



Department of Public Health
Master of Public Health Program
Student Handbook

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Welcome Message

Dear Students,

Welcome to the Master of Public Health (MPH) Program at Qatar University. The MPH aims to improve the country's holistic health and wellbeing, reduce the burden of non-communicable disease and injury, and reduce health inequities. This requires public health initiatives utilizing socio-ecological approaches to health promotion, risk reduction, and high quality, evidence-based, effective clinical care.

Program Mission

The mission of the MPH program is to improve health in Qatar by championing a holistic, evidence-based, integrated, and inter-sectoral approach to addressing public health issues. The program will produce qualified graduates capable of translating their knowledge and skills into public health practice at the community and health services levels.

Program Objectives

The goal of the program is to contribute to building the country's public health and health care infrastructure by fulfilling the National Development Strategy goals for a qualified and diversified health workforce. It aims to give students the knowledge base and skill set needed for the effective and ethical practice of public health in line with context-specific needs and international best practices.

Educational Objectives

- To provide students with advanced public health instruction in accordance to local needs and international standards.
- To equip students with the technical and analytical skills needed for identification of health problems and effective design and evaluation of appropriate interventions.
- To equip students with the leadership and inter-personal skills required for successful professional development, including communication skills, cultural competence, and emotional intelligence.

Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the MPH will be able to:

- Analyze the biological, physical, social, economic, and political determinants of a health issue
- Demonstrate knowledge of basic epidemiological designs and statistical methods
- Analyze health care systems and policies
- Design, conduct and disseminate findings from a research or practice development project
- Communicate health information to diverse audiences
- Apply ethical principles in public health practice

- Adopt a multidisciplinary approach in assessing, researching, and responding to public health issues and needs
- Develop the capacity to plan, design, implement, analyze and interpret epidemiological studies (Epidemiology concentration)
- Apply the values, principles, and core competencies of health promotion to practice (Health promotion concentration).

Accreditation and International Standardization

The Public Health Program of Qatar University is an applicant for accreditation by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). The accreditation review will address the MPH with concentrations in Epidemiology and Health Promotion the BSc with concentrations in Health Education and Health Management.

Link: <https://ceph.org/about/org-info/who-we-accredit/applicants/>

Career Opportunities

- Academia: pursuing further graduate work or teaching in educational institutions
- Public health practice, including epidemiology, biostatistics, surveillance and monitoring, health improvement, health care quality, health care safety, health policy analysis, and economic evaluation
- Health research: applied and basic research in research centers and institutions
- Health development sectors: non-governmental organizations and the private sector
- International organizations, such as the WHO, UNICEF, and many other organizations.

Information about the Department

Detailed information about the Department of Public Health can be found at
<http://www.qu.edu.qa/chs/public-health>

Faculty and Staff Directory

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Program Structure

Degree Requirements

The MPH degree requires the completion of 42 credit hours, including core courses, concentration-specific courses, electives, and a research project/thesis. Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.00 to graduate. The program can be completed in two years full time and up to four years part time.

Concentration Descriptions

The Department offers two concentrations in the MPH program: Epidemiology and Health Promotion.

Epidemiology Concentration: Epidemiology focuses on the study of disease patterns, causes, and prevention strategies to inform public health interventions. The outcome is to develop the capacity to plan, design, implement, analyze, and interpret epidemiological studies.

Health Promotion Concentration: Health Promotion uses a comprehensive social and political process to improve social, political, environmental, and economic conditions, strengthen the capabilities of individuals, and improve health equity. The outcome is to apply the values, principles, and core competencies of health promotion to practice.

Program Curriculum and Course Requirements

A minimum of 42 credit hours are required to complete the MPH including the following:

- A minimum of 18 credit hours in Major Core Requirements
- A minimum of 15 credit hours in Concentration Requirements
- A minimum of 3 credit hours in major electives
- A minimum of 6 credit hours in Thesis OR Practicum & Research Project requirements

Major Core Requirements (18 CH)

The following courses must be completed by all MPH students regardless of their concentration:

- PUBH 600 Concepts and methods of epidemiology
- PUBH 601 Concepts and methods of biostatistics
- PUBH 602 Social and behavioral sciences
- PUBH 603 Research design and methods
- PUBH 604 Foundations of environmental health
- PUBH 605 Health services management and leadership

Concentration Specific Requirements

Epidemiology Concentration Specific Courses (15 CH)

Students must complete a minimum of 15 Credit Hours for the epidemiology concentration as detailed below.

- PUBH 610 Advanced epidemiologic methods

- PUBH 611 Epidemiology of communicable and non-communicable diseases
- PUBH 612 Categorical data analysis
- PUBH 613 Continuous data analysis
- PUBH 614 Evidence-based public health
- PUBH 615 Supervised field experience- Epidemiology

Epidemiology Concentration - Major Elective Courses (3 CH)

Students must complete 3 credit hours from the following list of Elective Courses:

- PUBH 606 Clinical epidemiology
- PUBH 607 Special topics I: Health Economics
- PUBH 609 Qualitative Research

Epidemiology Concentration - Project (non-thesis) Option Required Courses (6 CH)

Students who choose the project track option (non-thesis) must complete the following courses:

- PUBH 640 Practicum
- PUBH 641 Research project

Epidemiology Concentration - Thesis Option Required Courses (6 CH)

Students who choose the thesis track option must complete the following courses:

- PUBH 699 Thesis

Health Promotion Concentration Specific Courses (15 CH)

Students must complete a minimum of 15 Credit Hours for the health promotion concentration as detailed below.

