

In the Name of God

Section I:

Title: Community Oral Health

Degree: MDPH

Introduction

Community Oral Health was considered as a dental specialty in 1951 and has been established in many of accredited universities around the world for 30 years. Based on the community oral health basics, developed countries especially in Scandinavia, have achieved a great deal of improvements in controlling oral diseases and oral health promotion in their communities.

According to the previous revision of curriculum of Dentistry in Iran in 2000, it was approved that community oral health departments should be included in all Schools of Dentistry. The first PhD joint educational program in community oral health was initiated with the cooperation of World Health Organization (WHO) and Helsinki University, in School of Dentistry of Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences in 2003 to provide university instructors for Community Oral Health departments.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences is the pioneer to set up M.Sc. and MPH programs in Community Oral Health in Iran.

Definition

Community Oral Health (COH) is concerned with the oral health of a population rather than individuals and has been defined as the science and art of preventing oral diseases, promoting oral health and improving the quality of life through the organized efforts of society. The discipline covers a wide range and includes such topics as prevention, management, policy making, planning, implementation and evaluation of dental services in the community. Successful completion of the course leads to Master of Dental Public Health (MDPH) degree.

The Master of Dental Public Health is a professional master's degree allowing students to gain competencies in broad-based areas of Community Oral Health practice.

The Aim of the Course

The aim of this educational program is to train dentists with Master degree in Dental Public Health that are at world standard level in their knowledge, attitude and scientific competencies and can provide high quality oral health management and administration, research activities and also play an active role in oral health policy making.

Mission and Vision

To reduce the burden of oral diseases and to improve oral health of societies based on the managerial, educational and research competencies of the graduates, with special emphasis on prevention. All the graduates will be also able to play an active role in dental education in universities and in research activities in research centers.

MDPH program is designed for students who desire a relatively broad-based education in oral public health. Those graduating from MDPH program are prepared for careers in public oral health policy, administration, education, or community practice as oral health scientists, lecturers, community oral health educators, and oral healthcare analysts. Students looking to practice hands-on in the field of oral public health might best be suited to this broader field of study.

An MDPH program focuses on improving human oral health in populations to prevent oral diseases. Typically, in an MDPH program students will complete a research thesis in form of a capstone project.

General Competencies

Including:

- Communicative competencies: Building a network and developing and maintaining trustful and inspiring relationship with patients and colleagues.
- Helping decision makers and patients to make informed decisions.
- Looking for the different contributions from other disciplines and working with peers and colleagues from other departments and cross-organization.
- Writing and reporting:
- Write in a clear, concise, organized, and convincing manner
- Critical thinking: Identifies rules or principles that explain facts, data, or other information; analyzes information and makes correct inferences or draws accurate conclusions.
- Problem solving
- Professionalism

Specific Competencies and Skills (Special Qualifications)

MDPH graduates have the skills and knowledge to cooperate in solving public health problems by improving the ability to:

Manage oral health programs for population health

Evaluate systems of care that impact oral health

Design surveillance systems to measure oral health status and its determinants

Communicate on oral and public health issues

Lead collaborations on oral and public health issues

Advocate for public oral health policy, legislation, and regulations to protect and promote overall health through improving the public's oral health

Integrate the social determinants of health into dental public health practice

The Terms and Conditions of Admission to the Course

- 1- DDS or BDS (Bachelor's degree in dentistry)
- 2- IELTS (min: 6) or TOEFL (min: 550)
- 3- Entrance interview score 70 or higher (out of 100)

Educational Strategies, Methods and Techniques

One of the main objectives of the educational program is to improve the students' attitudes toward life-long learning and problem solving competencies. To achieve this, modern educational methods such as "problem based learning", student based techniques and active learning will be used and encouraged.

