

MPH and MSPH Students: Fulfilling the Core Public Health Curriculum Requirements

(Approved by APC 8.10.18)

Students in all Gillings MPH and MSPH degree programs must demonstrate achievement of foundational public health knowledge learning objectives and the ability to perform foundational public health competencies. The vast majority of MPH and MSPH students will fulfill this requirement by completing the 12 credit hour integrated core public health curriculum comprised of the following courses:

SPHG 711 Analysis (2 credits; Fall)

This introductory course is part of the MPH core curriculum and focuses on the biostatistics and analysis methods commonly found in public health. Students will learn to produce, interpret, and use straight-forward data analyses.

SPHG 712 Methods and Measures (2 credits; Fall)

This course is part of the MPH core curriculum, and introduces epidemiologic concepts and how to describe population patterns of health, inequities, and their determinants.

SPHG 713 Understanding Public Health Issues (2 credits; Fall)

This course is part of the MPH core curriculum and provides students with the skills to identify and describe public health issues in specific contexts.

SPHG 721 Conceptualizing Public Health Solutions (2 credits; Spring)

This course explores how public health practitioners establish priorities for action, with context and community as crucial factors. We examine strategies for addressing public health problems at each level of the social-ecological framework. Builds on first semester MPH core courses.

SPHG 722 Implementing Public Health Solutions (4 credits; Spring)

Students will identify, analyze and prioritize potential public health solutions. In addition, students will learn to adapt evidence-based solutions, engage with stakeholders, and disseminate solutions. Builds on first semester MPH core courses.

In some specific situations, eligible students may fulfill this requirement through other means. Table 1 below describes all the possible ways an MPH or MSPH student may fulfill the core public health curriculum requirements.

Table 1: Options for fulfilling the core public health curriculum requirements for MPH/MSPH students entering Fall 2018 and later

	SPHG 711 Analysis	SPHG 712 Methods & Measures	SPHG 713 Understanding Public Health Issues	SPHG 721 Conceptualizing Public Health Solutions	SPHG 722 Implementing Public Health Solutions
Options completed while enrolled in the MPH/MSPH degree program					
(1) Complete the required MPH core course	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
(2) Complete an approved substitute for a required MPH core course (see below)	Restricted to eligible students	Restricted to eligible students			
Options generally completed before matriculating into the MPH/MSPH degree program					
(3) Demonstrate achievement of relevant learning objectives and competencies through other coursework completed within the past 5 years, e.g. coursework completed at another university, in a different degree program, or not on the list of approved substitutes (see below)	Exemption application required	Exemption application required			
(4) Completed EPID 600 at UNC (with a grade of C or P or better) before matriculating into the MPH/MSPH degree program, but within the past 5 years		Automatic exemption from SPHG 712			
(5) Completed BIOS 600 at UNC (with a grade of C or P or better) before matriculating into the MPH/MSPH degree program, but within the past 5 years	Automatic exemption from SPHG 711				
(6) Earned BSPH degree with a major in Biostatistics from UNC	Automatic exemption from SPHG 711				
(7) Completed the full 600-series graduate-level core curriculum as a BSPH student at UNC within the past 5 years (i.e. BIOS 600, ENVR 600, EPID 600, HBEH 600 and HPM 600 or their approved substitutes)	Automatic exemption from the entire core public health curriculum				
(8) Completed the full 600-series graduate-level core curriculum as part of the core public health certificate at UNC within the past 5 years (i.e. BIOS 600, ENVR 600, EPID 600, HBEH 600, HPM 600 or their approved substitutes)	Automatic exemption from the entire core public health curriculum				

Approved Substitutes

As noted in Table 1 above, eligible students may be able to take an approved substitute for SPHG 711 and/or SPHG 712 in specific circumstances as described below:

For SPHG 711 Analysis (2 credits)

Approved substitute for SPHG 711 MUST be taken no later than the same semester or the semester immediately following enrollment in SPHG 712 Methods and Measures and SPHG 713 Understanding Public Health Issues.