- PUBH 609 Qualitative Research
- PUBH 631 Health Promotion 1: Foundations
- PUBH 632 Health Promotion 2: Community Assessment and Planning
- PUBH 633 Health Promotion 3: Implementation and Evaluation
- PUBH 634 Health Promotion 4: Advocacy and Communication
- PUBH 635 Field Experience in Health Promotion

Health Promotion Concentration - Major Electives Courses (3 CH)

Students must complete 3 credit hours from the following list of Elective Courses:

- PUBH 606 Clinical Epidemiology
- PUBH 607 Special Topics 1: Health Economics
- PUBH 611 Epidemiology of Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases
- PUBH 612 Categorical Data Analysis
- PUBH 613 Continuous Data Analysis
- NUTR 641 Nutrition Epidemiology
- NUTR 660 Food Policy
- QHPE 601 Evidence-based Teaching and Learning
- GENC 610 Principles of Genetic Counselling
- GENC 611 Cytogenetics Developmental Biology

- GENC 612 Medical and Human Genetics I
- BIOL 502 Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Databases
- BIOL 507 Regulation, the Environment and Qatar Public Policy
- BIOL 511 Environmental Health and Safety
- BIOL 512 Environmental Bioethics
- BIOL 514 International Environmental Law
- BIOL 515 Air Pollution
- BIOL 517 Environmental Biosafety and Biosecurity
- BIOL 518 Water and Human Development
- BIOL 520 Environmental Toxicology and Pollution
- BIOL 521 Marine Environment and Human Development
- BIOL 522 Renewable Energy Resources and Global Change
- BIOL 523 Biological Conservation and Biodiversity in Qatar
- BIOL 525 Solid Waste Management
- MAGT 501 Introduction to Management
- MAGT 602 Human Resource Management
- MAGT 604 Management of Change and Innovation
- MAGT 609 Entrepreneurship & Small Business
- MIST 606 Management Information Systems
- MAKT 600 Consumer Behavior
- MAKT 601 Integrated Marketing Communications
- MAKT 604 Marketing Management
- MAKT 605 Entrepreneurial Marketing
- MUPD 710 Sustainable Urban & Landscape Design

Health Promotion Concentration - Project (non-thesis) Option Required Courses (6 CH)

Students who choose the project track option (non-thesis) must complete the following courses:

- PUBH 640 Practicum
- PUBH 641 Research project

Health Promotion Concentration - Thesis Option Required Courses (6 CH)

Students who choose the thesis track option must complete the following courses:

- PUBH 699 Thesis

Course Descriptions

PUBH 600 Concepts and Methods of Epidemiology

Credit Hours: 3

This course introduces the main principles, concepts and methods of epidemiology. It covers sources of data, morbidity and mortality measures, epidemiological study designs and critical appraisal of epidemiological studies, epidemic investigation, causation and causal inference. Both basic methods and applications to public health and healthcare will be covered in this course.

PUBH 601 Concepts and Methods of Biostatistics

Credit Hours: 3

This course introduces the basic concepts of biostatistics in addition to the application of statistical methods in public health. It covers data organization, analysis, interpretation, and presentation. The course covers both parametric and non-parametric methods, hypothesis testing, comparing means and proportions, introducing ANOVA, correlation, and different types of regression analysis at an introductory level.

PUBH 602 Social and Behavioral Sciences

Credit Hours: 3

This course deals with social and behavioral theories and models as they apply to health. It includes the application of social and behavioral theories on public health problems. The roles of cultural, ethnic, gender, and other factors on health behavior will be addressed in the course. It will explore some important concepts including inequity and use case studies to elaborate on these concepts.

PUBH 603 Research Design and Methods

Credit Hours: 3

This course discusses the theoretical and practical aspects of conducting research in human populations. Both quantitative and qualitative research methods are addressed. The course follows the research cycle including formulation of the study questions, literature review, hypothesis formulation (as applicable), choice of study design, sampling, and data collection. The implications of those steps on data analysis and interpretation are discussed throughout the course. Legal, regulatory and ethical issues are explored in this course.

PUBH 604 Foundations of Environmental Health

Credit Hours: 3

The course introduces the main concepts of environmental health, focusing on the main environmental health issues resulting from the interaction between people and the environment. Among the topics discussed in this course are water availability, safety and quality, air pollution and quality, waste-disposal, environmental and occupational diseases, sustainable environment, assessment, prevention, and management of environmental hazards.

PUBH 605 Health Services Management and Leadership

Credit Hours: 3

This course focuses on understanding the components, functions, and resources of health systems. It introduces principles and components of health management, organization, and administration of health care institutions, including health information systems. It will introduce the role of systems thinking in addressing the challenges facing healthcare system managers and executives. It will also address leadership theory and practice, effective leadership styles, and context variables affecting leadership.

PUBH 606 Clinical Epidemiology

Credit Hours: 3

This course covers the principles of epidemiology as applied to clinical questions and clinical practice. Students taking this course will acquire the needed skills to understand issues related to the effectiveness of clinical therapies, critical appraisal of clinical epidemiological research, usefulness of screening and diagnostic tools, and other related clinical epidemiology issues.