Coursework for an MDPH program has less focus on research. The curriculum includes a study of the five essential areas of dental public health:

Epidemiology

Biostatistics

Public Health Administration and Policy

Oral health promotion and preventive dentistry

Research methodology

Number and Type of Credits and Tables of the Courses

Coursework can be completed in one or two-and-half academic years (depending on whether the student selects a full-time or part-time curriculum).

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The program covers 25 subjects to be selected in two consequent full-time semesters in one academic year.

Ethical Issues

The graduates should,

- Observe the Patient's Bill of Rights when working with patients.
- Strictly observe Bio-safety and Patient Safety Rules* concerning the patients, personnel and workplace.
- Observe the Rulebook for Dress Code.
- Carefully preserve resources and equipment.
- Truly respect faculty members, staff, classmates and other students and work for creating an intimate and respectful atmosphere.
- Observe social and professional ethical considerations in criticism.

* Bio-safety and Patient Safety Rules will be set out by the Educational Department and will be available to the students.

Table of Courses for Master of Dental Public Health (First Semester)						
Code	Course Name	No. of Credits	Educational Duration (hours)			
			Theoretical	Practical	Workshop	Total
1	Public Health	1	17			17
2	Basic Epidemiology	2	34	-	-	34
3	Basic Biostatistics in Dentistry	2	34		-	34
4	Basic Preventive Dentistry	2	34	-	-	34
5	Basic Management	1	17	-	-	17
6	Medical Informatics Systems	1	9	17	-	26
7	Ethics in Dentistry	1	17	-	-	17
8	Psychology and Behavioral Sciences	1	17	-	-	17
9	Health Economics	1	17	-	-	17
10	Thesis 1 (Capstone Project)	1	-	34	-	34
Total		13	196	51	-	247

Table of Courses for Master of Dental Public Health (Second Semester)						
Code	Course Name	No. of Credits	Educational Duration (hours)			
			Theoretical	Practical	Workshop	Total
1	Community Oral Health	1	17			17
2	Advanced Dental Epidemiology	2	34	-	-	34
3	Advanced Biostatistics in Dentistry	1	17		-	17
4	Advanced Preventive Dentistry	1	17	-	-	17
5	Health Education and Promotion	1	17	-	-	17
6	Oral Health Care Systems in Iran and the World	1	17	-	-	17
7	Management of Health Systems	1	17	-	-	17
8	Health Sociology	1	17	-	-	17
9	Clinical Governance	1	17	-	-	17
10	Health Policy-Making	1	17	-	-	17
11	Thesis 2 (Capstone Project)	1	-	34	-	34
Total		12	187	34	-	221

Table of Courses for Master of Dental Public Health

Code	Course Name	No. of Credits	Educational Duration (hours)			
			Theoretical	Practical	Workshop/ Internship	Total
1	Public Health	1	17			17
2	Community Oral Health	1	17			17
3	Basic Epidemiology	2	34	-	-	34
4	Advanced Dental Epidemiology	2	34	-	-	34
5	Basic Biostatistics in Dentistry	2	34		-	34
6	Advanced Biostatistics in Dentistry	1	17		-	17
7	Medical Informatics Systems	1	9	17	-	26
8	Basic Preventive Dentistry	2	34	-	-	34
9	Advanced Preventive Dentistry	1	17	-	-	17
10	Basic Management	1	17	-	-	17
11	Ethics in Dentistry	1	17	-	-	17
12	Health Sociology	1	17	-	-	17
13	Health Economics	1	17	-	-	17
14	Psychology and Behavioral Sciences	1	17	-		17
15	Health Education and Promotion	1	17	-	-	17
16	Oral Health Care Systems in Iran and the World	1	17	-	-	17
17	Management of Health Systems	1	17	-	-	17
18	Clinical Governance	1	17	-	-	17
19	Health Policy-Making	1	17	-	-	17
20	Thesis 1 (Capstone Project)	1	-	34	-	34
21	Thesis 2 (Capstone Project)	1	-	34	-	34
	Total	25	383	85	-	468