Social and Behavioral Sciences, Ph.D.

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Learn more about the Doctor of Philosophy in Social and Behavioral Sciences.

About the Program

The Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences administers the Ph.D. in Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS). This program provides advanced training in theory, methods, and research related to social and behavioral influences on population health that prepares students for advanced research and scholarship. The program provides experiences that support interdisciplinary learning; promote critical and theory-based problem-solving skills to address public health threats; and foster the development of professional values and ethics. Heavy emphasis is placed on scientific foundations, research methods, and statistics as well as hands-on research experience. Coursework and experiential learning emphasize the dynamic interaction of individual difference characteristics, social circumstances, and situational factors influencing health-promoting and health-damaging behavior and behavior change. Required research courses, structured research experiences each academic term, colloquium presentations, and coursework in teaching and grant writing expand students' knowledge and application of research methods and analytic techniques while facilitating professional development and scholarship. Students choose advanced training opportunities in concentration electives with close consultation from a faculty mentor to ensure proper breadth and depth of training in students' emerging areas of expertise. A publishable first-authored paper is required prior to sitting for the preliminary examinations to further facilitate students' focus on scholarship.

Throughout enrollment in the program, students are expected to actively participate in scholarly activities and develop their own line of independent research that will contribute to their area of interest within the social and behavioral sciences. Many opportunities lie in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences for research mentorship with internationally renowned faculty affiliated with dynamic research laboratories and centers, including the Center for Obesity Research and Education, the Health Behavior and Research Clinic, the Health Disparities Research Laboratory, the Risk Communication Laboratory, and the Social and Behavioral Health Interventions Laboratory, as well as the Dean's Research Group. Collectively, centers and labs in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences develop, test, and evaluate interventions aimed at resolving significant public health problems in high-risk and vulnerable populations. Examples of research content areas in which department faculty are actively involved include cancer control (e.g., smoking cessation); cancer prevention and decision making (e.g., early detection and screening); cancer survivorship (e.g., online and live support groups); ethnic and racial disparities in cancer; health systems research; obesity; and violence. Research mentors in these labs offer opportunities for research placements and developing papers for publication and presentation at conferences; provide professional socialization; help define dissertation projects using existing funded studies; and may provide some funding in the form of Research Assistantships. Students in the PhD-SBS program also are expected to participate in ongoing professional development opportunities, such as the monthly SBS graduate student seminar series, as well as journal clubs, colloquia, and brown-bag research presentations.

Time Limit for Degree Completion: 7 years

Campus Location: Main

Full-Time/Part-Time Status: Full-time study is preferred.

Interdisciplinary Study: Students are encouraged to develop programs of study that are interdisciplinary in nature, involving coursework or scholarly activities across departments, schools, and colleges.

Affiliation(s): Students are expected to work in close collaboration with their faculty research mentor in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences. In addition, students can consider collaborative research projects across affiliated units within the College of Public Health in coordination with their developing line of research and with approval of their research mentor and the Program Director. A list of active research centers can be found on the College of Public Health website at https://cph.temple.edu/departments-research/research-centers. Faculty and doctoral students also are involved in research with affiliates across the university, including the Fox Chase Cancer Center, the Fox School of Business and Management, the Institute on Aging, the Institute on Disabilities, the Lewis Katz School of Medicine, the Lew Klein College of Media and Communication, and the School of Podiatric Medicine. Additional research opportunities at Temple University include the Institute for Survey Research, the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment, and the Social Science Data Library.

Job Prospects: Students in the program develop public health content expertise and skills in research, scholarship, teaching, and grant writing. Therefore, graduates of the PhD-SBS program are prepared to become faculty members or researchers in colleges and universities or to hold research-related positions in a wide range of organizations, such as agencies promoting community and public health, consulting firms, foundations, healthcare systems, nonprofits, and research centers. Graduates are employed in health systems, hospitals and clinics, public health departments, public health and other healthcare and human service agencies, and universities.

Non-Matriculated Student Policy: Doctoral coursework is open only to students enrolled in the program.

Financing Opportunities: Full-time Ph.D. students generally receive financial support through fellowships or assistantships.

University-Wide Fellowships:
University-wide fellowships provide a stipend and tuition for two years of study. The College of Public Health provides assistantships to cover two additional years of study. The Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences nominates outstanding applicants for consideration for the following fellowship opportunities:

- Presidential Fellowships are the most prestigious awards. Competition is reserved for only the most outstanding candidates.
- University Fellowships are awarded to outstanding incoming graduate students. These awards are intended to support students who demonstrate outstanding potential for success in their chosen fields.

