

CURRICULUM

FOR

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH)

IN

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE MANAGEMENT

AND

HEALTH PROMOTION AND EDUCATION

A TWO YEARS - FOUR SEMESTER COURSE



PURBANCHALUNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF MEDICAL AND ALLIED SCIENCES
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Purbanchal University
Faculty of Medical & Allied Sciences
CURICULUM FOR
MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH) in Public Health Service
Management and Health Promotion and Education

1. Introduction

Despite improvement of the health status in most countries over the last few decades, many challenges are being faced to improve health status of people by the complicated emergence and resurgence of multiple health risk factors, complicated health behaviors requiring favorable changes, communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases: notably new emergence of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and environmental and climate change-threats to public health are significant challenges. Likewise social discriminations, violence conflict and irrational life-styles are the new threats of public health.

Health promotion - protection, risk factors - disease prevention and control of epidemic is the core working grounds of the discipline of public health. Tasks to be carried out under these grounds are focused primarily on people of normal to upward level of health with target of helping people to attain optimum level of health. In this context public health discipline does not mix itself with diagnosis and treatment of people/patients already exposed to or suffering from illness/disease. However, public health does not exclude encouragement of people to seek early diagnosis and treatment and refrain themselves from transferring illnesses and diseases to their other healthy fellow beings. Public health education, therefore, anchors in preparing public health professional/practitioners who work for promotion and protection of health of the people, prevention of health risk factors leading to illness/diseases and control of spread of illness or diseases during epidemics as well as in normal times. The ultimate aim of which is to help people to attain a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being. There are challenges in front of public health works many of these challenges require abundant efforts through political commitment, people participation, inter-sector coordination and priorities based resource mobilization and distribution. To response to these challenges, public health professionals/workforces should be at the forefront working together in a wide range of governmental and non-governmental sectors.

Public health is obviously viewed as one of the effective interventions for achieving national health goals of establishing healthy and productive people for national development. The development of public health workforce education, training and appropriate career structure as well as strengthening public health education and research activities is neglected and inadequate to address the new challenges of public health in Nepal. The curriculum is expected to tracks public health professionals to take leadership for assuring better health service management and improving quality of life of the people. This will be achieved though updated, specialization-focused and contemporary community need-based curricula which can address the real needs of modern public health issues and appropriate public health management in resources constrained settings.

The Faculty of Medical and allied Sciences of Purbanchal University, Biratnagar and its affiliated institutes have been running undergraduate program of Bachelor of Public Health since 2002 with the

aim to produce highly qualified graduates, who will contribute their knowledge and skills for the improvement of health of the people and to meet the challenges of public health of the 21st century by maintaining a new perspective and standard in public health education. The University through its affiliated colleges and institutes has produced thousands of bachelor level public health graduates working in various sectors in different capacities. The Faculty of Medical and Allied Sciences has but one goal – to make students able to appreciate the sanctity of life and flush them with a pioneering spirit that enables them to make a valuable contribution to the national health development. On this background, it is high time that University has to run Master’s level specialization program in public health. Such program will not only enhance the essence of university education but also boost the all round growth and capability of the University. The master level education in public health is characterized by:

- Advanced level courses in public health
- Development of specialized public health human resources with generalist competencies
- Two years of compulsory residential courses avoiding “degree by private examination” and “degree by dissertation” systems
- Provision for general or core (50%) and specialization (50%) courses
- Opportunity for pursuing master level public health education for at least bachelor level public health, medicine, nursing and allied health and medical science graduates
- Education based on country’s public health service needs
- Reflection of national identity in public health education
- Public health education – professional expertise development
- Creating opportunities or environments for exercising specialized public health professional knowledge and skills

Title of the degree

The title of the Degree will be

A. Master of Public Health (MPH) in Public Health Service Management

B. Master of Public Health (MPH) in Health Promotion and Education

C. Master of Public Health (MPH) in

2. The curriculum

Mission of the Curriculum

The mission of the curriculum is to provide complete guide as a cornerstone that directs formal public health education processes to prepare competent new millennium public health professionals/academics and managers to help improve and enhance the equality of life of the people through moving from normal health status towards optimum level of health.

Goal

The main goal of MPH Program is to develop public health professional human resources equipped with academic excellence, leadership quality for development of public health technology, and dedication in advancing new idea in the field of public health. Such resources could contribute to the

people become healthy by living in a healthy environment through promoting and protecting health, preventing from becoming sick or diseased or infirmed.

