

HEALTH POLICY FIELD OF STUDY: MPH-65

Students in the Health Policy (HP) field of study develop skills in applying economic, legal, and political analysis to the design, implementation, and evaluation of health care and public health policies. Through the study of biostatistics, epidemiology, and other quantitative disciplines, they also acquire skill in interpreting and evaluating scientific evidence to inform their policy work. Students are encouraged to choose elective courses that will help them develop an area of interest and expertise, such as access to care, health care quality, pharmaceutical policy, injury prevention, or health care financing.

This field of study prepares those early in their careers for policy positions in the public, nonprofit, or private sectors, working with policymakers as policy analysts, advocates, or consultants in public health and health care organizations.

Curriculum

The curriculum for the health policy field of study consists of the required school-wide core courses in public health as well as required courses in economics, U.S. health policy, political analysis and strategy, and analytical methods. Students must also complete an approved practicum and culminating experience project. Students have some credits available for elective courses, which may be taken at the Harvard Chan School or by cross-registering at other Harvard Graduate Schools, MIT, or Tufts Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy.

HEALTH POLICY DEGREE COMPETENCIES: MPH-65

Through coursework and field experiences, students in the Health Policy field of study will develop competencies in four domains: Knowledge of the U.S. Health Care System, Policy Disciplinary Perspectives, Analytical Methods, and Communication.

Upon successful completion of the program, students will be able to:

Knowledge of the U.S. Health Care System

- Assess the health care and public health policy sectors in the U.S. in terms of the major players and their relationships and agendas.
- Define the major public health policy challenges facing the United States and other high income countries.
- Assess how the structure, organization, delivery, and financing of the U.S. health care system affect system performance in terms of efficiency, quality, equity, and effectiveness.
- Analyze the key relationships between the public health and health care systems in the U.S., and how the interaction between the two systems affects population health.
- Compare and contrast the major structural features and performance of the U.S. health care system and the health care systems in other countries, including organization, financing, delivery, and regulation.

Policy Disciplinary Perspectives

- Evaluate policy options to address health policy challenges facing the U.S., including economic, legal, and political implications.
- Recommend a course of action for addressing a health policy challenge, including the likely impact on efficiency, quality, effectiveness, costs, and equity.
- Design an effective political strategy to achieve a desired health policy outcome.

SECTION 2: MPH-65 Health Policy – Field of Study Requirements (32.5 credits)

MPH-65 Health Policy students must complete the following field of study-specific requirements:

1. Knowledge of the U.S. Health Care System

HPM 210 [1st year; Fall 1] United States Health Policy 2.5

2. Policy Disciplinary Perspectives

HPM 206 [1st year; Fall]* Economic Analysis 5.0

and

HPM 247 [Spring] Political Analysis and Strategy for U.S. Health Policy 5.0

and

(Select one of the approved options below):

HPM 211 [Fall 2] The Health Care Safety Net and Vulnerable Populations 2.5

or

HPM 213 [Spring 2] Public Health Law 2.5

or

HPM 520 [Fall 2] Organizing Consumer and Community Interests in the Health System 2.5

or

HPM 544 [Spring 2] The Law and Clinical Medicine 1.25

*Fulfills Health Services Administration core requirement

3. Analytical Methods

HPM 543 [Spring 2] Quantitative Methods in Program Evaluation 2.5

or

RDS 280 [Fall 2] Decision Analysis for Health and Medical Practices 2.5

and

One additional analytical methods course (at least 2.5 credits) from the list of approved options below*:

Any RDS course (RDS 280, 282, 284, 285)

Any intermediate or advanced biostatistics or epidemiology course offered at Harvard Chan

GHP 525 [Fall] Econometrics for Health Policy 5.0

HPM 242 [Spring 1] Data Analysis for Professionals 2.5

SBS 281 [Fall 2] Principles of Social and Behavioral Research 2.5

HGSE EDU S052 [Spring] Applied Data Analysis

*Other analytical methods courses can be approved to satisfy this requirement with the permission of the Health Policy field of study leaders (for MPH-65 HP: Nancy Turnbull).

4. Leadership

2.5 credits from the list below or other approved option.*

HPM 245 [Winter] Public Health Leadership Skills 2.5

HPM 252 [Spring 2] Negotiation 2.5

HPM 539 [Spring 2] Health Care Organizations & Organizational Behavior 2.5

HPM 554 [Spring 1] Leadership in Public Health: From Theory to Action 2.5

*Other leadership courses can be approved to satisfy this requirement with the permission of the Health Policy field of study leaders (for MPH-65 HP: Nancy Turnbull).

5. Depth in Specific Policy Area of Interest

MPH-65 HP students also are required to take 5 credits of focused coursework in order to gain depth in a specific policy issue, population group, or a policy discipline. See list below.

6. Practice and Culminating Experience

HPM 290 [Spring] and [2 nd year; Fall]	Practice & Culminating Experience for Health Policy	5.0
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HPM 290 is the practice and culminating experience for the health policy field of study. Students are required to complete a project with an outside organization or agency and attend various class sessions. The objectives of the course are to help students to integrate, synthesize, and apply the knowledge and skills from their coursework to a real world public health problem or issue, explore a substantive public health topic that is of interest to them, enhance the competencies and skills students need to function in a professional public health setting, and engage in professional self-assessment and critical reflection.

