

University of South Florida, College of Public Health
Department of Community & Family Health

MSPH: Behavioral Health

The MSPH prepares students for careers oriented toward needs assessment, research and evaluation in community and family health. Graduates are prepared for employment in academic, clinical and other research areas. Each area of specialization and corresponding program of study is developed on an individual basis, guided by the student's interests and areas of expertise in the department. A supervisory committee of three faculty members assists the student in planning appropriate coursework and directing the thesis. This program of study may be especially relevant to students whose future plans include a doctoral degree.

Competencies: In addition to the overall Master of Science in Public Health degree competencies, graduates the a Behavioral Health concentration will:

1. Identify the fundamental principles of the epidemiology of mental and substance use disorders.
2. Specify unique issues in behavioral health programs and disorders for culture, age, and other specific at-risk populations.
3. Demonstrate an in depth understanding of behavioral health advocacy, policy, information systems, & systems change.
4. Critically evaluate and specify a broad range of behavioral health literature to analyze behavioral health issues and problems.

Research Skills

5. Conduct needs assessments focused on health behavior change and the social impact of planned health programs.
6. Use qualitative and quantitative research methods for studying the impact of psychological, interpersonal, social structural, cultural and biological factors in the etiology and social consequences of public health problems.
7. Carry out, with faculty supervision, all phases of the research process, including project design, proposal development, data collection, data analysis, and interpretation and writing up of results.
8. Use ethical principles guiding the conduct of research on human subjects.

Practical Applications to Public Health

9. Identify areas in which social and behavioral science expertise can contribute to the design, implementation and evaluation of public health programs.
10. Determine the appropriate level of intervention for different health problems, including individual behavior, family systems, community organization, complex social systems and the social and physical environment.
11. Critically evaluate research and translate it into evidence-based practice and public policy.

Association between courses and the competencies for
MSPH with a Behavioral Health Concentration

Courses	Competencies										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Required specialization courses (12 credits)											
Each area of specialization and corresponding courses are developed on an individual basis, guided by the student's interests and areas of expertise in the department. A supervisory committee of three faculty members assists the student in planning appropriate coursework and directing the thesis.	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√
Research Methods Courses (9 credits)											
PHC 6051 Biostatistics II						√	√	√			
Two additional research courses related to the student's specialization area.		√			√	√	√	√			
Suggested Support courses (8 credits)											
SYA 6204 Social problems, identity, and community	√		√	√	√				√	√	
ANG 6469 Selected topics in medical anthropology			√			√					
PHC 6536 Population and community health			√	√						√	
PHC 6411 Introduction to social marketing for public health							√			√	
PHC 6708 Evaluation methods in community health							√		√		√

Courses	Behavioral Health Concentration Competencies										
	1	2	3	4							
Required specialization courses (12 credits)											
Each area of specialization and corresponding courses are developed on an individual basis, guided by the student's interests and areas of expertise in the department. A supervisory committee of three faculty members assists the student in planning appropriate coursework and directing the thesis.											

Courses	Community and Family Health Competencies										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

Research Methods Courses (9 credits)											
PHC 6051 Biostatistics II						√	√	√			
Two additional research courses related to the student's specialization area.		√			√	√	√	√			
Suggested Support courses (8 credits)											
SYA 6204 Social problems, identity, and community	√		√	√	√				√	√	
ANG 6469 Selected topics in medical anthropology			√			√					
PHC 6536 Population and community health			√	√						√	
PHC 6411 Introduction to social marketing for public health							√			√	
PHC 6708 Evaluation methods in community health							√		√		√

College of Public Health - Program Curriculum Check Sheet					
Name:		Dept:		CFH	
Advisor:		Degree:		MSPH	
Semester/Year Accepted:			Concentration:		
Any grade below a C (C- to F) is required to be retaken. The grade will be included in the student's GPA.					
College Core Courses			Total Needed	9	Grade
PHC	6000	Epidemiology		3	
PHC	6050	Biostatistics I		3	
Select ONE of the following:					
PHC	6102	Principles of Health Policy and Management		3	
PHC	6357	Environmental and Occupational Health		3	
PHC	6410	Social and Behavioral Sciences Applied to Health		3	
Required Specialization Area Courses			Total Needed	12	
Research Methods			Total Needed	9	
PHC	6051	Biostatistics II		3	
Approved Electives			Total Needed	8	
Culminating Experiences			Total Needed	6	
PHC	6971	Thesis		6	
		Comprehensive Exam (no credit, must be enrolled in 2 credit hours)			
Minimum 44 credit hours			Total GPA Hours		GPA
			Total Hours Attempted		
Rev Fall2009					
The College Reserves All Rights to Repeal And/Or Modify					