# 42.5 CREDIT MASTER OF SCIENCE PROGRAM (SM1) | SBS

**Faculty Liaison: Professor Alan Geller**

[**Introduction**](#MS1INTRO_INDEX)

The 42.5-credit SM program (SM1) is intended to prepare students for research careers in public and private agencies. Students in the SM1 program are usually established practitioners or investigators holding prior masters or doctoral degrees in the social/behavioral sciences, health care, or a public health field.

Because of the diverse backgrounds and needs of those entering this program, the requirements are kept to a minimum, allowing flexibility to design a program to best meet each student’s academic needs and career plan. SM1 students should identify an area of specialization around which their program coursework and research are planned.

## Competencies

*At the end of the program students will be able to:*

1. Synthesize and integrate a specialized body of knowledge or research skills in one or more areas of social and behavioral sciences (e.g., social determinants of health, intervention research, social epidemiology, health inequities and disparities, maternal and child health, women’s health and gender analysis, health communications and social marketing, psychosocial environments, or health behavior) based on advanced course work and independent research study.
2. Identify and apply appropriate quantitative and qualitative methods to the analysis of public health problems and issues with a particular emphasis on the chosen area(s) of specialization.
3. Explain the principles of ethics in research and interventions.

## [Requirements](#MS1REQS_INDEX)

Over a one-year period, students in this program accrue 42.5 credits (30 credits must be ordinal). Students must fulfill the school-wide requirements, earn17.5 ordinal credits in departmental courses and register for a 5-credit pass/fail independent study to complete the required integrative experience.

When a non-departmental course is approved as a substitute for an SBS course, up to 2.5 credits taken outside SBS may be counted towards the 17.5 SBS credits.

Students should work closely with their advisor to develop a study plan within the Fall 1 term to meet their particular academic and career goals. Because this program is quite short, students should focus their work in a specific content skill, or research area.

**Harvard T.H. Chan School School-wide Requirements and Courses**:

The Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health School requires each student, regardless of degree program, to complete 5 units of course work in biostatistics and 2.5 units of course work in epidemiology.

**Biostatistics:**

* BST 201, Introduction to Statistical Methods , 5 credits

**Epidemiology:**

* EPI 201, Introduction to Epidemiology, Methods I, 2.5 credits

*(must be taken in sequence with EPI 202, Epidemiologic Methods II: Elements of Epidemiologic Research* – see note below)

**SBS Requirements and courses**

The department requires that SM 42.5 students complete 17.5 ordinal credits of department courses **and** a 5-credit pass/fail independent study with their primary advisor. Specific course requirements are outlined below:

* **EPI 202** Epidemiologic Methods II: Elements of Epidemiologic Research, 2.5 ORDINAL credits
* **SBS 201**, Society and Health,2.5 ORDINAL credits
* **SBS 281**, Methods for Research on Social and Behavioral Dimensions of Public Health, 2.5 ORDINAL credits
* **SBS 506**, An Intro to History, Politics, & Public Health: Theories of Disease Distr. & Health Inequities, 2.5 ORDINAL credits
* **ID 250,** Ethical Basis of the Practice of Public Health, 2.5 ORDINAL credits
* **Additional 5 ORDINAL credits** in SBS courses to accrue the required 17.5 ORDINAL SBS credits.
* **SBS 300**, Independent Study with primary advisor in final semester as the Integrative Experience, 5 Pass/Fail credits.

SBS students traditionally choose from an array of courses in the various departments of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health as well as in the Graduate School of Education, the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and the Graduate School of Arts and Science. These courses at other graduate schools include qualitative research, program evaluation, policy, management, and intermediate and advanced courses in biostatistics and epidemiology. Travel time must be planned into the schedule.

**Integrative Experience**

All SM1 students must enroll in a 5-credit independent study with their primary advisor in the final semester of study. The student meets with their advisor weekly to develop and write a research paper in one or more areas of social and behavioral sciences for publication. Developing the research paper provides students with the following competencies: 1. the ability to formulate an original hypothesis, 2. to identify a data-set and design a study, 3. to go through the IRB review process, 4. to execute data analysis, 5. to prepare a manuscript, and 6. to experience the publication process. The target length for the research paper is 8,000–10,000 words but varies based on the publication. If the paper is published in a peer-reviewed journal that is the ultimate indication that the student has succeeded in their project. If the paper is still under review when they graduate, they will be assessed by meeting the six research competencies noted above.

