

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
LI KA SHING FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Master of Public Health (MPH)
Credit Unit Statement

The one-year full-time, two-year part-time Master of Public Health (“MPH”) curriculum consists of three different modes of learning:- courses, practicum and capstone. Taking reference from the norm for a 3-credit course as to embrace 60 - 90 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity), the credit unit of courses is 3 (a total of 42 credits with 840 learning hours), the practicum is 12-credit with 240 learning hours, and the capstone is 15-credit with 300 learning hours. Assessment is based on a combination of continuous assessment comprising case study reports, oral presentation, debate, seminar discussion, reports, tests, and practicum supervisory reports, and other practical and tutorial assignments (40%-100%), written examinations (0%-60%). The three categories of the MPH courses are summarized as follows:

1. Courses (3 credits)

These courses focus on training and application of public health, social medicine, evidence based practice, health economic, policy and management, health promotion and disease prevention, critical thinking and appraisal skills. They are taught through a variety of teaching and learning modalities including but not limited to lectures, problem based learning, case studies, flipped classroom, video enabled case based discussion, tutorials, and workshops. The 3-credit courses comprise 60 learning hours. The mode of assessment comprises continuous assessment (40%-100%) and written examinations (0%-60%). Outputs may include essays, case study reports, presentations and debates, numerical and other assignments, with the range of word requirements from 500-3,000 words.

2. Practicum (12 credits)

The Practicum entails 240 learning hours through which students demonstrate competency with a broad mastery of subjects and methods necessary for the field of public health practice, bridging theory and practice. In compliance with the standards set by the Council on Education for Public Health “the practicum is a planned, supervised and evaluated public health practice experience” (p.16) with defined learning outcomes and deliverable(s) in which students are expected to demonstrate competency based learning outcomes as defined by the ‘Core competencies for the public health professionals May 2010’ <http://www.phf.org/programs/corecompetencies>

Students will demonstrate the ability to

- integrate, synthesize and apply knowledge and skills to a public health problem; and
- demonstrate the skills needed to function in a professional public health setting, such as:
 - Problem solving and analysis
 - Interpersonal, oral and written communication
 - Self-assessment and critical reflection

Students will be assessed on the basis of their practicum report (not longer than 2,000 words) as well as the supervisors assessment of the quality of their workplace performance and the practicum deliverable.

3. Capstone (15 credits)

The Capstone entails 300 learning hours through which students will demonstrate the acquisition and synthesis of skills and competencies acquired in the programme and culminating in a Capstone report (not longer than 5,000 words) that demonstrates 2 of the following 4 competencies as defined by the Hong Kong College of Community Medicine Training and Examination Guidelines for the sub speciality of Public Health Medicine (2008) (p.14) below:-

- a. To assemble, critically review, synthesise and interpret published literature (including grey literature) on a public health topic
- b. To use epidemiological or other approaches to describe the health status or health care needs of a defined population and identify environmental or personal risk factors which threaten or enhance health
- c. To identify and collect or retrieve relevant information and use this information for service planning or other activities aimed at improving health
- d. To assess effectiveness and efficiency of resource use for health services or health promotion activity

The following table summarizes the details of the three categories of courses under the MPH curriculum:

Nature of courses	Credits	Learning hours	Outputs	Assessment
Courses	14 X 3 credit courses	840	Test, assignment, presentation, case reports, debates (500-3,000 words)	40%-100% continuous assessment, 0%-60% examination
Practicum	1 X 12 credit	240	Practicum deliverables, Supervisors assessment Practicum report (2,000 words)	100% continuous assessment
Capstone	1 X 15 credit	300	A capstone report (5,000 words)	100% capstone report
Total contact hours		420*		
Total learning hours		1,380		

* excluding Practicum and Capstone where the learning is largely self-directed