**College of Public Health Graduate Assistantships:**
Graduate assistantships sponsored by the College of Public Health include the following:

- Research Assistants (RAs) perform supervised research activities. Research assistantships are frequently supported by faculty grant funding, and it is anticipated the RAs will work with faculty members on new and continuing grant proposals and develop both research and grant-writing competencies.
- Teaching Assistants (TAs) support faculty in the teaching of courses, with activities that include grading examinations/papers or teaching occasional lecture sections. One purpose of a TA opportunity is to develop competencies in current pedagogies that prepare students for academic teaching careers.

TAs and RAs provide 20 hours of service per week. Both assistantships carry a stipend and typically tuition remission for up to 9 credits per term. Consideration for admission with an assistantship requires a description of research and teaching experience; a statement of research and teaching goals; and identification of areas of interest, including identification of potential faculty mentors and articulation of career goals consistent with the mission and purpose of the PhD-SBS program. Offers of admission are generally accompanied by a fellowship or assistantship offer. Students with full funding from another source (e.g., government funding) are given full consideration in the admission process. Self-funding through external employment is highly discouraged as it can impede progress in the program. The Graduate School website details the types of graduate student support.

## Admission Requirements and Deadlines

### Application Deadline:

**Fall:** January 2

Admission into the Ph.D. program is highly competitive. Not only must applicants display an exemplary academic record and potential for scholarship, but their research interests and area of emerging expertise must match those of Graduate Faculty who are available to take a new student. All applicants to the PhD-SBS program must apply via the Centralized Application Service for Public Health (SOPHAS). The system can be accessed at [https://sophas.liaisoncas.com/](https://sophas.liaisoncas.com/).

All application materials must be received by the deadline in order to be reviewed by the Ph.D. Admissions Committee. Admission is competitive, and students are admitted only once a year. Applications are evaluated together after the deadline has passed. Applications that are completed after the deadline are held for review the following year. An important component of the admissions decision is the fit between the applicant's goals, experiences, and interests and the expertise of the faculty in the Ph.D. program who are designated as 'Graduate Faculty' and available to mentor an incoming student.

### Letters of Reference:

**Number Required:** 3

**From Whom:** Letters of recommendation should be obtained from evaluators who can provide insight into the applicant's academic and research experiences and talents, as well as comment on the applicant's aptitude for doctoral-level study and research. Recommendations from college/university faculty members are preferred.

### Coursework Required for Admission Consideration:

Applicants are expected to have completed coursework in the natural, social, or behavioral sciences related to health. Coursework in statistics and research methods is desirable. The following prerequisites, which do not count toward the Ph.D., must also be satisfied, either through an M.P.H. degree or course equivalency:

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>ENVH 5103</td>
<td>Environmental Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPBI 5002</td>
<td>Biostatistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPBI 5101</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPM 5006</td>
<td>Political and Economic Aspects of Health</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or HPM 8003</td>
<td>Political-Economic Aspects of Public Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>SBS 5002</td>
<td>Program Planning, Theory, and Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>
**Master’s Degree in Discipline/Related Discipline:** Nearly all students admitted to the program have a master’s degree. Although a master’s degree specifically in Public Health is not required, preference is given to applicants who have a background in the health sciences, including behavioral medicine, environmental health, epidemiology, health communication, health psychology, medicine, or a public health discipline.

**Bachelor’s Degree in Discipline/Related Discipline:** A baccalaureate degree is required, although it need not be in Public Health. Preference is given to applicants who have a background in the health sciences, including behavioral medicine, environmental health, epidemiology, health communication, health psychology, medicine, or a public health discipline.

**Statement of Goals:** In no more than 750 words:

- identify the Social and Behavioral Sciences doctorate as the program for which you wish to be considered and why;
- describe important academic and research achievements and interests; and
- specify how your research interests relate to your ultimate career goals and to ongoing work by faculty members affiliated with the PhD-SBS program.

The match between faculty and student interests is important in the admissions decision. Be sure to articulate clearly the linkages among your training goals, the expertise of our faculty, and the training emphasis of the Ph.D. program. For a description of faculty interests and active research, visit the Social and Behavioral Sciences Faculty webpage.

