

# MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH, DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PH.D.)

The MCH Ph.D. curriculum requires 56 graduate credit hours beyond the master's degree public health core (15 credits), including maternal and child health core courses (23 credits), research methods courses (18 credits), research internship (3 credits), and dissertation credits (12 credits).

This program provides interdisciplinary training in research, practice, and policy relevant to health problems and services for women, men, infants, children, adolescents, and their families. The MCH program prepares students to advance research, policy and practice to improve the health, safety, and well-being of these groups, with a particular emphasis on low income and ethnic minority populations. Students admitted full-time to the Ph.D. program post-master's can complete this program within three years, though this is uncommon.

Doctoral students are required to have completed five courses in the Public Health core during their Master's in Public Health (MPH) program and prior to matriculation to the Ph.D. program. These include:

- Biostatistics I
- Introduction to Health Systems
- Health Behavior
- Foundations of Environmental Health
- Foundations of Epidemiology

Knowledge of introductory epidemiologic methods is required for success in the program, including timely progress to degree. MCH students are expected to be well-versed in concepts that are usually presented in introductory classes in epidemiology.

**Advance to Candidacy:** Students in the PhD program advance to candidacy after completing required coursework, including the research internship (FMSC 689), and passing a qualifying examination.

**Post-candidacy:** After advancement to candidacy, students must complete a dissertation proposal and oral defense, followed by doctoral dissertation and oral dissertation defense. In addition, students should complete at least 12 credits of FMSC899 Doctoral Dissertation Research.

FMSC850	Maternal & Child Health Epidemiology	3
FMSC879	Preparing Future Faculty and Professionals Seminar	4
EPIB610	Foundations of Epidemiology	3
EPIB650	Biostatistics I	3
EPIB651	Applied Regression Analysis	3
<b>Dissertation Research Requirements</b>		
Electives approved by Director of Graduate Studies		3
FMSC899	Doctoral Dissertation Research	12
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>56</b>

Course	Title	Credits
Required courses:		
FMSC601	Doctoral Seminar in the Process of Inquiry	1
FMSC606	Ethnic Families and Health Disparities	3
FMSC660	Program Planning and Evaluation in Family Science	3
FMSC689	Research Internship	3
FMSC710	Maternal and Child Health from a Life Course Perspective	3
FMSC720	Study Design in Maternal Child Health Epidemiology	3
or EPIB612	Epidemiologic Study Design	
FMSC740	Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology	3
FMSC750	Family and Health Policy	3
FMSC780	Qualitative Methods in Family and Health Research	3