

Community and Behavioral Health, PhD

Learning Outcomes

Graduates will be able to:

- apply social and behavioral science theories in public health research;
- produce effective scientific writing;
- demonstrate grant-writing skills;
- participate in interdisciplinary research;
- communicate research findings to various audiences, including policy makers and community members;
- design a research study that incorporates knowledge of pertinent cultural, social, behavioral, and biological factors;
- design a theory-informed, community-based intervention research project;
- design an implementation and evaluation plan for a theory-informed, community-based intervention;
- formulate focused research questions to address gaps in community and behavioral health knowledge;
- evaluate social and behavioral science research design, methodology, and analysis related to public health; and
- evaluate how structural bias, social inequities, and racism undermine health and create challenges to achieving health equity at organizational, community, and societal levels.

Requirements

The PhD program in community and behavioral health requires at least 75 s.h. of graduate credit, including approved credit earned from a master's degree. Students must maintain a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.00.

Students must successfully complete a qualifying exam, a comprehensive exam, and a dissertation. The research topic must be approved by a student's dissertation committee.

During the first semester, students work with their academic advisor to develop a plan of study that satisfies their interests and professional goals as well as the program's requirements.

College of Public Health Core

Students complete the following (13 s.h.).

Course #	Title	Hours
CBH:4105	Introduction to Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	3
CBH:7100	Community and Behavioral Health Doctoral Seminar	1
BIOS:4120	Introduction to Biostatistics	3
CPH:6100	Essentials of Public Health	2
CPH:7270	Principles of Scholarly Integrity: Public Health	1
EPID:4400	Epidemiology I: Principles	3

Behavioral and Social Sciences Core

Students complete the following (21 s.h.).

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
CBH:5220	Health Behavior and Health Education	3
CBH:5235	Community-Based Participatory Research	3
CBH:6205	Designing and Implementing Interventions	3
CBH:6220	Health Communication Campaigns	3
CBH:6230	Health Equity, Disparities, and Social Justice	3
CBH:7200	Advanced Intervention Research	3
CBH:7300	Advanced Behavioral Theories	3

Research Methods Core

Students complete the following (15 s.h.).

Course #	Title	Hours
Both of these:		
CBH:5305	Evaluation: Approaches and Applications	3
CBH:5310	Qualitative Research for Public Health	3
9 s.h. from these:		
CBH:6115	Ethnographic Field Methods	3
CBH:6335	Research Methods in Community and Behavioral Health	3
BIOS:5120	Regression Modeling and ANOVA in the Health Sciences	3
BIOS:5130	Applied Categorical Data Analysis	3
EPLS:6209	Survey Research and Design	3
EPLS:6370	Quantitative Methods for Policy Analysis	3
HMP:7940	Primary Data and Mixed Methods	3
PSQF:6243	Intermediate Statistical Methods	3
PSQF:6244	Correlation and Regression	4
PSQF:6249	Factor Analysis and Structural Equation Models	3
PSQF:6252	Introduction to Multivariate Statistical Methods	3
PSQF:7375	Topics in Educational Measurement and Statistics	1-3
SOC:5160	Research Design and Methods	3
SOC:6170	Introduction to Sociological Data Analysis	3
SOC:6180	Linear Models in Sociological Research	3

SOC:7170	Advanced Statistical Modeling of Data	3
SOC:7180	Structural Equation Modeling	3

Content Area Electives

Students complete 14 s.h. of elective coursework in consultation with their advisor. The following is a list of suggested coursework; however, other courses may be approved with consent of the advisor.

Course #	Title	Hours
CBH:4140	Feminist Activism and Global Health	3
CBH:5350	Foundations of Maternal and Child Health	3
CBH:5435	Substance Abuse Prevention and Early Intervention	3
CBH:5440	Prevention and Early Intervention of Mental Health Disorders	3
CBH:6405	Global Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health	3
CBH:6410	Special Topics	arr.
CBH:6415	Independent Study in Community and Behavioral Health	arr.
GEOG:4150	Health and Environment: GIS Applications	3
HMP:5005	Introduction to Healthcare Organization and Policy	3
HMP:7940	Primary Data and Mixed Methods	3
HMP:7950	Design Issues in Health Service Research	3
HMP:7960	Analytic Issues in Health Services Research I	3
HMP:7965	Analytic Issues in Health Services Research II	3

Dissertation

Students complete 12 s.h. in the following.

Course #	Title	Hours
CBH:7505	CBH Thesis/Dissertation	12

Admission

PhD applicants must apply through the Schools of Public Health Application Service (SOPHAS). Applications must include academic transcripts, three letters of recommendation, statement of purpose, and a writing sample. International transcripts should be evaluated by the World Education Service (WES) and submitted to SOPHAS. For detailed application information, visit How to Apply to the PhD in Community and Behavioral Health on the Department of Community and Behavioral Health website.