- BIOS 550: Basic principles of probability and statistical inference (4 credits)
Eligible students: MPH/MSPH students entering Fall 2018 in BIOS and EPID; MPH students entering Fall 2019 and later in Data Science and Applied Epidemiology concentrations
- BIOS 545: Principles of experimental analysis (3 credits)
Eligible students: MPH/MSPH students entering Fall 2018 in BIOS and EPID; MPH students entering Fall 2019 and after in Data Science and Applied Epidemiology concentrations
- PUBH 741: Quantitative methods for health care professionals (4 credits)
Eligible students: MPH students entering Fall 2018 in Health Care and Prevention; MPH students entering Fall 2019 and after in Population Health for Clinicians concentration

For SPHG 712 Methods and Measures (2 credits)

Approved substitute for SPHG 712 MUST be taken no later than the same semester as SPHG 713 Understanding Public Health Issues.

- EPID 600: Principles of epidemiology (3 credits)
Eligible students: MPH/MSPH students entering Fall 2018 in BIOS and EPID; MPH students entering Fall 2019 and later in Data Science and Applied Epidemiology concentrations
- EPID 710: Fundamentals of epidemiology (5 credits)
Eligible students: MPH/MSPH students entering Fall 2018 in BIOS and EPID; MPH students entering Fall 2019 and later in Data Science and Applied Epidemiology concentrations
- EPID 711/PUBH 760: Clinical measurement and evaluation (3 credits)
Eligible students: MPH students entering Fall 2018 in Health Care and Prevention; MPH students entering Fall 2019 and after in Population Health for Clinicians concentration

Special Note: In unique and extraordinary academic circumstances, and after consulting with an advisor, a student may submit a petition if he/she wishes to satisfy an MPH core course requirement by taking a course not on the list of approved substitutes above, or for which the student is not listed as eligible. The student must demonstrate in the petition that he/she has achieved the learning objectives and competencies covered and assessed in the required MPH core course.

Please note that the MPH core is an intentional series of interconnected courses where all students are trained and work collaboratively at solving public health problems at the intersection of multiple disciplines. Petitions must be made prior to enrolling in the substitute course and it is important to note that very few such petitions are approved. Decisions will be based on a combination of factors, including

the reason provided by the student for the petition, the appropriateness of substitute course, the student's focus and his/her MPH concentration. A student submitting a petition should continue to register for the required MPH core course until he/she receives written confirmation that his/her petition has been approved.

Applying for an Exemption

As noted in Table 1 above, students may apply for exemption from SPHG 711 and/or SPHG 712. Students must demonstrate in the application that they have achieved the learning objectives and competencies covered in the required core course through other coursework completed in the past five years. Examples may include coursework completed at another university, through a different degree program, or not on the list of approved substitutes. In rare circumstances, coursework completed more than 5 years ago may be considered in combination with demonstration of competencies through professional work experience.

Students may access the exemption application at <https://sph.unc.edu/students/academic-and-policies>

It is important to note that an exemption does not reduce the number of credit hours required for the MPH/MSPH degree. Rather, receiving an exemption generally provides a student with more flexibility to take electives. Students may explore the possibility to transferring in credits to their MPH/MSPH degree by talking with their Student Services Manager. More information regarding transferring course credit is available in the [Graduate School Handbook](#).

UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health
Fulfillment of the core public health curriculum requirements for MPH/MSPH students entering Fall 2018 and later

Name: _____

PID#: _____

Degree Program: MPH MSPH

Department/Concentration: _____

Graduation Date (semester/year): _____

	SPHG 711 Analysis	SPHG 712 Methods & Measures	SPHG 713 Understanding Public Health Issues	SPHG 721 Conceptualizing Public Health Solutions	SPHG 722 Implementing Public Health Solutions
Options completed while enrolled in the MPH/MSPH degree program					
Completed the required MPH core course					
Completed an approved substitute for a required MPH core course Please indicate the course completed and term	Course: Term:	Course: Term:			
Options generally completed before matriculating into the MPH/MSPH degree program					
Demonstrated achievement of relevant learning objectives and competencies through other coursework completed within the past 5 years Must attach approved exemption application(s)					
Completed EPID 600 at UNC (with a grade of C or P or better) before matriculating into the MPH/MSPH degree program, but within the past 5 years					
Completed BIOS 600 at UNC (with a grade of C or P or better) before matriculating into the MPH/MSPH degree program, but within the past 5 years					
Earned BSPH degree with a major in Biostatistics from UNC					
Completed the full 600-series graduate-level core curriculum as a BSPH student at UNC within the past 5 years					
Completed the full 600-series graduate-level core curriculum as part of the core public health certificate at UNC within the past 5 years					

Student Services Personnel: This form must be completed and retained in the student's record/file as part of the graduation check process. Please attach approved exemption application(s), as necessary.

Student Services Signature: _____

Date: _____