

Master of Public Health (M.P.H.)

Total Course Credits

- Core: 22
- Non-core (Elective): 6
- Internship: 2
- Thesis: 4
- Duration: 1.5 years

Program Description

MPH is a professional and interdisciplinary course designed to empower health service providers and its content usually includes the following three main areas:

- Research Methods in the Health System, Epidemiology, Applied Biostatistics
- Topics related to the general functions of the health system, policy-making, management and health economics
- Topics related to the essential functions of public health (Essential Public Health Functions)

The aim of the MPH course is to train individuals who will acquire the necessary knowledge, skills and capabilities in all three of the above areas. And to acquire the ability to make policies, plan and provide specialized services in the fields of public health and monitor and evaluate health programs. On the other hand, due to the high volume and breadth of the above topics, it is not possible to complete all of them in one course and limited time. Therefore, some of the topics are considered as mandatory specialized courses (core), and other topics are considered as elective specialized courses (non-core) in proportion to the different fields and trends of this course.

Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in all medical sciences majors
- Having a general doctorate in the fields of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and veterinary medicine and a master's degree in medical sciences, whose diploma is from a university inside or outside the country and has been approved by the Ministry of Health and Medical Education or the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, as the case may be.
- Note: If graduates have completed postgraduate courses with higher specialization, their entry into this course is not prohibited.
- Having physical and mental health

Expected Competencies at the End of the Program

It is expected that individuals who complete the MPH course will have the knowledge and skills necessary to perform their duties, including duties related to the general and basic functions of the health system and the inherent duties related to the specialized functions of public health, as detailed below. They will also be able to teach others in the aforementioned fields and design and conduct new and applied research needed by the health system.

General Competencies*

The general competencies expected for graduates of this level include:

- Policy analysis and policymaking
- Planning, management, leadership, monitoring and evaluation
- Capacity building, people empowerment, community participation, advocacy and cross-sectoral cooperation

- Providing sufficient and continuous financial resources
- Providing skilled, capable and trained human resources, a strong and efficient information system for monitoring and evaluation, access and use of necessary information, evidence and knowledge, strengthening and helping to establish sustainable and up-to-date laws, explaining roles and accountability at all levels, equity in health and health services, creating an accountable system, designing and conducting new applied research,
- Communication skills - interaction,
- Research and writing scientific articles,
- Critical thinking and problem-solving skills,
- Professionalism

Educational Strategies, Methods and Techniques*

The training in this program is based on a combination of the following methods:

- Task Based Education
- Student and Teacher - Oriented Education
- Problem Based Education
- Community Oriented Education
- Subject Based Education
- Evidence Based Education
- Field Based Education

Teaching Methods and Techniques

In this course, the following teaching methods and techniques will be mainly used:

- Lectures in face-to-face classes with active participation of students
- Various types of intra-group, interdisciplinary, inter-university conferences and seminars
- Small group discussions - Workshops - Journal Club and Book Reading - Case Presentation
- Using simulation techniques and distance learning in terms of
- Internship and internship
- Self-Education, Self-Study
- Other teaching methods and techniques according to needs and educational goals

Student Assessment (Types and Methods)

Student evaluation is done in a formative and summative manner according to the learning objective. In student evaluation, various types of written tests, multiple-choice tests, descriptive tests, simulated scenarios in the economic dimension of the health sector, and oral tests, examination of certificates of practical work in the thesis and applied projects and their results, articles, (various) reports, and attendance at official meetings are used. In addition, in order to evaluate the professional ethics of students, the 360-degree evaluation method is also used. Considering the spread of computers and virtual courses online and offline in the higher education system, electronic tests are also used in student evaluation.

Assessment Frequency

- Intra-group tests are available to the teaching team. Typically, there will end-of-term assessments in each lesson. Continuous assessment is also recommended in practical units.