Objectives

Main objective of **Master of Public Health** Program is to produce competent human resources to provide quality public health services, both general as well as specialized, who will be working at the central and intermediate level health services; public, private and corporate organizations; taking service, education and research responsibilities.

Specific objectives of the MPH program

The specific objectives of Master of Public Health in General and Specialized Public Health are to develop such public health professionals who are competent and dedicated to:

:

1. Advocate with firm arguments the advanced and changing concept of general public health and specialized fields of public health
2. Apply the knowledge and skills of public health epidemiology, statistics, and research in exercising general and specialized public health practices
3. Apply advanced concepts of environmental and occupational health; demography, reproductive and family health in terms of their principles and application in public health
4. Conduct general and specialized public health intervention programs applying theories and principles of behavioral sciences, particularly that of public health sociology, cultural anthropology and social psychology
5. Carry out health promotion and education programs in general and specialized fields of public health in support of promoting and protecting health of the people, preventing diseases and control of epidemics
6. Manage general and specialized public health programs following modern and scientific public health management principles and procedures
7. Conduct research in specialized public health issues including preparation of reports applicable to plan and implement public health programs and projects
8. Study and strengthen the existing public health practices in the public and private sector organizations through continuing education and training programs.
9. Assist public health and related organizations in solving their public health service problems by providing consultancy services.
10. Contribute to public health literature through research and publications.
11. Lead the practice of public health in governmental, non-governmental, and private sectors by maintaining public health professional standards and its values

Course duration, structure and coding

The duration of MPH program will be of two years spread over four semesters. There will be no private student enrollment system. All students are required to attend the classes for the said durations.

The curriculum of MPH has been structured to cope with diversity of changing demands of public health endeavors. Besides the core courses, the curriculum provides opportunities for the students to pursue individual interest through broad based choice of specialization subjects.

There will be 10 core courses (5 each in first and second semester) and 8 (5 in third and 3 in fourth semester) courses in each of the specialization area making a total of 18 courses to be studied to earn the degree of MPH. Currently, there will be provision for specialization in two areas and more areas can be added in the future. The two areas are:

- Public Health Service Management
- Health Promotion and Education

Area for future specialization:

- Public Health Research Methods
- Public Health Nutrition
- Public Health Epidemiology
- Reproductive Health
- Environmental health
- Public Health Sociology/Anthropology
- Public Health Information Technology
- Ocular Health
- Oral Health

Multi-disciplinary entry criteria will be expanded as per the nature of specialization areas to be offered.

The course is divided into three components: Core courses, specialization courses and thesis. The core courses carry a total of 32 credit hours followed by specialization courses, including thesis carrying 28 credit hours. Thus the program consists of a total equivalent to 60 credit hours.

A course of 1 credit hour of theory is equivalent to 16 hours lecture in one semester. An average involvement of a student in University will be of 6 h/day, i. e. 36 h/week (Sunday to Friday). Approximate active weeks will be of 16 weeks/semester and therefore, in total, the student will be engaged more than 540 h/semester.

Each course is identified by initial letter of the course title followed by three digital number and credit hour after decimal i.e. MPH-113-ACPH for Advance Concept of Public Health where 1 stand for 1st semester, 1 stands for subject order and 3 stands for credit hours and so on.

For Specialization in 2nd and 3rd semester course code will be used 'A' for health Service management and 'B' for health promotion and education. For eg. MPH-314-TDHP-A. Semester wise distribution of course structure including credit hours is presented as follow:

Courses for General (Core) Public Health (32 CHs)

First Semester

Course code	Course title	Nature of Subject	Credit hours	Marks Distribution		Grand Total
				Internal	Final	
MPH-113-ACPH	Advanced concept of public health	Theory	3	20	80	100
PH-123-FPHA	Fundamental public health actions	Theory	3	20	80	100
MPH-133-APHE	Advanced public health epidemiology (risk factors/diseases)	Theory	3	20	80	100
MPH-143-EOH	Environmental and occupational health	Theory	3	20	80	100
MPH-154-RFH	Reproductive and family health	Theory	4	20	80	100
MPH-163-IPHP	Integrated Public Health Practicum	Practical	3	50	150	200
Semester total			19	150	550	700

Note: Subjects list and mark distributions of remaining semester will be send later.

Courses for the other specialization areas in Master of Public Health will be develop in future as and when necessary.

