PHS - Public Health Sciences

Courses numbered 100 to 299 = lower-division; 300 to 499 = upper-division; 500 to 799 = undergraduate/graduate.

PHS 150. Workshop (0.5-3).
Intensive study of topics related to health sciences. Differing topics are denoted by a letter following the course number (i.e., 150C, 150P, etc.).

PHS 322. Introduction to Alternative and Complementary Medicine (3).
A fundamental and basic knowledge of medical therapies that are alternatives to or complementary of traditional Western medicine. Covers naturopathy, traditional Chinese medicine, homeopathy, botanical medicine, massage therapy, chiropractic, etc. Examines research evidence for effectiveness and how these therapeutic approaches may blend with and complement the more traditional clinical approach. Combines didactic presentations with a mix of demonstrations by alternative health care providers, visits by patients, case studies and small group presentations.

PHS 325. Introduction to Epidemiology (3).
Introduction to the science and methodology of disease and risk surveillance in public health. Presents the foundations and structure used to solve medical and environmental health problems in the community with a primary focus on the health status of individual populations and special populations as they relate to health promotion and disease prevention. Includes lecture, film, group analysis, and discussion. Prerequisite: MATH 111 passed with a C- or better.

PHS 327. Introduction to Global Health Issues (3).
Overview of the complex health problems and challenges facing low and middle-income countries which experience the highest rates of global morbidity and mortality. Addresses strategies to improve the health status of these vulnerable populations, to appreciate how social, behavioral, economic and environmental factors influence the health of the population, and to implement techniques to prevent premature death and disability. Course content assists the learner by developing a broad view of global health problems and solutions. Course includes diversity content.

PHS 333. Organizational Behavior and Leadership in Health Organizations (3).
Designed to familiarize students with the classic themes and perspectives from the field of organizational behavior. Emphasizes the application of this material to leadership in health care through lecture, group and individual examination of the literature, analysis of case studies, and personal assessment.

PHS 344. The Role of Culture in Health and Health Care (3).
Uses a case study approach to examine the importance of culture in the way people define, react to, and treat illness, injury and health risks. Culture influences health-seeking behavior by age, ethnicity, education, religion, income and tradition. When major differences exist between a patient's and provider's cultural understanding of illness, a host of adverse outcomes may result. Therefore, this course is also designed to improve student's knowledge of the role of culture in health services by increasing awareness, understanding, tolerance, and appreciation of ethnocultural differences. Students are introduced to concepts of cultural diversity to enhance their development as culturally competent leaders in the health care sector through lecture, discussion, guest presentation and video. Course includes diversity content.

PHS 356. Introduction to Health Administration and Policy (3).
Introduction to the underlying principles, practices and concepts of health services administration both from an individual and organizational perspective. Covers planning, decision making, influencing and effecting change. Emphasis is placed on how health care policy, an organization's external and internal environment, and technology influence organizational strategy, design and function.

PHS 410. Health Communication (3).
Designed to help students discover the vital role that health communication plays, and the factors influencing health communication in various settings. Principles of health communication are explored on many levels including: interpersonal patient, family and provider conversations, the role of technology related to health communication, health organization communication, communicating health data and statistics, risk communication, health promotion messaging and the role of media. Explores the theory, research and skills associated with communicating in these various contexts.

PHS 413. Introduction to Social and Behavioral Aspects of Public Health (3).
Course is based on the assumption that public health is a multi-disciplinary field aimed at reducing preventable morbidity and premature mortality, and promoting a higher quality of life in populations and groups through health intervention. While recognizing that biological, physical and medical care factors contribute to population health outcomes, this course emphasizes the relationship of behaviors as well as social and political structures to health outcomes. Highlights the importance of both local contexts and global practice for understanding and improving health. A social ecological framework forms the conceptual basis of the course, focusing attention on interactions between four levels of factors: individual, interpersonal, community and population. Designed to encourage an appreciation of the wealth of conceptual and methodological approaches in the social and behavioral sciences that can inform public health practice and research.

PHS 416. Introduction to Environmental Health (3).
Introduces students to the importance of the environment to human health by examining the causes and controls of major environmental health problems. Topics are structured around the things individuals and societies do that result in environmental health hazards — including energy production, industry, food production, and the modern lifestyle — as viewed through both a local and global lens. Emphasizes environmental risk factors to susceptible populations and how they translate into public health policy and prevention. Students learn ways to protect and enhance their health, and to influence the quality of the environment. Includes lecture, film, group analysis and reflection.

PHS 428. Health Care Organization (3).
Covers concepts and issues of management, organization, and operations of health care organizations, stressing the unique character of health care delivery organizations. Emphasizes types of health organizations, leadership and managerial roles, organizational structure and dynamics, the external environment, quality assessment and improvement, planning and marketing with a focus on synthesizing resources and capabilities to meet organizational goals.

PHS 475. Health Science Capstone (3).
Designed to familiarize students with the factors influencing successful professionalism in the health care setting. Emphasizes the application of course material to the development of the student's health care career. Course format includes lecture, group and individual examination of the literature, analysis of case studies, interprofessional education, and fieldwork. Prerequisites: health science majors only; must have completed the HS program core courses: HP 408, PHS 325, PHS 344, PHS 356, PHS 410 and PHS 642.

