidemiology (with focus on International Health)
- Other area of focus that you may develop

### **D. Program of Study**

As a graduate student, you must file a Program of Study with the Graduate School. The program of study is developed under the guidance of the advisor. The form is available online in the Graduate School:

[http://oregonstate.edu/dept/grad\\_school/forms.php](http://oregonstate.edu/dept/grad_school/forms.php).

By the end of your first term, meet with your advisor to discuss your chosen area of focus and plan your elective courses to be taken in subsequent terms. At least 15 weeks before your Final Oral Examination, complete your entire program of study, and have it approved/signed by your advisor and School Co-Director before submitting to the Graduate School.

### **E. Field Experience / Internship (H510)**

The field experience internship is a 200-hour professional internship where knowledge from coursework is applied in a real-world setting. This is your opportunity to apply your existing skills and learn new ones by working within the field of international health.

The MPH Internship Coordinator has a database that contains data on field experience sites utilized by students. The database contains information about different opportunities including: agency background information, contact information, specialty option(s) served, and the number of students placed each year.

The internship planning process is described in details at:

<http://health.oregonstate.edu/internships>

Faith Vawter is the MPH Internship coordinator (Telephone: 541-737-4891 Email: [Faith.Vawter@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Faith.Vawter@oregonstate.edu)). You will work with her and your advisor as you prepare for your internship. When you begin to consider your internship, please meet and discuss with your advisor about your interest, while meet with Faith to explore various internship opportunities. Once you identified potential internship site, please meet with your advisor to develop your internship learning objectives.

### *MPH Program Minimum Standards for Internship*

In addition to meeting the professional experience criteria, all MPH internship experiences must meet the following:

- Preceptor experience: The preceptor may not be program faculty member or advisor. Preceptors must have public health credentials or appropriate health related credentials and experience to provide appropriate mentorship/supervision in your learning experience. All site preceptors and sites will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- Competency-based: The internship must meet option and student-specified competencies. Competencies and scope of the internship scope are pre-approved by advisor and MPH Internship Coordinator. Competency mastery is evaluated by both student and preceptor.
- Community or population focus: The internship experience is a professional experience within a public or private sector organization that can influence workplace, community, or population health (e.g., public health agency, health care delivery, reimbursement, community organizing, health voluntary, population-based research, worksite setting, regulatory agency).
- Duration: Minimum of 200 practice hours (6 credit hours)

### *Type of organization for field experience*

The field experience must be community or population-based, preferably in a foreign nation or in an international or global setting. If the field experience site is domestic, the nature of the tasks must be either international, such as at a NGO headquarters, or address a minority population, such as native American or native Alaskan, or be in an immigrant community. Students may choose from the following types of organizations:

- International supra-governmental organizations (e.g., WHO, UNRWA, UNICEF, World Bank, IMF, WTO, UNICEF, UNISCO, PAHO, etc.)
- NGOs that have programs/projects related to international health development, for example: MAMTA, Swasti, TERWOODE, World's Children, Open Eye Internatinoal, Global Nutrition Empowerment, Mercy Corp, Medical Teams International, International Red Cross, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF, Doctors without Borders), Oxfam, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- Governmental official development agencies (ODA) (e.g., USAID, CIDA, SIDA, JICA, DFID, BMZ, AFD, etc.)
- Academic institutions of health development programs/projects (e.g., USFQ community health projects)
- US, autonomous Native American governments, state, or county governmental agencies that address domestic minority population health issues (e.g., US Indian Health Service, Alaskan Natives health organizations, Oregon Health Division, county health departments, etc.)
- Other nation's governmental agencies responsible for domestic health development, such as the ministry of health in another nation, KIHASA (South Korea), and NHIA (Taiwan)
- NGOs that focus on domestic minority population health development
- Partner agencies/institutions of OSU, such as UNRWA, MAMTA, Swasti, NYMU (Taiwan), National Taiwan University (Taiwan), Fu Jen Catholic University (Taiwan), National Taipei University, Taipei Medical University, National Health Insurance Administration (Taiwan), University of San Francisco de Quito (Ecuador), and University of Gondar (Ethiopia)
- Health-related internships provided through the Division of International Programs
- Other organizations that are approved by the International Health faculty

## **F. Option Minimum Standards for Field Experience**

In addition to meeting the MPH Program Minimum Standards for field experience (internships), students in the International Health option must meet the following requirements:

- The field experience should be done after completion of a minimum of 27 credit hours of graduate course work, including a minimum of 9 credit hours of course work from option core courses that include H 529 and H 528.
- International internships are strongly encouraged. If a student chooses to do her/his internship in domestic field, such an internship should be



focused on minority health, or related to the nature of international health (such as working in the headquarters of an international NGO or ODA).