**Standardized Test Scores:**
GRE: Required. The median score of recently admitted applicants is above the 50th percentile on the verbal and quantitative subscales.

Applicants who earned their baccalaureate degree from an institution where the language of instruction was other than English, with the exception of those who subsequently earned a master’s degree at a U.S. institution, must report scores for a standardized test of English that meet these minimums:

- TOEFL iBT: 79
- IELTS Academic: 6.5
- PTE Academic: 53

**Resume:** Current CV required.

**Writing Sample:** Scholarly articles, technical reports, or academic papers are preferred. Unless it is a published work (e.g., a book chapter or peer-reviewed journal article), the writing sample should be no more than 10 pages.

**Advanced Standing:** A student enrolled in the PhD-SBS program may apply for advanced standing credits for graduate coursework graded ‘B’ or better from an accredited institution. Credits for courses taken as part of a master’s degree are considered; credits for thesis, fieldwork, clinical practice, or directed projects/readings cannot be used for advanced standing credit. To be approved for advanced standing, the courses must be deemed appropriate as part of the student’s training in the PhD-SBS program. The maximum number of advanced standing credits awarded is 9.

**Program Requirements**

**General Program Requirements:**

**Total Number of Credits Required:** 45 (some of which may be in the form of Advanced Standing credit, as determined after matriculation)

**Required Courses:**

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**College Core Course**

HRPR 5001  | Current and Emerging Issues in Public Health and Health Professions | 0 |

**Social and Behavioral Sciences Core Courses**

- SBS 8005  | Health Promotion in Vulnerable Populations | 3 |
- SBS 8009  | Health Psychology                          | 3 |
- SBS 8105  | Health Communication                       | 3 |
- SBS 8111  | Public Health Program Planning             | 3 |

**Research and Statistics Courses**

- EPBI 8012 | Multivariable Biostatistics | 3 |
- EPBI 8201 | Structural Equation Modeling | 3 |
- EPBI 8212 | Grantsmanship in Health Research         | 3 |
- HRPR 5999 | Research Experience in Health Professions | 0 |
- SBS 8001  | Research Methods in Public Health         | 3 |

**Electives**

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Select five from the following:

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<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CMGT 5002</td>
<td>Leadership in Crises and Conflict Management</td>
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<td>CMGT 8106</td>
<td>Communication Theory for Professionals</td>
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<td>EPBI 5003</td>
<td>Spatial Analysis in Public Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPBI 8011</td>
<td>Social Epidemiology</td>
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<td>EPBI 8208</td>
<td>Data Management and Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDC 8002</td>
<td>Communication for Social Change Project Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDC 8003</td>
<td>Research Approaches in Communication, Development and Social Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>HPM 5007</td>
<td>Principles of Emergency Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>HPM 5014</td>
<td>Leadership and Management in Non-Profit Organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSP 8254</td>
<td>Public Information Media Campaigns</td>
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<tr>
<td>SBS 5105</td>
<td>Maternal and Child Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>SBS 8002</td>
<td>Research Seminar in Public Health</td>
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<td>SBS 8006</td>
<td>Addictions and Dependencies</td>
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<tr>
<td>SBS 8018</td>
<td>Obesity: From Genes to Junk Food</td>
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<tr>
<td>SBS 9083</td>
<td>Readings and Conference in Public Health</td>
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**Research Courses**

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<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>SBS 9994</td>
<td>Preliminary Examinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>SBS 9998</td>
<td>Dissertation Proposal Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBS 9999</td>
<td>Dissertation Research</td>
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**Total Credit Hours**: 45

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1. Students may select an alternate advanced statistics course with the approval of the faculty mentor.

2. Students discuss gaps in their training or areas for scholarship development with their faculty mentor prior to completing the first four academic terms in the program. Based on this planning, students engage in a project with a research mentor, as approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.

3. Students select electives with advisement from a faculty mentor or the program director. With approval, other electives may be taken.

4. If selected, SBS 9083 must be taken for 3 credits.

5. The Graduate School requires that students complete a minimum of 6 credits that include SBS 9994, SBS 9998, and SBS 9999. Of the 6 credits, at least 2 credits must be earned in the dissertation phase (SBS 9999).