PUBH 607 Special Topics I

Credit Hours: 3

This course introduces students to important emerging issues in public health that are not covered in depth in other courses. The course aims to provide students with analytical and evaluative skills on a range of specialized topics, including health policy evaluation, covering design issues of economic evaluation studies, advanced methodological and analytical tools for generating effectiveness and cost-effectiveness evidence based on RCTs, observational studies and decision analytic cost-effectiveness models to guide policy decisions in health care services.

PUBH 609 Qualitative Research

Credit Hours: 3

In this course, students gain a sound foundational knowledge about qualitative research and its contribution to understanding of people's lived experiences, the meanings they ascribe to them, and the social and cultural dimension of health. Students learn about different methodologies and methods, how to undertake data collection and analysis, ensure ethical principles are respected, evaluate soundness and trustworthiness to ensure rigor, and interpret and report findings of qualitative research.

PUBH 610 Advanced Epidemiologic Methods

Credit Hours: 3

This course covers advanced methodological design and analysis of various epidemiological studies. It focuses on details of both observational and experimental studies. The studies include case reports, case-series, ecological, cross-sectional, case-control, and cohort studies, in addition to design, implementation and analysis of clinical trials. Systematic reviews and meta-analysis will be also addressed.

PUBH 611 Epidemiology of Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases

Credit Hours: 3

This course introduces most important communicable and non-communicable diseases based on their mortality and morbidity at, local, regional, and global levels. It explores the epidemiology, risk factors, national and global prevention and control strategies, and public health impact of those diseases control strategies, and public health impact of those diseases.

PUBH 612 Categorical Data Analysis

Credit Hours: 3

This course focuses on using various statistical techniques and tests for the analysis of categorical data at the bivariate and multivariate levels. Among the topics discussed are data distributions, measures of association, measures of effect, contingency table analysis, regression analysis, log linear models, and maximum likelihood estimations. The examples and applications used in this course are performed on health-related data using various software, such STATA, SPSS and R.

PUBH 613 Continuous Data Analysis

Credit Hours: 3

This course focuses on the concepts and methods of continuous data analysis. It addresses, analysis of variance at different levels including MANOVA, MANCOVA, and multiple linear regression methods among others. The applications on health-related data include control for confounding and effect modification. The course focuses on practical application of statistical methods using various statistical packages.

PUBH 614 Evidence-Based Public Health

Credit Hours: 2

This course introduces the foundations and principle of the evidence-based approach and its use in assessing and evaluating public health issues. The students will learn how to find evidence from credible sources and how to evaluate its quality. The students will also be introduced to the use of multiple evidence-based analytical methods to assess selected public health issues with a special focus on evaluating public health interventions.

PUBH 615 Supervised Field Experience- Epidemiology

Credit Hours: 1

The supervised field experience- Epidemiology provides an opportunity to students to gain practical experience and to implement knowledge and skills earned from previous courses into a practical analytical exercise.

PUBH 631 Health Promotion 1: Foundations

Credit Hours: 3

This foundation course introduces students to the fundamental principles and disciplinary concepts of health promotion nationally and internationally as well as emerging frameworks and approaches. This course ensures students acquire foundational knowledge and skills required for competent health promotion practice, understand the evidence for effective health promotion

and its influence on policy, new perspectives and developments in health promotion policy and practice, and the impact of future social, economic and political trends.

PUBH 632 Health Promotion 2: Community Assessment and Planning

Credit Hours: 3

In this course, students will develop core competencies and values related to conducting a community health and wellbeing assets and needs assessment, and developing an evidence-based health promotion plan. Students develop research skills to source, synthesize, interpret and report existing and new quantitative and qualitative community assessment data on the determinants of health and wellbeing. Students learn how to identify priority health and wellbeing issues and develop a project plan including SMART goals, objectives, strategies and evaluation.

PUBH 633 Health Promotion 3: Implementation and Evaluation

Credit Hours: 3

In this course, students develop core competencies related to the implementation and evaluation of evidence-based health promotion programs within a community of any type or in any setting and with equity-based priority populations. Students apply different methodologies and approaches for program implementation and evaluation and communicate the evaluation results. Students apply critical health promotion values and principles to the implementation and evaluation processes.

PUBH 634 Health Promotion 4: Advocacy and Communication

Credit Hours: 2

This course examines the principles and practices of effective interpersonal, organizational, and community-based communication. Students explore the use of information and communication technologies, mass media and social media, and political processes to advocate across sectors for the conditions that support health and wellbeing for diverse populations. Students gain skills in applying theories of the policy process and advocacy strategies to gain political commitment, policy support, social acceptance and systems support to improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequities.

PUBH 635 Field Experience in Health Promotion

Credit Hours: 1

The supervised field experience provides an opportunity for students to be exposed to health promotion practice in a practice setting. It enables students to observe, practice, and demonstrate health promotion competencies, under the supervision of health promotion faculty and the mentorship of health promotion practitioners..

PUBH 640 Practicum

Credit Hours: 3

The practicum provides students with practical skills through placement in an institution related to the concentration that they chose.

PUBH 641 Research Project

Credit Hours: 3

This course provides students with the opportunity to conduct research projects individually or in groups. The topic of choice is usually within the students' interests and concentration tracks. Students are expected to make a presentation and hand a written report on the topic of choice.