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**

**SM1 TRACKING SHEET**

1. **HARVARD CHAN SCHOOL-WIDE REQUIREMENTS**

BIOSTATISTICS**:** [5.0 total ORDINAL credits]

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Biostatistics [5 ordinal credits] | Completed | Grade earned (or expected enrollment date) |
| BST 201 (Introduction to Statistical Methods) [5.0 credits] |  |  |
| Other: |  |  |
| If Waived attach approved waiver |  |  |

EPIDEMIOLOGY**:** [2.5 ORDINAL credits]

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Intro Epidemiology [2.5 ordinal credits] | Completed | Grade earned (or expected enrollment date) |
| EPI 201 (Epidemiologic Methods I) [2.5 ORDINAL credits] (Must be taken in sequence with EPI 202.) |  |  |
| Other: |  |  |
| If Waived attach approved waiver |  |  |

1. **SBS COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

All Students in the SM1 program take the required SBS courses and accumulate a total of 17.5 SBS credits.

Note: The required 17.5 credits will be accrued through a combination of the 12.5 credits of specifically required SBS courses and additional selected SBS courses of interest. All of the required credits MUST be for ordinal grades.

SPECIFIC REQUIRED SBS COURSES: [10 ORDINAL credits]

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Completed | Grade earned (or expected enrollment date) |
| EPI 202 (Epidemiologic Methods II) [2.5 Ordinal credits) |  |  |
| SBS 201 (Society & Health) [2.5 ORDINAL credits] |  |  |
| SBS 281 (Methods for Research on Social and Behavioral Dimensions of Public Health [2.5 ORDINAL credits] |  |  |
| SBS 506 (An Intro to History, Politics, & Public Health: Theories of Disease Distribution. & Health Inequities) [2.5 ORDINAL credits] |  |  |
| If Waived attach approved waiver |  |  |

ETHICS: 2.5 ORDINAL credits]

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Ethics [2.5 ordinal credits] | Completed | Grade earned (or expected enrollment date) |
| ID 250 Ethical Basis of the Practice of Public Health |  |  |
| If Waived attach approved waiver |  |  |
|  |  |  |

1. **ADDITIONAL REQUIRED SBS CREDITS** [5.0 ORDINAL CREDITS]

SBS COURSES [5.0 ORDINAL CREDITS]

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Insert course numbers and titles below | Completed | Number of Credits Earned | Grade earned (or expected enrollment date) |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Note: Students may choose to take independent study or tutorial credits: however, these credits and any other SBS course that are taken as Pass/Fail do not count towards the required number of ordinal credits for SBS. All SBS course requirements MUST be for ordinal grades.

1. **INTEGRATIVE PROJECT** [5 Independent Study credits]

During the final semester of the degree program, students must enroll in a 5-credit independent study with their primary advisor. The independent study will culminate with the production of a research paper which integrates the coursework and research completed during the degree program and demonstrates analytical and research expertise in the chosen area of specialization.

1. **ADDITIONAL COURSE WORK (12.5 credits)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Insert course numbers and titles below | Completed | Number of Credits Earned | Grade earned (or expected enrollment date) |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**F. REVIEW CHECK LIST**

Total number of credits [SM1 requires 42.5 course credits]: \_\_\_\_\_\_

Total number of ordinal credits [SM1 requires 30 minimum course ordinal credits]: \_\_\_\_\_\_

# of credits outside HSPH \_\_\_\_\_\_

Area of Specialization \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Advisor’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date:

You should complete this tracking sheet on an on-going basis and discuss your program during meetings with your advisor. In addition*, you should meet with your advisor before the start of the spring semester to confirm that you have met or are meeting all of the degree requirements*. Any appropriate waivers should be requested at that time. *A completed tracking sheet and any approved waiver forms should be turned into the Academic Affairs staff by Feb 8th*.

Note: Course times and days may change from year to year. Be sure to refer to the courses and schedules sections on [my.harvard](https://my.harvard.edu/).