The community and behavioral health admission committee considers several factors when evaluating applications for admission, including grade-point averages, letters of recommendation, intent, and motivation for graduate study, and research interests. Students with deficiencies in one area may be admitted if all other components of their application are very strong.

Applicants must have a graduate grade-point average of at least 3.40 and have earned a graduate degree from an accredited college or university in a related public health, social science, or clinical health field. Applicants who do not hold a graduate degree should apply to a master's program prior to application for the PhD program. PhD program applicants also must submit their master's thesis, or if no thesis is available, a sample of their scholarly writing.

Applicants whose first language is not English must submit official test scores to verify English proficiency. Applicants can verify English proficiency by submitting official test scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or DuoLingo. An acceptable TOEFL score is a minimum of 600 (250 computer-based test or 100 internet-based test), a minimum IELTS score of 7.0 (with no subscore lower than 6.0) or a DuoLingo score over 105. Automatic waivers of this requirement are granted for persons who have, or will have, completed a bachelor's degree or more advanced degree at an accredited university in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada (excluding French Quebec), Africa (English speaking), Australia, or New Zealand.

Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations on the Graduate College website.

The application deadline is Jan. 15 for the fall semester. Applications are not accepted for spring or summer semesters.

Financial Support

The graduate program coordinator and advisor works with admitted students to explore funding opportunities. A limited number of teaching and research assistantships are available. Assistantships offer financial support and tuition assessed at the resident tuition rate along with a tuition scholarship. They also provide valuable on the job training experience.

For more information on financing education through jobs, grants, and loans, contact the university's Office of Student Financial Aid.

Career Advancement

The program prepares individuals for academic, research, and policy-making work in the social and behavioral health sciences. This academic specialty offers many career opportunities in academic and research institutions.

Academic Plans

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

Community and Behavioral Health, PhD

Course	Title	Hours
--------	-------	-------

Academic Career

Any Semester

75 s.h. must be graduate level coursework; graduate transfer credits allowed upon approval. More information is included in the General Catalog and on department website.^a

Hours	0
-------	---

First Year

Fall

CBH:7100	Community and Behavioral Health Doctoral Seminar	1
CPH:6100	Essentials of Public Health	2
CBH:5220	Health Behavior and Health Education	3
EPID:4400	Epidemiology I: Principles	3
BIOS:4120	Introduction to Biostatistics	3
CPH:7270	Principles of Scholarly Integrity: Public Health	0
Hours		12

Spring

CBH:4105	Introduction to Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	3
CBH:6230	Health Equity, Disparities, and Social Justice	3
CBH:5235	Community-Based Participatory Research	3
CPH:7270	Principles of Scholarly Integrity: Public Health	1
Content Area Elective ^b		3
Hours		13

Second Year

Fall

Qualifying Exam ^c		
CBH:5305	Evaluation: Approaches and Applications	3
CBH:6205	Designing and Implementing Interventions	3
CBH:7300	Advanced Behavioral Theories	3
Content Area Elective ^b		3
Hours		12

Spring

CBH:7200	Advanced Intervention Research	3
CBH:5310	Qualitative Research for Public Health	3
Research Methods Core course ^d		3
Content Area Elective ^b		3
Hours		12

Third Year

Fall

CBH:6220	Health Communication Campaigns	3
Research Methods Core course ^d		3
Content Area Elective ^b		3
Content Area Elective ^b		2
Hours		11

Spring

Research Methods Core course ^d		3
---	--	---

CBH:7505	CBH Thesis/Dissertation	3
Comprehensive Exam ^e		
Hours		6

Fourth Year

Fall

CBH:7505	CBH Thesis/Dissertation	3
Hours		3

Spring

CBH:7505	CBH Thesis/Dissertation	3
Hours		3

Fifth Year

Fall

CBH:7505	CBH Thesis/Dissertation	3
Final Exam ^f		
Hours		3

Total Hours		75
--------------------	--	-----------

a Students must complete specific requirements in the University of Iowa Graduate College after program admission. Refer to the Graduate College website and the Manual of Rules and Regulations for more information.

b See General Catalog and website for list of suggested courses and specifics; work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate coursework and sequence.

c Taken at the end of first year second semester if entering with a relevant master's degree; taken at the end of second year first semester if entering without a relevant master's degree or enrolled part-time. See General Catalog and website for specifics.

d See General Catalog and website for list of approved methods courses; work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate coursework and sequence.

e Usually completed after most required coursework has been completed; see General Catalog and website for specifics.

f Oral dissertation defense.