Policy Areas of Interest

MPH-65 HP students also are required to take 5 credits of focused coursework in order to gain depth in a specific policy issue, population, or discipline. Some areas of interest and related courses are listed below:*

Decision Sciences

RDS 282 [Spring 2]	Economic Evaluation of Health Policy and Program Mgmt.	2.5
RDS 284 [Fall]	Decision Theory	5.0
RDS 285 [Spring 1]	Decision Analysis Methods in Public Health and Medicine	2.5

Global Health Policy

GHP 244 [Fall 2]*	Health Sector Reform: A Worldwide Perspective	2.5
GHP 269 [Spring 2]*	The Political Economy of Global Health	2.5
GHP 272 [Fall]*	Foundations of Global Health and Population	5.0
ID 552 [Fall 2]*	Innovation and Global Health Systems	2.5

(*Space is limited)

Health Care Payment and Financing

HPM 235 [Fall 2]	Managing Health Care Costs	2.5
HPM 255 [Spring 2]	Payment Systems in Health Care	2.5

Health Economics

HPM 227 [Fall]	The Economics of Health Policy	5.0
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Mental Health

EPI 217 [Fall 1]	Epidemiology of Adult Psychiatric Disorders	2.5
SBS 219 [Spring 2]	High-Risk Behavior: Epidemiology and Prevention Strategies	2.5
SBS 504 [Fall 1]	Substance Abuse and Public Health	2.5
WGH 210 [Fall 2]	Women, Gender, and Health: Critical Issues in Mental Health	1.25
WGH 304 [Fall 2]**	Issues in Mental Health – Independent Study	1.25

(**Also requires enrollment in WGH 210)

Quality and Patient Safety

EPI 209 [Winter]	Epidemiologic Methods for Patient Safety and Quality	1.25
HPM 516 [Spring 2]	Health Care Quality and Safety	2.5
HPM TBD [Spring 2]	Methods and Tools for Quality Improvement	2.5
SBS 505 [Spring 2]	Quality Improvement and Child Health	2.5

Vulnerable Populations and Disparities

HPM 211 [Fall 2]	The Health Care Safety Net and Vulnerable Populations	2.5
HPM 520 [Fall 2]	Organizing Consumer and Community Interests in the Health System	2.5
SBS 207 [Spring 1]	Race, Ethnicity, and Health	2.5
SBS 513 [Spring 2]	Measuring and Reporting Health Disparities	2.5
SBS 514 [Spring 2]	Reducing Socioeconomic & Racial/Ethnic Inequalities in Health: Concepts, Models, Effective Strategies	2.5

Women, Children, and Families

SBS 246 [Spring 1]	Issues in Maternal and Child Health Programs and Policies	2.5
WGH 207 [Spring 2]	Advanced Topics in Women, Gender, and Health	1.25
WGH 250 [Winter]	Embodying Gender: Public Health, Biology, and the Body Politic	2.5

*Other related courses for the areas of interest noted above and other areas of interest and can be approved with the permission of the Health Policy field of study leaders (for MPH-65 HP: Nancy Turnbull).

SECTION 3: Electives (17.5 – 20 credits)

Students are free to choose electives from the previous list of courses or from other elective courses at the Harvard Chan School. Students also have the additional option of cross-registering for graduate-level courses at other Harvard Graduate Schools, MIT, or Tufts Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy.

MPH-65 Health Policy Degree Requirements

MPH Program-Wide Public Health Core Requirements	<u>Credits</u>
Biostatistics & Epidemiology	7.5
Other Public Health Core*	<u>5 – 7.5</u>
	12.5 – 15 credits
MPH-65 Health Policy – Field of Study Requirements	
United States Health Policy	2.5
Economic Analysis	5.0
Political Analysis & Strategy	5.0
Policy Disciplinary Perspectives additional course	2.5
Two Analytical Methods courses	5.0
Leadership course	2.5
Electives in Policy Area of Interest	5.0
Practice and Culminating Experience	<u>5.0</u>
	32.5 credits
Electives	17.5 – 20 credits**
Total Requirements	65 credits

*The School is piloting a new 5-credit integrated MPH core course in fall 2016, ID 216, Critical Thinking and Action for Public Health Professionals. Some students will take this new integrated course (see p. 15 for more information). Other students will take the individual public health core courses separately (for MPH-HP, 2.5 credits in Environmental Health, 2.5 credits in Social and Behavioral Sciences, and 2.5 credits in Ethics or completion of the alternative non-credit option – see pp. 9-13). The Health Services Administration core is included in the Health Policy field of study requirements.

****For students who begin their degree program in August 2016 and after:** MPH-65 students will be assessed a flat tuition charge per semester based on degree program and full- or part-time status that will include all registration for that semester. Students may elect to complete additional credits beyond the required 65, but must use them during their enrollment in the MPH degree program and may not use the additional credits to extend their expected graduation date.