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**Culminating Events:**

**Area Paper:**
Prior to sitting for the preliminary examinations, students must have successfully published or written a publishable paper in their chosen area of research interest. The purpose of the paper requirement is to demonstrate critical and interpretive knowledge in specialized areas of one's chosen program, as well as a high proficiency in written communication and a capacity to contribute to generalizable knowledge in the field. The student must be the lead or sole author. For students who enter the program without already having published a first-authored, peer-reviewed article, they typically initiate efforts toward this requirement during their first term of residency.

A student cannot advance to the preliminary examinations without passing the paper requirement. Failure to satisfactorily complete the area paper requirement within the specified time frame can result in dismissal from the Ph.D. program. Students who are entering the Ph.D. program and have already published a peer-reviewed paper related to their programmatic subdiscipline can request to waive this requirement by completing a waiver application and submitting it along with the published document to the Director of Graduate Studies.

**Preliminary Examinations (SBS 9994):**
Students typically take their preliminary examinations during their third year of residency in the program, after completing the paper requirement. All students are required to take the preliminary examinations prior to completing and defending their dissertation research proposal. The preliminary examinations are designed to test fundamental core competencies of the students' training. The exams should be taken within one term of completing all coursework. The student must register for 1 credit of SBS 9994 in the term in which the examinations are taken. To register for SBS 9994, the student must have completed all coursework or be enrolled in final courses in the term in which the examinations are taken. The examinations cannot be taken until all Incomplete and/or 'NR' grades are removed and the area paper requirement has been satisfied. Students are required to meet with their mentor and Director of Graduate Studies before the beginning of the term in which they plan to take the examinations to establish eligibility. Special authorization is required to register.

The preliminary examinations consist of the following components:
• A comprehensive one-week take-home written examination, with an emphasis on the student’s concentration, about the scientific foundations as well as social and behavioral sciences underpinnings of public health; and
• A methods exam, which is a four-hour in-class examination on research methods and statistics.

Students who fail these exams may have one opportunity to take the examinations again. A second failure results in automatic dismissal from the Ph.D. program.

Dissertation Proposal (SBS 9998):
After passing the preliminary examinations, students may enroll in SBS 9998. Students must be enrolled for 1 credit of SBS 9998 each term until they file their dissertation proposal with the Graduate School.

All students must form a Doctoral Advisory Committee (DAC) with the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies. The DAC is composed of at least three Graduate Faculty members: two members, including the chair, must be from the Ph.D. program faculty of the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences. The DAC Chair must be approved as Doctoral Graduate Faculty by the Dean of the College of Public Health and by the Graduate School. The chair is responsible for overseeing and guiding the student’s progress; coordinating the responses of the Committee members; and informing the student and the Director of Graduate Studies annually of the student’s academic progress. A fourth, external reader is also required at the time of the final dissertation defense. This person must be a member of the Graduate Faculty at Temple or approved by the Dean of the College to take part in the final dissertation examination. This fourth member is not required to be present at the defense of the proposal.

To fulfill the requirements of SBS 9998, students must submit a dissertation proposal, successfully defend it orally before their Committee, apply for IRB approval for the proposed research, and submit the proposal to the Graduate School. Students have a maximum of one year from the time of completing their preliminary examinations to develop and defend their dissertation proposal. Thus, students may enroll in SBS 9998 for only two terms without permission. Students needing more time may, with the support of their mentor, formally petition the Director of Graduate Studies for an extension, although an extension is not guaranteed. Failure to meet these requirements can result in dismissal from the program.

Dissertation (SBS 9999):
The doctoral dissertation is an original theory-based research study that makes a significant contribution to the field of Public Health. It should expand existing knowledge and demonstrate the student’s mastery of theory and research methods, particularly within a concentration or specialty area. The research should be rigorous, while upholding the ethics and standards of the field. Students are expected to submit their dissertation study for publication and presentation to professional audiences.

To fulfill the dissertation requirement, students must prepare and orally defend the final dissertation in a public meeting. Students should present their plans for publishing their dissertation as part of their defense. Students must be enrolled continuously for at least 3 credits of dissertation research until their dissertation is successfully defended. The Graduate School requires a minimum of 2 credits of SBS 9999. Students must be enrolled in the course in the term that they graduate.

The Dissertation Examining Committee (DEC) consists of the DAC plus at least one additional external reviewer. The external reviewer must be doctorally prepared. If this person is not a member of the Temple University Graduate Faculty, s/he must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies, the Dean of the College, and the Graduate School to take part in the final dissertation examination. The DEC evaluates the student’s written dissertation and oral defense, including the student’s ability to articulate orally the research question; methodological approach; primary findings; interpretation of the findings; and implications for theory, research, and practice. The DEC votes to pass or fail the dissertation and the defense at the conclusion of the public presentation.