Ethical Considerations

*Note: The related document(s) can be found at <http://hcmep.behdasht.gov.ir/>

Table of the Courses

Table 1. Core courses

Code	Title	Theoretical		Practical		Internship		Total		Prerequisite or Concurrent Courses
		Credit	Teaching hours	Credit	Teaching hours	Credit	Teaching hours	Credit	Teaching hours	
01	Medical Information Systems	0.5	9	0.5	17	-	-	1	26	-
02	Principles of Epidemiology and Research Methods	2	34	1	34	-	-	3	68	-
03	Qualitative Research Method	0.5	9	0.5	17	-	-	1	26	-
04	Applied Biostatistics	2	34	-	-	-	-	2	34	-
05	Environmental Health	2	34	-	-	-	-	2	34	-
06	Occupational Health	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	17	-
07	Health Systems and International Organizations in this Field	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	17	-
08	Health Economics	2	34	-	-	-	-	2	34	-
09	Management and Strategic Planning in the Health System	2	34	-	-	-	-	2	34	-
10	Health promotion and health education	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	17	-
11	Sociology of Health and Social Determinants of Health	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	17	-
12	Demographics	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	17	-
13	Management of Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases	2	34	-	-	-	-	2	34	-
14	Health in Disasters and Emergencies	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	17	02
15	Spiritual Health and Ethics in Public Health	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	17	-
16	Internship	-	-	-	-	2	102	2	102	02
	Total									

Table 2. Non-Core courses

Elective courses in the six majors of Family Health, Disease Control, Health System Management, Oral Health, Occupational health, and Mental Health will be offered as follows:

1. Elective courses in Family Health

Code	Title	Theoretical		Practical		Internship		Total		Prerequisite or Concurrent Courses
		Credit	Teaching hours	Credit	Teaching hours	Credit	Teaching hours	Credit	Teaching hours	
17	Maternal, newborn, child and reproductive health care program	3	51	-	-	-	-	3	51	-
18	Adolescent and Youth Care Program	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	17	-
19	Middle-aged care program	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	17	-
20	Elderly care program	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	17	-
Total		6								

2. Elective courses in Disease Control

Code	Title	Theoretical		Practical		Internship		Total		Prerequisite or Concurrent Courses
		Credit	Teaching hours	Credit	Teaching hours	Credit	Teaching hours	Credit	Teaching hours	
21	Infectious disease care	2	34	-	-	-	-	2	34	02
22	Epidemiology of non-communicable diseases	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	17	-
23	Epidemiological methods for evaluating vaccines and vaccination programs	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	17	02
24	Using computer tools in investigating epidemics	0.5	9	0.5	17	-	-	1	26	02
25	Laboratory studies in the field	0.5	9	0.5	17	-	-	1	26	02
Total		6								

3. Elective courses in Health System Management

Code	Title	Theoretical		Practical		Internship		Total		Prerequisite or Concurrent Courses
		Credit	Teaching hours	Credit	Teaching hours	Credit	Teaching hours	Credit	Teaching hours	
26	Policymaking and policy analysis in the health system	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	17	-
27	Health insurance financing and economics	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	17	-
28	Reforms in the health system	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	17	-
29	Economic evaluation of health care programs	2	34	-	-	-	-	2	34	-
30	Control, monitoring and evaluation in health	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	17	-
Total		6								

4. Elective courses in Oral Health

Code	Title	Theoretical	Practical	Internship	Total	
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		Credit	Teaching hours	Credit	Teaching hours	Credit	Teaching hours	Credit	Teaching hours	Prerequisite or Concurrent Courses
31	Oral health of mothers and children	2	34	-	-	-	-	2	34	-
32	Oral health of adolescents and young people	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	17	-
33	Oral health of middle-aged people	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	17	-
34	Oral and dental health of the elderly	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	17	-
35	Oral health management	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	17	-
Total		6								

5. Elective courses in Occupational Health

Code	Title	Theoretical		Practical		Internship		Total		Prerequisite or Concurrent Courses
		Credit	Teaching hours	Credit	Teaching hours	Credit	Teaching hours	Credit	Teaching hours	
36	Occupational disease management and toxicology	2	34	-	-	-	-	2	34	-
37	Harmful factors in the workplace (physical, chemical, biological)	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	17	-
38	Occupational ergonomics	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	17	-
39	Crisis management in disasters and accidents in the workplace	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	17	-
40	Occupational health management and familiarity with relevant regulations in implementation	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	17	-
Total		6								

6. Elective courses in Mental Health

Code	Title	Theoretical		Practical		Internship		Total		Prerequisite or Concurrent Courses
		Credit	Teaching hours	Credit	Teaching hours	Credit	Teaching hours	Credit	Teaching hours	
41	Epidemiology and management of mental health disorders in the country	2	34	-	-	-	-	2	34	-
42	Drug use disorder prevention, treatment, and harm reduction programs	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	17	-
43	Domestic violence prevention programs	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	17	-
44	Principles and generalities of monitoring and evaluating programs in the field of psychosocial health and addiction	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	17	-

45	General principles and services in the field of psychosocial health and addiction in the primary health care system	1	17	-	-	-	-	1	17	-
Total		6								