PUBH 699 Thesis

Credit Hours: 0 to 6

This course offers students the opportunity to work on an important research topic related to their concentration under the supervision of one or more faculty members, which must be arranged and approved prior to registration. A written proposal, progress reports, and a final thesis are required. There will be an oral defense scheduled after the submission of the thesis.

Course descriptions for elective courses offered by other departments can be found on myBanner: https://mybanner.qu.edu.qa/PROD/twbkwbis.P_GenMenu?name=homepage

Study Plan for Master of Public Health - Epidemiology Concentration

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS FOR THE PROGRAM						42 CHs					
FIRST YEAR		21 CHs				SECOND YEAR			21 CHs		
Fall Semester						Fall Semester					
Course No.	Course Title	CHs	Contact hours	Pre-requisites	Concurrent pre-requisites	Course No.	Course Title	CHs	Contact hours	Pre-requisites	Concurrent pre-requisite
PUBH 600	Concepts and Methods of Epidemiology	3	3			PUBH 610	Advanced Epidemiological Methods	3	3	PUBH 600	
PUBH 601	Concepts and Methods of Biostatistics	3	3			PUBH 611	Epidemiology of Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases	3	3	PUBH 600	
PUBH 602	Social and Behavioral Sciences	3	3			PUBH 612	Categorical Data Analysis	3	3	PUBH 601	
Elective	Only one elective is required in Fall or Spring	3	3			PUBH 640	Practicum (for non-thesis track only)	3	At least 135 hours	PUBH 600 PUBH 601 PUBH 602 PUBH 603	
						PUBH 699	Thesis (Thesis I for thesis track only)	3	Weekly meetings	PUBH 600 PUBH 601 PUBH 603	

Total Credit Hours in Fall Semester **9-12**

Total Credit Hours in Fall Semester **12**

Spring Semester						Spring Semester					
Course No.	Course Title	CHs	Contact hours	Pre-requisites	Concurrent pre-requisite	Course No.	Course Title	CHs	Contact hours	Pre-requisites	Concurrent pre-requisite
PUBH 603	Research Design and Methods	3	3			PUBH 613	Continuous Data Analysis	3	3	PUBH 601	
PUBH 604	Foundations of Environmental Health	3	3			PUBH 614	Evidence-Based Public Health	2	3	None	
PUBH 605	Health Services Management and Leadership	3	3			PUBH 615	Supervised Field Experience-Epidemiology	1	At least 45 hours	PUBH 610	
Elective	Only one elective is required in Fall or Spring	3	3			PUBH 641	Research Project (for non-thesis track only)	3	Weekly meetings	PUBH 640	
						PUBH 699	Thesis (Thesis II for thesis track only)	3	Weekly meetings	Thesis I	

Total Credit Hours in Spring Semester **9-12**

Total Credit Hours in Spring Semester **9**

Study Plan for Master of Public Health – Health Promotion Concentration

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS FOR THE PROGRAM						42 CHs					
FIRST YEAR		24 CHs				SECOND YEAR			18 CHs		
Fall Semester						Fall Semester					
Course No.	Course Title	CHs	Contact hours	Pre-requisites	Concurrent pre-requisites	Course No.	Course Title	CHs	Contact hours	Pre-requisites	Concurrent pre-requisite
PUBH 600	Concepts and Methods of Epidemiology	3	3			PUBH XXX	Major Elective (only one Elective is required)	3	3-4		
PUBH 601	Concepts and Methods of Biostatistics	3	3			PUBH 633	Health Promotion 3: Implementation and Evaluation	3	3	PUBH 609 PUBH 632	
PUBH 602	Social and Behavioral Sciences	3	3			PUBH 634	Health Promotion 4: Advocacy and Communication	2	3	PUBH 632	
PUBH 631	Health Promotion 1: Foundations	3	3			PUBH 640	Practicum (for non-thesis option only)	3	135	PUBH 600 PUBH 601 PUBH 602 PUBH 603	
						PUBH 699	Thesis (Thesis I for thesis option only)	3	Weekly meetings	PUBH 600 PUBH 601 PUBH 603	

Total Credit Hours in Fall Semester **12**

Total Credit Hours in Fall Semester **8-11**

Spring Semester						Spring Semester					
Course No.	Course Title	CHs	Contact hours	Pre-requisites	Concurrent pre-requisite	Course No.	Course Title	CHs	Contact hours	Pre-requisites	Concurrent pre-requisite
PUBH 603	Research Design and Methods	3	3			PUBH XXX	Major Elective (only one Elective is required)	3			
PUBH 605	Health Services Management and Leadership	3	3			PUBH 604	Foundations of Environmental Health	3	3		
PUBH 609	Qualitative Research	3	3			PUBH 635	Field Experience in Health Promotion	1	At least 45 hours	PUBH 634	
PUBH 632	Health Promotion 2: Community Assessment and Planning	3	3	PUBH 631		PUBH 641	Research Project (for non-thesis option only)	3	Weekly meetings	PUBH 640	
						PUBH 699	Thesis (Thesis II for thesis option only)	3	Weekly meetings	Thesis I	

Total Credit Hours in Spring Semester **12**

Total Credit Hours in Spring Semester **7-10**

Academic Policies and Procedures

Admission Requirements and Procedures

All applicants to the Master of Public Health program who meet the following minimum criteria will be considered for admission to Qatar University.