If a student needs to change a member of a committee, the new member must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies and registered with the Graduate School.

Students who are preparing to defend their dissertation should confirm a time and date with their DEC and work with their department’s administrative assistant to secure a room. This should be done at least one month in advance of the proposed date. The Administrative Assistant arranges the time, date, and room within two working days. After the time, date, and room are secured, the student must submit to the Graduate School a completed ‘Announcement of Dissertation Defense’ form, found in TUportal under the Tools tab within “University Forms.” This must be submitted at least 10 working days before the defense. The Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences posts flyers announcing the defense, and the Graduate School lists the defense on its website.

Contacts

Program Web Address:

Department Information:
Dept. of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Ritter Hall Annex, 9th Floor (004-09)
1301 Cecil B. Moore Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19122-6005
Submission Address for Application Materials:
https://sophas.liaisoncas.com/

Department Contacts:
Admissions:
Annemarie Szambelak
CPH Office of Admissions
annemarie@temple.edu
215-204-5200

Director of Graduate Studies:
Bradley N. Collins, Ph.D.
collinsb@temple.edu
215-204-2849

Chairperson:
Stephen Lepore, Ph.D.
stephen.lepore@temple.edu
215-204-8726

Courses
SBS 5001. Fundamentals of Public Health. 3 Credit Hours.
This course encompasses historical and sociocultural approaches to understanding public health and bioethics. Emphasis is on understanding public health systems from the dawn of history to the 21st century and the evolution of bioethical issues including the application of bioethical principles, regulations, and strategies in research and health practice. This seminar emphasizes the integration of conceptual and experiential learning. This is reflected in the course design and in teaching and learning processes.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.
College Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Colleges: College of Public Health, Social Work.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

SBS 5002. Program Planning, Theory, and Practice. 3 Credit Hours.
Program Planning, Theory, and Practice is a core course in the MPH curriculum that includes content critical to the development of public health practitioners and researchers. It covers all aspects of the public health program planning cycle: (1) the identification of community stakeholders and conducting needs assessments; (2) using scientific literature and best practices to inform program development; and (3) implementation and evaluation of community programs. The course will introduce major models of human health behavior and use theory and evidence to guide students as they develop a public health program. Final program proposals include measurable goals and objectives, activities, and an evaluation plan, with a focus on cultural competence and tailoring to meet the needs of the community. Upon completion of the course, students will have the tools to design and evaluate public health programs in the community.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

SBS 5004. Understanding Stress and Change. 3 Credit Hours.
This course focuses on the impact of stress on physical and emotional health and quality of life. It focuses on the causes, types, and physiology of stress and stress reduction methods, including relaxation, biofeedback, fear control, cognitive restructuring, and social psychological interventions in community settings.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.
SBS 5005. International Health Studies Abroad. 6 Credit Hours.
Students learn to articulate a historical and cultural understanding of the Costa Rican approach to health and medical care, to identify the major health concerns of the Costa Rican population in rural and urban settings and the major strides taken to improve health, to conduct limited fieldwork with rural communities in teams of 3 to 4 persons or conduct community health field research among the graduate students, and to write a professional paper and presentation on one of the health issues in Costa Rica based on their experience there. While previous Spanish language proficiency is not required, some Spanish language ability is essential for students to gain the maximum understanding during the program. Therefore, students during the first two weeks of the program take intensive Spanish language training in Costa Rica at the Institute for Central American Development Studies (ICADS). The third week involves travel to other regions within Costa Rica to examine different health conditions depending on the year's topics. During the fourth and fifth weeks, students live and work in rural communities and help to facilitate health education workshops on different activities such as: diabetes, nutrition, HIV/AIDS prevention education, women's health, child health care issues, first aid education, fitness and exercise, and backyard gardening.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

SBS 5009. Risk Communication and Public Health. 3 Credit Hours.
The goal of this course is to demonstrate how health communication professionals can create and implement risk communication plans related to either possible or actual public health hazards (anything that can cause morbidity or mortality). This course focuses on risk communication within the context of terrorism, infectious disease outbreaks, and health problems that occur because of natural disasters. It will include core principles of risk communication, examine special challenges of risk communication with diverse audiences, and prepare students to create a crisis and emergency risk communication plan.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