- Certain international organizations and NGOs may require a longer period of internship in the field. If a student chooses to conduct their internship with such an organization, they must comply with the preceptor's minimum residence requirement. In this case, it is up to the student whether she/he wants to register extra credit hours for the internship, understanding that the maximum number of internship credits allowed on the Program of Study is 12. *Note that regardless of the number of credits (minimum of 6), registration in H 510 for the duration of the actual field experience is required.*

As part of their internship applications, students work with their advisor to:

- Develop appropriate learning objectives for the internship and document them in the internship application,
- Describe how their area of emphasis, internship, and career objectives are connected,
- Demonstrate that the placement is competency-based including opportunities to develop option competencies, and
- Seek placements in public and/or private sector organizations with qualified preceptors in the area of international health.

Students must maintain an ongoing internship/organizational experience journal, submit bi-weekly progress reports, a final summary of their work in the practice setting, and an evaluation of the internship site. These reports must be submitted to the MPH Internship Coordinator. For students who intern in a location without internet access, the bi-weekly progress reports can be submitted upon return to campus.

- In their final oral exam (see Section G), students must describe and evaluate the degree to which they demonstrated their individual and track learning competencies during their practical.

Preceptors must evaluate the degree to which students accomplished the stated individual and option learning competencies, using a Likert-scale instrument provided in the MPH Student General Handbook. This evaluation form must be submitted to the MPH Internship Coordinator.

## **G. Culminating Experience - Final Oral Exam**

Upon completion of all required coursework and the internship experience, all MPH students must schedule a final oral presentation. The student's program of study must be filed with the Graduate School, all required coursework and the internship must be completed before taking the exam. Students must receive approval to take the exam from their academic advisors. All deviations from policy must be approved by the Program Coordinator.

All International Health MPH students are encouraged to attend the oral presentations of their peers.

### *Purpose*

The Graduate School at Oregon State University requires all students in a graduate degree-seeking program to participate in a final oral examination. The purpose of the oral examination is to provide students with an opportunity to integrate their educational experiences and draw from coursework and the internship to respond to substantive, methodological, and theory-based questions. International Health option students are required to formally present their internship project(s) to the committee and public during the final oral examination. In conjunction with the internship, the exam is designed to test the option competencies and to provide the student an opportunity to assess their mastery of the competencies.

### *Committee*

The exam committee will be comprised of three faculty members, including the student's advisor and two additional members who are faculty of the College, one of them should be an International Health faculty member (including courtesy appointment, affiliated faculty member, or adjunct faculty member). Students should discuss the procedure for creating committees with their faculty advisor or the Program Coordinator. If the student's chosen area of focus requires expertise that is outside of the College, one of the committee member can be outside of the College upon approval of the Program Coordinator.

### *Presentation/Oral Exam Format*

Student will give a 35-40 minute oral presentation of their internship project(s) and experience which is open to the public followed by 15 minutes of question and answer by the audience. In the oral presentation, the student will present works accomplished during field experience, how he/she accomplished the internship learning objectives and option competencies through course works and various academic or professional activities.

At the conclusion of the general presentation all visitors will be asked to leave and the oral examination will continue with only the committee members and the student present. Questions will focus on the methodology used by the student in the internship, their program of study, and how their experience relates to the option competencies.

The entire culminating experience will last approximately 2 hours.

### *Assigning Grade*

Students will be assigned a "pass" or "fail" grade. A grade of "pass" means that the student has responded to the exam questions satisfactorily. If the student receives a grade of "fail" on their examination, faculty must provide specific comments, feedback, and suggestions for improvement. Failure of the examination may result in additional coursework, remedial assignments or readings, prior to retaking the examination. Students will be allowed \*one\* retake of the examination, which will follow the same procedures as above. The examination may be retaken no sooner than 10 weeks (one full academic term) after the date of the failed exam.

If the student fails the second oral examination, the student will be terminated from the MPH program.