1. Applicants who have completed a bachelor's degree or an equivalent or higher degree in any field and demonstrate an interest in advancing their knowledge in public health may be admitted to either the research or professional track offered by the program. A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.80 out of 4.00 (or equivalent) from a university or college accredited by an international accrediting association, the Ministry of Higher Education, or a comparable authority in that country is required.
2. Achieved a minimum score of 520 on the paper-based TOEFL or equivalent test, taken within 2 years of the start of the intended semester of admission OR earned a previous degree from an accredited institution of higher education in a Program where English was the language of instruction.
3. A satisfactory performance in the personal interview with the Admissions Committee.

All applicants to the MPH program are required to submit the following documents to the Admissions Department:

- Complete Online Admissions Application
- Final, official and certified university transcripts
- Official TOEFL score report or equivalent score report or other evidence of English proficiency in accordance with QU Policy
- Two confidential recommendation letters from undergraduate professors or employers
- Curriculum Vitae (C.V.)
- Personal Statement
- Health Certificate
- Photocopy of the applicant's Qatar ID card, If available (Non-Qatari applicants must provide a copy of their passport)
- Two recent passport sized photograph
- Application Fees

Admission to the MPH program is available only in the fall semester. For more information about our graduate admissions process, admission requirements, and online applications, please visit the Graduate Admission website: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/admission/graduate/Pages/default.aspx>

Academic Standards

Graduate students will be placed on academic probation if their GPA falls below 3.0. A probation notification will be sent to students electronically or in writing at the end of each semester or at the beginning of the following semester before registration. Students on academic probation may register for a maximum of six (6) credit hours per regular semester. This status is noted on their transcripts and academic records.

Students on academic probation who do not register for any courses in the following semester will be academically dismissed unless they obtain approval from the Program Coordinator and the Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies. They may also request a semester withdrawal, a leave of absence, or to leave the university.

According to QU Academic Standards, graduate students will be academically dismissed if they:

- Fail the same course twice.
- Fail the thesis oral examination twice.
- Fail to maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 by the end of the semester following placement on academic probation.
- Fail to maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 for two consecutive semesters or three non-consecutive semesters.
- Fail to complete graduation requirements within twice the standard program duration as defined in the approved study plan at the time of matriculation.
- Violate academic integrity or ethics during coursework, thesis/project preparation, or commit any offense against QU's academic rules and traditions.

Academic Load

MPH students may register for up to twelve (12) credit hours per semester. However, those on academic probation are allowed to register for a maximum of six (6) credit hours. A student who fails a course may retake it once; failure to pass on the second attempt will result in academic dismissal. A student may also repeat up to two courses in which they earned a grade of C or C+ once.

Grading Policy

Coursework in the MPH program is graded based on the following criteria:

Letter Grade	Graduate	Percentage	Grade Points
A	Excellent	90 to 100	4.00
B+	Very Good+	85 to <90	3.50
B	Very Good	80 to <85	3.00
C+	Good+	75 to <80	2.50
C	Good	70 to 75	2.00
F	Fail	Less than 70	0.00
FA	Fail for Absence	-	-
P	Pass	-	-
HP	High Performance	-	-
NP	Not Pass	-	-
I	Incomplete	-	-
IP	In Progress	-	-

- The grade of "C" is a passing grade.
- The grade of Incomplete "I" shall be given for graduate courses in which the student is not able to fulfill the course requirements due to compelling circumstances. The deadline for

changing an "I" grade for a graduate course shall be announced by the Office of the Vice President for Students Affairs. If a student fails to successfully complete the course requirements by the deadline announced by the Office of the Vice President for Students Affairs, a grade of Fail "F" will be noted on the student's Academic Record

- A grade of Pass "P" earned in a Thesis, Research Project, Field Experience, and Practicum, indicates satisfactory progress.
- A grade of High Performance "HP" shall be available in the course of Thesis Defense, subject to the criteria of the scientific publication, the distinguished performance of the student, and the approval of the Graduate Studies Committee at Qatar University.
- A grade of Not Pass "NP" earned in the Thesis defense, Masters project defense, that the supervision committee and/or Defense Committee has not been satisfied with the Thesis or the student's performance.
- An MPH student who receives the grade of Not Pass twice on the thesis oral defense shall be academically dismissed or transferred to Research Project (Non-Thesis) track.
- A grade of In Progress "IP" shall be given in cases of incomplete works associated with a Thesis course ongoing for more than one semester.

Grade Appeal Process

A graduate student may appeal a course grade within the timeframe set by the Vice President for Students Affairs. The appeal may result in the following:

- If the instructor supports the appeal, the instructor shall change the grade and submit the updated grade to the Program Coordinator or his/her representative, or to the college's Dean, who in turn shall submit the updated grade to the Graduate Studies Committee. After issuing the decision, the updated grade shall be submitted to the Registration Department by the Office of Graduate Studies along with the attachments necessary to note the updated grade on the student's academic record.
- If the instructor does not agree with the student's appeal, the student may submit a signed appeal to the Program Coordinator or the Head of the Department, or the Dean of the College, who shall decide on the appeal after consulting with the relevant faculty in the college before ruling the appeal.
- If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Program Coordinator or the Head of the Department, or the Dean of the College, the student may submit an appeal to the assigned University Appeals Committee, formed based on a decision by the president of the university at the beginning of each academic year, which shall consider the appeal and make a final decision on it. The Committee shall communicate the decision to Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies and the Vice President for Student Affairs within Ten (10) days from the date of the assigned committee's meeting.