SBS 5015. Public Health Nutrition. 3 Credit Hours.
This seminar course explores nutrition as a science and platform for public health promotion and disease prevention. The fundamental contribution of nutrition to public health as well as the potential of food and nutrition policy, programs, and interventions to reduce risk and promote health are examined.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

SBS 5102. Theoretical Foundations of Health Behavior. 3 Credit Hours.
Theories of decision-making related to health behavior. Emphasis on the dynamic interaction of attitudes, values, situational factors and other factors that influence health promoting and health damaging behavior.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

College Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Colleges: College of Public Health, Social Work.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

SBS 5104. Models for Teaching Health and Patient Education. 3 Credit Hours.
This course deals with the description and application of teaching models used in health and patient education in communities, health care systems, and schools. There is an emphasis on creating learning environments, communication skills, tailoring for diverse populations, and teaching techniques.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

SBS 5105. Maternal and Child Health. 3 Credit Hours.
This seminar on maternal and child health (MCH) focuses on health problems and diseases affecting pregnant and postpartum women and their children from the individual, community, and national perspectives. The course highlights the impact of common health problems and their functional outcomes in terms of morbidity, mortality, psychological well being, reproduction and growth. Students will examine social, behavioral, systems and broader population determinants of maternal and childhood diseases, as well as interventions and programs designed to address MCH problems.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.
SBS 5500. Seminar in Current Issues in Public Health. 3 Credit Hours.
Seminar topics rotate to address current issues in public health research, policy and practice.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.
College Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Colleges: College of Public Health, Social Work.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

SBS 8001. Research Methods in Public Health. 3 Credit Hours.
This course examines how to develop and test models, formulate research problem statements and hypotheses, and implement and evaluate research designs and methods of data collection in public health research. It concentrates on fundamental concepts in research design and measurement that help prepare the student to plan and implement theoretically informed and methodologically sound scientific studies in public health and to critically evaluate and discuss public health research. The course emphasizes ethical and practical methods of studying and evaluating causal relations (efficacy and internal validity); determining generalizability of observations (effectiveness, external and ecological validity); and accurate and reliable measuring and conceptualizing of variables (construct validity). In addition, it covers systematic literature searches and randomized controlled trials, which are both increasingly important methods for conducting research in public health.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.
College Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Colleges: College of Public Health, Social Work.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

SBS 8002. Research Seminar in Public Health. 3 Credit Hours.
This is a research seminar on linkages between theory and research in social and behavioral science studies. It is required for Ph.D. students prior to taking the preliminary examinations.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

SBS 8005. Health Promotion in Vulnerable Populations. 3 Credit Hours.
This course is designed to help students develop a deep understanding of the potential causes of and solutions to health disparities. Health disparities are defined as unequal, unfair, and preventable differences in the burden of disease, injury, violence, or opportunities to achieve optimal health. Health disparities experienced by vulnerable populations are well documented in the United States. This course will review, critically appraise and discuss social and behavioral sciences theory and research on the physical, mental, and social vulnerabilities contributing to the poor health of subgroups of the American populace. Readings and discussions will also focus on challenges as well as approaches to engaging vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations in social and behavioral intervention research aimed at improving health outcomes. Specifically, this course will cover social and behavioral science theories; methodological and recruitment challenges and strategies; approaches to intervening at the individual, community, and system levels; and approaches to developing and adapting interventions.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

SBS 8006. Addictions and Dependencies. 3 Credit Hours.
Social, psychological, cultural, clinical, and biological factors associated with addictions and dependencies, including the use of psychoactive drugs and lifestyle behaviors, are covered. Reviewed are prevention and treatment approaches based on the causes and correlates of addictions and dependencies.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.
College Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Colleges: College of Public Health, Social Work.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

SBS 8009. Health Psychology. 3 Credit Hours.
Through class lecture, readings, and discussions, students will learn how characteristics of persons (e.g., personality, behavior, coping, and biological reactivity) and their environments (e.g., stress and social support) influence health outcomes at the individual and population level. In addition, the course examines the potential of health psychology to explain population-level health problems and to ameliorate public health problems through behavioral and community-based interventions.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.
College Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Colleges: College of Public Health, Social Work.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.
SBS 8018. Obesity: From Genes to Junk Food. 3 Credit Hours.
The course will broadly explore the etiology, treatment, and prevention of obesity from a multilevel systems perspective. Genetic, epigenetic, physiological, and psycho-social influences will be considered at the level of the individual. These influences will also be considered within family, school, and work-site contexts. Macro-level influences include government policies and programs, media, food industry influences, and community resources. Critical thinking skills and scholarly exchange will be emphasized through classroom discussion and weekly presentations/critiques of emerging science in each topic area.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