PHS 478. Health Economics (3).
Approaches health economics by following the flow of funds to describe the incentives and organizational structure of the health care...
system in the United States. Examines transactions between patients and providers, the role and results of insurance and government involvement, and some of the history of the U.S. health care system. Also considers national health spending and public health from a macroeconomics perspective.

PHS 481. Cooperative Education (1-8).
Provides the student with a field study that integrates theory with a planned and supervised professional experience designed to complement and enhance the student's academic program. Individualized programs must be formulated in consultation with, and approved by, appropriate faculty sponsors and cooperative education coordinators. Repeatable for credit. Prerequisite: instructor's and cooperative education coordinator's consent.

PHS 485. Health Management Capstone (3).
For students in the last semester of their program of study. Provides an opportunity to develop skills and apply information from across the curriculum to a series of multi-faceted issues and problem-solving situations germane to professional practice in health services management and community development. Students from both program foci assess and evaluate ethical decision-making situations. Students whose course of study has emphasized health services management evaluate issues and concerns which integrate the program core with the knowledge and skills specific to careers in health services management. Students whose course of study has emphasized community development additionally evaluate issues and concerns which integrate the program courses with knowledge and skills specific to a career in health-related community development. Prerequisites: health management majors only; and must have completed the health management core courses: HP 408, PHS 325, PHS 325, PHS 344, PHS 356, PHS 410 and PHS 642.

PHS 490. Independent Study (1-6).
Supervised intensive study of special topics and problems relating to health care delivery. Repeatable for a maximum of 6 credit hours. Prerequisite: program consent.

PHS 495. Health Management Practicum (3).
Enables students to apply skills and knowledge through a supervised field training experience in a health care setting that complements the student's interests and career goals. Enables students to gain practical experience as professionals under conditions conducive to educational development. Students may select, with the consent of the practicum coordinator, an internship in an appropriate health or social service organization. Requires participation in a broad fieldwork component, completion of a focused project component, and a written report of the experience. Repeatable for a maximum of 6 credit hours. Prerequisites: health management majors only who have completed PHS 485, Health Management Capstone, or instructor's consent.

PHS 501. Field Research Health Science (1-3).
Examination of the methods of participant observation, data collection and interview as approaches to understanding issues in health science. Students gain practical experience in these methods through individual fieldwork projects. Repeatable up to 6 credit hours. Prerequisite: instructor's consent or 12 credit hours of public health sciences credit.

PHS 621. Supervisory Management in Health Care Organizations (3).
A study of supervisory management concepts and techniques that apply to health care organizations and programs. Emphasis is on understanding the health care environment and its various health care settings, the identification of issues facing front-line employees, supervisors and mid-level managers, and the development of administrative and leadership skills necessary to successfully lead health care work teams. Identifies, analyzes and solves problems that clinical department heads, supervisors and other health related mid-management personnel encounter in their work. The principles of effective management techniques — planning, decision making, organizing, budgeting, time management, leadership, direction, delegation, communication, motivation, discipline, performance appraisal, management of change, teamwork, effective meetings, working with unions, quality improvement and career development — are covered.

PHS 622. Human Resource Management in Health Care Organizations (3).
Intended for clinical health care professionals who will assume responsibility for managing people in health services organizations. An introduction to the essential theories, components and issues of human resources management in the health care field. Includes, among many other topics, the study of the effectiveness of the human resources management function, employee recruitment, selection, training, performance appraisal, benefits and compensation, employee relations and other relevant legal requirements affecting employment in the health care sector. Covers issues of contemporary relevance for human health services resource departments such as employee health and safety, employee assistance programs, occupational stress and job burnout, use of the Internet in the workplace, violence in the workplace, and work/family issues. Students are required to learn and to demonstrate the ability to analyze human resources problems and to find and present sound solutions. Students are expected to learn and demonstrate effective group working skills as they join small groups and engage in collaboratively solving a number of human resources management problems.

PHS 624. Community Development Methods (3).
Builds on the foundation of public health by examining a variety of advanced methods, theories and skills used for community development. Students familiarize themselves with the approaches used to assess and improve health outcomes in a community context, and familiarize themselves with how to effectively apply these approaches. Includes lecture, group and individual projects, fieldwork and visiting lectures from practicing community development professionals.

PHS 642. Financing Health Care Services (3).
Examines the principles of financial analysis and management used in health care institutions, which are most useful to nonfinancial personnel. Emphasizes understanding and application of general financial concepts crucial to the health setting; considers financial organization, sources of operating revenues, budgeting and cost allocation methods. Uses examples for various types of health service organizations.

PHS 644. Program Planning & Evaluation (3).
Introduces students to the planning, development and evaluation of health programs through the use of lecture, group projects and individual presentations. Students familiarize themselves with a variety of approaches available in the field of program planning. Emphasizes the application of this material to the development of a program plan.

Addresses quality management in health services organizations, with a focus on a systematic approach to meet the Institute of Medicine's aim to provide care that is safe, effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient and equitable. The history and current status of quality management initiatives, as well as the role of quality in organizational strategic management are presented. Students learn the role of quality from theory to application in a broad base of organizational settings.