Withdrawal and Refund Policies

Course Withdrawal

After the regular add/drop period, graduate students may withdraw from one or more courses before a set deadline published by the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs. This withdrawal period results in differing refund rates.

The student shall receive 'W' (withdrawal) grade in the course from which s/he withdrew. The Grade Point Average (GPA) will not be affected by the 'W' grade, which will not be included in the average calculation.

The student placed under Academic Probation may not withdraw from the course if such withdrawal will reduce the student's academic load to less than what is permitted (no more than six credit hours) (fall - spring). Otherwise, his/her academic status will be affected.

The student is not allowed to withdraw from the last course (project or thesis course).

Refund of Tuition Fees

In case the student withdraws from one or more courses, or the semester, upon termination of add and drop period, regardless of his/her academic major, s/he shall be subject to financial penalty as per the following schedule:

Time of Drop or Withdrawal after End of Add/Drop Period	Penalty
Up to 2 weeks	20%
After 2 weeks up to 4 weeks	50%
After 4 weeks up to 8 weeks	75%
After 8 weeks	100%

More information and instructions Tuition Fees and Penalties can be found at:

<https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/registration/student-class-registration/tuition-fees>

Semester Withdrawal

The student may withdraw from two semesters (consecutive/non-consecutive) within the period of his/her graduate study. Withdrawing from a semester requires the student to apply to the program to study his/her case for withdrawal, upon the approval of the Program Coordinator, approval of the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, College Dean and the Dean of Graduate Studies, the request will be submitted by the Office of Graduate Studies to the Registration Department. Failure to obtain the necessary approvals may result in a grade 'F' for the courses and may lead to academic dismissal.

The student shall abide by the period specified in the academic calendar to withdraw from the semester. An exception can be made, in case of exceeding the number of withdrawals permitted to the student upon the approval of the Program; recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee at the college and university level, approval of Dean of Graduate Studies and the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies. The student shall abide by the period specified in the academic calendar to withdraw from the semester. The student shall receive 'W' grade in courses of withdrawal semester and his/her GPA shall not be affected by this grade.

A student on academic probation may be allowed to request a withdrawal from a semester upon the approval of the Program Coordinator and the program shall submit a report of his/her academic status to the Office of Graduate Studies.

A financial penalty may be applied upon withdrawal from a semester, and it will be determined in accordance with the withdrawal date.

Detailed information and instructions on how to withdraw a semester can be found at: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/registration/student-class-registration/withdrawal>

Temporary Withdrawal from the University

A graduate student, who wants to withdraw temporarily, shall be entitled to submit an application signed by him/her clarifying withdrawal reasons. The application shall include the plan of completing the study requirements within the maximum period specified for the category to which the program belongs. The period of temporary withdrawal shall be calculated within the maximum period specified for ending the study. The student shall apply to the program to study the case for withdrawal and the Graduate Studies Office shall submit the application to the Registration Department, upon the approval of the Program Coordinator and the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies and approval of the College Dean and Dean of Graduate Studies.

The temporary withdraw period may not be more than two semesters, unless exception is made to the student considering the exceptional circumstances and based on the approval of Program Coordinator, recommendation of Graduate Studies Committee at the college and the university level, and approval of Dean of Graduate Studies and Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies.

Final Withdrawal from the University

Withdrawal from the university requires the approval of the program. The Office of Graduate Studies shall submit the application to the Registration Department upon the approval of the Program Coordinator, the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies and upon approval of the College Dean and Dean of Graduate Studies. Failure to obtain the necessary approvals may result in dismissal.

Detailed information and instructions on how to withdraw from the university temporarily or permanently can be found at: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/registration/student-class-registration/withdrawal>

Transfer Credit Policy

Upon being accepted for admission to Qatar University, a graduate student may transfer credit hours completed from another university as per the following conditions:

- Graduate courses or preparatory/ introductory/ foundation courses shall be completed at a recognized college or university accredited by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.
- A maximum of 9 credit hours may be transferred, unless otherwise specified in QU agreements.
- Courses graded on a non-standard basis (for example, Pass/Fail, Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory) may not be subject to transfer, unless otherwise specified in a QU agreement.
- The credit hours for Thesis/ Dissertation, if it is stated in a QU agreement, which the student completed outside QU shall be calculated within the student's academic record. The grade

of pass 'P' shall be calculated, upon approval of thesis supervisor; Program Coordinator; the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies in the college; the College Dean and Dean of Graduate Studies. The student shall provide a proof of registering these hours at the university or an outside institution.

- Only courses with a grade of 'B' or higher on the official issued transcript will be considered for transfer.
- Matching percentage of the course content shall not be less than 80% of the program's courses at QU.
- Transfer courses will be given a grade of 'TC' and will not bear on the GPA calculation at QU, unless otherwise specified in QU agreements. Courses required to be equated shall be at the same level of the program and level of study or higher.
- Credit hours obtained in a course completed more than five years may not be transferred.
- The student must submit a credit hours transfer application with official transcripts and course syllabi from the college or university where s/he attended to the Graduate Studies Program. The Graduate Studies Program will take the necessary action concerned to evaluate the equivalent of credits required to be transferred; making sure of the possibility of transferring credit hours and providing the study plan proposed to the student based on the approved transferred hours. Subsequently, it shall be sent to the Office of Graduate Studies, which shall submit the application to the Registration Department, upon the approval of the Program Coordinator and the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies and the approval of the Dean of Graduate Studies.
- For transfer students, at least 70 percent of the credit hours included in the study plan shall be completed at Qatar University.