Pre-requisites:
EPBI 5101|Minimum Grade of B-|May not be taken concurrently
OR PBHL 5101|Minimum Grade of B-|May not be taken concurrently
OR EPBI 5201|Minimum Grade of B-|May not be taken concurrently
OR PBHL 5201|Minimum Grade of B-|May not be taken concurrently

SBS 8105. Health Communication. 3 Credit Hours.
This course examines levels of communication processes and effects in 1) intrapersonal health communication related to personality, attitudes, cognitive style, and quality of life; 2) interpersonal communication in the patient-caregiver relationships, including dynamics of stress, conflict, and social support; 3) organizational communication in health-care settings; 4) mass communication processes, including media campaigns to promote good health and disease prevention; and 5) risk communication across settings and strategies.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

SBS 8111. Public Health Program Planning. 3 Credit Hours.
This course covers program planning in public health practice. It analyzes national health objectives and their applications at the state and community levels. One emphasis is on program planning as a change strategy to alter knowledge, attitudes, and health behavior to achieve positive health outcomes.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

Pre-requisites:
(EPBI 5101|Minimum Grade of B-|May be taken concurrently
OR PBHL 5101|Minimum Grade of B-|May be taken concurrently
OR EPBI 5201|Minimum Grade of B-|May be taken concurrently
OR PBHL 5201|Minimum Grade of B-|May be taken concurrently)
AND (EPBI 5002|Minimum Grade of B-|May be taken concurrently
OR PBHL 5002|Minimum Grade of B-|May be taken concurrently
OR SBS 5102|Minimum Grade of B-|May be taken concurrently
OR PBHL 5102|Minimum Grade of B-|May be taken concurrently)

SBS 9083. Readings and Conference in Public Health. 1 to 3 Credit Hour.
This is an advanced tutorial in public health with an appropriate faculty member. Note: Registration requires a written contract with the supervising faculty member and approval of the student's advisor and of the Director of Graduate Programs.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

SBS 9189. MPH Capstone Seminar. 3 Credit Hours.
This seminar is required of M.P.H. students during final year of study. The seminar includes integration of coursework and practice skills to develop a fieldwork project or internship in a public health agency.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.
SBS 9289. MPH Fieldwork I. 3 Credit Hours.
This course entails a fieldwork project or internship in a public health agency. It includes seminars, oral and written reports of progress, and joint supervision by a preceptor and faculty member.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

SBS 9389. MPH Fieldwork II. 3 Credit Hours.
This course is an evaluation of the fieldwork project or internship using a full range of research methodologies. Data are collected, analyzed, and reported in a comprehensive final report. Oral and/or poster presentations are presented to public health organizations. The course includes a final oral defense of the project or internship.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

SBS 9994. Preliminary Examinations. 1 Credit Hour.
This course supports preparation for taking the preliminary examinations in the Health Policy and Social and Behavioral Sciences Ph.D. programs. To enroll, students must have completed all required coursework for the Ph.D. and obtain the approval of the Ph.D. Program Director. Students must be enrolled to take the required preliminary examinations.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

SBS 9996. Masters Res in Pub Hlth. 3 Credit Hours.
This course is limited to students who have chosen to fulfill the master's degree by writing a thesis.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

SBS 9998. Dissertation Proposal Research. 2 Credit Hours.
This course supports preparation of the dissertation proposal. The course is required for students who have passed the preliminary examinations for their PhD program and who have not yet defended the dissertation proposal.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Degree Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Degrees: Doctor of Philosophy.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

Pre-requisites:
SBS 9994|Minimum Grade of P|May not be taken concurrently.

SBS 9999. Dissertation Research. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.
This course is limited to Ph.D. candidates who have completed and defended a dissertation proposal that is filed with the Graduate School by the last day to add a course in the semester. Continuous registration in 9999 fall and spring is required until the dissertation is successfully defended.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

Student Attribute Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Student Attributes: Dissertation Writing Student.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.