Course Registration Guidelines

Students must register for courses during the designated registration period announced by QU. Detailed instructions about Student Course Registration, Registration Rules and Regulations Guide, Registration Steps and Guideline, Important Dates, Add and Drop Classes, and myBanner 9 Self-Service System Manual can be found at: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/registration/student-class-registration/>

Class Attendance Policy

At Qatar University, students are expected to attend all classes. Learning at the master's level is more complex and challenging than undergraduate courses, so it is important that students make every effort to attend all classes. Missing more than 25% of classes in a course will result in a failing grade, regardless of performance or the reason for the absence. Students are responsible for tracking their own absences, and attendance is recorded from the first day of class. In exceptional cases, with prior permission, an absence may be excused, but it must not exceed the 25% limit. If a valid excuse is provided, students exceeding 25% of absences may withdraw from the course.

In addition, all MPH students must complete the field experience course (45 clock hours). For MPH students who opt for the non-thesis track, completing 135 clock hours for the practicum is

also required. These courses provide students with hands-on experience in public health practice through placements at organizations or agencies that offer planning or services relevant to public health. It is the student's responsibility to manage their time, work, and employment commitments and make the necessary arrangements to attend both the field experience and practicum placements.

Student Code of Conduct

<https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/resources/Pages/code-of-conduct.aspx>

Student Support and Resources

- Graduate Student Catalog: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/Pages/catalogs.aspx>
- Graduate Studies Policy: https://www.qu.edu.qa/siteimages/static_file/qu/research/graduate%20studies/documents/english%20policy%20final.pdf
- QU Academic Advising Center: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/success-and-development/academic-advising/>
- CHS Academic Advising Office: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/success-and-development/academic-advising/academic-advising-offices/health-sciences>
- Academic Calendar: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/resources/academic-calendar>
- Building Codes: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/offices/facilitiesgeneral/services/building-codes>
- Student Records: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/registration/student-records/>
- Important Dates: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/registration/important-dates/>
- Final Exams: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/registration/schedules/final-exams>
- Library Resources: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/library/>
- University Textbooks: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/student-life/student-services/textbooks/>
- Student Life and Services: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/Student-Life/Pages/default.aspx>
- Student Success and Development: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/success-and-development/>
- Career Development: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/success-and-development/career-development/>
- Special Needs: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/success-and-development/special-needs/>
- Student Counseling: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/success-and-development/counseling/>
- Student Learning Support: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/success-and-development/student-learning-support/>
- Students Services: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/student-life/student-services/>
- Financial Aid: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/student-life/student-services/financial-aid>
- Student Housing: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/student-life/housing/>

- Student Auxiliary Services: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/student-life/student-services/auxiliary-services/>
- Student Activities: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/student-life/activities/>
- Student Events and Functions: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/student-life/activities/student-events>
- Sport Affairs: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/student-life/sports/>
- Student Clubs & Societies: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/student-life/activities/student-clubs-and-organizations>
- Exchange and Global Education: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/student-life/activities/exchange>
- Student Leadership and Community Service: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/student-life/leadership-and-community-service>
- Food Services: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/offices/facilitiesgeneral-services/general-services/food-services/>
- Transportation: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/offices/facilitiesgeneral-services/general-services/transportation>
- Facilities Call Center: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/offices/facilitiesgeneral-services/contact-us>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Can I apply to start the program in the spring semester?

The MPH program accepts new students only in the Fall semester.

Can I defer my admission to the MPH?

Sometimes people are admitted to the MPH but for some reason cannot begin immediately. In this case, you can apply to defer your study for a maximum of one year. See the Timeline page for more information:

<http://www.qu.edu.qa/students/admission/graduate/application-timeline>

The defer request must be submitted electronically using the link provided on the Timeline page. If you have already registered for courses, you will not be eligible to apply for a deferment. To cancel your defer request, you must send an email to graduate@qu.edu.qa. If you do not register for any courses and do not submit a defer request, the Admissions Office will terminate your admission to the program.

When are the MPH courses offered?

Each taught course is typically offered once a week in the afternoon, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

What is the difference between Epidemiology and Health Promotion Concentrations?

The Department of Public Health at Qatar University offers two distinct concentrations to address the diverse areas within public health.

The ***Epidemiology concentration*** is designed for students interested in understanding the distribution of diseases, risk and protective factors, and health outcomes to inform the development of strategies for disease prevention and health promotion. This concentration emphasizes quantitative research methodologies, biostatistics, and data analysis techniques.

The ***Health Promotion concentration*** is designed for students interested in addressing the socio-ecological determinants of health and well-being. It equips students with the knowledge and skills needed to work collaboratively with communities and stakeholders to improve health and well-being by building healthy public policies, creating supportive environments, strengthening community action, developing personal skills, and reorienting health services.

What are the job opportunities for students upon graduation from each concentration?

Both concentrations offer promising career prospects in the field of public health.

Graduates of the Epidemiology concentration work in public health agencies, research institutions, and academic settings, contributing to disease surveillance, outbreak investigations, and evidence-based policy formulation.

Graduates of the Health Promotion concentration typically work in local governments, national and international government agencies, non-profit organizations, health services, schools, workplaces, and community-based organizations. They are involved in assessing community health and well-being, as well as planning, implementing, and evaluating health promotion programs.

How can I select the concentration that is best for me?

Selecting a concentration that aligns with your personal interests, skills, and long-term career goals is essential for a fulfilling academic and professional journey in public health. Start by assessing your current skills and interests, and consider which concentration will help you develop new competencies or deepen existing ones. For example, if you are skilled or interested in data analysis and want to further develop those skills, you may find the Epidemiology concentration more appealing. Conversely, if you excel in communication and community engagement, the Health Promotion concentration might be a better fit. Review the courses offered within each concentration, explore the skills and knowledge you will gain, and research potential job opportunities after graduation. You are also encouraged to reach out to the program coordinator and faculty members in the department for further insights into each concentration.

How can I choose my courses if I decide to complete my studies in more than two years?

If you choose to enroll in fewer courses than those included in the two-year study plan, you must meet with the MPH Program Coordinator for guidance in selecting your courses and developing your academic plan. Additionally, you will need to discuss your study plan and course selection with the program coordinator at the beginning of each semester before registering for any courses.

What courses should I register for in the first semester if I am uncertain about which concentration to pursue?

If you are uncertain about which concentration to pursue, it is essential to register for PUBH631 Health Promotion 1: Foundations, as it is a prerequisite for other courses in the Health Promotion concentration. Additionally, you should enroll in PUBH600 Concepts and Methods of Epidemiology and PUBH601 Concepts and Methods of Biostatistics, as these are prerequisites for second-year courses in the Epidemiology concentration. For further guidance and support, you can meet with the MPH Program Coordinator.

How can I register for my courses?

On orientation day, you will receive your QUID access information (username and password). You will use these credentials to log in to your QU portal account at <http://my.qu.edu.qa>. This portal provides access to online registration and various academic services.

What is the difference between the Thesis track and the Research Project track?

The two tracks differ in the level of research engagement.

In the Thesis track of the MPH program, students are typically required to conduct original, in-depth research on a specific topic within the field of public health. The research process involves a literature review, research design, data collection and analysis, and interpretation of results. The thesis is completed over two semesters and culminates in the defense of a formal research thesis, demonstrating the student's ability to contribute new knowledge to the field and showcasing their research skills.

The Research Project track, on the other hand, focuses more on practical and applied research skills. In this track, students engage in a research project that is often shorter and less in-depth than a thesis. The project lasts for one semester and is taken after the practicum course. The emphasis is on gaining experience in conducting research, applying research methods, and addressing real-world public health issues. While the Research Project track involves less extensive research than the Thesis track, it still provides valuable research experience.

When choosing between the two tracks, you should consider your learning needs, academic ability, capacity, and career goals. Both tracks provide the necessary research competencies required to practice public health, but they do so in slightly different ways. Each track offers opportunities to develop specific research skills, approaches, and perspectives, allowing you to tailor your experience based on your interests and career objectives.

How can I get the textbooks for my courses?

For courses that require textbooks, you can purchase e-textbooks or printed textbooks through the university's Self-Service System. Qatar University offers a 50% subsidy for textbooks priced over 50 QR, while students are responsible for the full cost of textbooks priced below that amount. For printed books, you may also opt for a delivery service, which incurs additional fees. For more information on how to apply, visit the Qatar University Textbooks Section page: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/students/Student-Life/student-services/textbooks/Pages/default.aspx>.

Are there opportunities for a Graduate Assistantship?

Graduate Assistantships (GA) are competitive positions available for admitted graduate students. Interested students should email GA@qu.edu.qa, indicating their preferred pillar from the following options:

- Energy and Environment
- Social Sciences and Humanities
- Health and Biomedical Sciences
- Information and Communication Technology

You will be required to attach the following supporting documents, as the selection will be based on them:

- Research topic (if available)
- CV (QU ID must be included in the CV – new students can ignore this condition)
- Transcript showing the latest GPA
- Publications
- Participation in conferences and workshops
- Special experiences in the specialization field
- Research/mentoring experiences
- Recommendation letters from the student's professor/supervisor

For more details about application process, application time, and general rules, please visit the Graduate Assistantship page: <https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/Research/graduate-studies/prospective-students/Pages/graduate-assistants.aspx>

Do I get to choose my supervisor for the Thesis or Research Project?

The process of selecting a supervisor for the Thesis or Research Project is typically overseen by the head of the department. Several factors are considered in making this decision, including the supervisor's availability, research area, and work experience.

What is the attendance policy at Qatar University, and what happens if I miss classes?

At Qatar University, students are expected to attend **all classes**. Learning at master's level is more complex and challenging than undergraduate courses. Therefore, all students should make every effort to attend all classes. Missing more than 25% of classes in a semester will result in a failing grade, regardless of performance. Students are responsible for tracking their own absences, and attendance begins on the first day of class. In exceptional cases, with prior permission, an absence may be excused, but it must not exceed the 25% limit. If a valid excuse is provided, students exceeding 25% absences may withdraw from the course.

For more information about the MPH Program, you can contact the Program Coordinator, Dr. Mujahed Shraim at mshraim@qu.edu.qa.