3. Location

The MPH program can be conducted initially in the Faculty of Medical and Allied Sciences, Purbanchal University, Gothgaun, Biratnagar and later on in other institutes and colleges of Nepal affiliated to and approved to conduct program by Purbanchal University. The affiliated colleges or institutes shall offer at least two specialization areas of study from among the several specialization areas provisioned in the MPH curriculum in each intake batch.

4. Entry Requirement for New Student

The entry requirement for a candidate in M.P.H is determined by the specialization courses that the candidates would like to choose. However, Bachelor in the field of health sciences as recognized by Purbanchal University with no less than CGPA 3.00 out of 4 scales will be the basic entry criteria. The entry criteria for each of the specialization course are presented below: Besides the basic academic requirement, a pass in entrance examination is required for all applicants to get admission into MPH program.

Current specialization

Public Health Specialization	Entry requirement (Academic)
Public health service management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Public Health (BPH), • Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor in Surgery (MBBS) with study of community medicine subjects • Post-basic Bachelor of Nursing (BN) with study of community health nursing subjects • Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSc.N) with study of community health nursing subjects
Health promotion and education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Public Health (BPH), • Post-basic Bachelor of Nursing (BN) with study of community health nursing subjects • Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) with study of community health nursing subjects

Future specialization

Public Health Specialization	Entry requirement
Public health research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Public Health (BPH), • Post-basic Bachelor of Nursing (BN) with study of community health nursing subjects • Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) with study of community health nursing subjects • Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor in Surgery (MBBS) with study of community medicine subjects • Bachelor in Medical Imaging Technology (BMIT) • Bachelor in Pharmacy
Public health nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Public Health (BPH), • Post-basic Bachelor of Nursing (BN) with study of community health nursing subjects • Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSc.N) with study of community health nursing subjects
Public health epidemiology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Public Health (BPH), • Post-basic Bachelor of Nursing (BN) with study of community health nursing subjects • Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSc.N) with study of community health nursing subjects • Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor in Surgery (MBBS) with study of community medicine subjects

Reproductive and family health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Public Health (BPH), • Post-basic Bachelor of Nursing (BN) with study of community health nursing subjects • Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSc.N) with study of community health nursing subjects • Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor in Surgery (MBBS) with study of community medicine subjects
Environmental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Public Health (BPH)
Public health sociology/anthropology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Public Health (BPH), • Post-basic Bachelor of Nursing (BN) with study of community health nursing subjects • Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSc.N) with study of community health nursing subjects
Ocular health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Public Health (BPH), • Bachelor of Optometrist • Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor in Surgery (MBBS) with study of community medicine subjects
Oral health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Public Health (BPH)
Public health information technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor in Health Information Technology (BHIT)

5. Duration of the Course

The duration of the course is two years. Core subjects are included in the first year followed by specialization courses in the second year. Each academic year is divided into two semesters lasting for six months each.

6. Students' evaluation and examinations

Since the curriculum is based on a semester system, one semester will be equal to 6 months. Semester examinations will be held in 6 month intervals. In each semester there will be internal assessments covering 20 percent of the full marks in each subjects which will be conducted by the concerned college/institute. External examinations for 80% marks in each subject will be conducted by the University

A student must score the pass marks in each subject in aggregate in order to be the eligible to appear into the semester final examination. Students should pass separately in semester final examination. Following the completion of the three semesters and corresponding examinations the students will work on a thesis in fourth semester. The institute will arrange reexamination up to 3 months after the final examination. Before final defending of their thesis the students must pass the first, second and

third semester examinations. Candidate failure to pass the requirements of the course in five years period will be expelled from the program issuing attendance certificate.

Minimum of 80% attendance in classes of each subject is required to be eligible for attending the semester final examination. To pass a particular course, a student must obtain a minimum of C grade in session work (average of internal assessments) and the final examination, separately.

Grading System

The following grading system will be in effect

Grade	Interpretation	Grade Points	Percentage
A	Excellence	4.0	
B+	Good	3.5	
B	Good	3.0	
C+	Fair	2.5	
C	Fair	2.0	
D	Poor/Fail	0	

7. Graduation Requirements

- Must have independently passed all the four semester examinations with minimum weighted average GPA 3.0
- Satisfactory completion of thesis and oral examination.

8. Normal and Maximum Duration of Stay in the University

The normal duration for completing the M.P.H course is two years. If a student is unable to complete the course within five years from the time of admission, the registration in MPH is annulled and need to re-register.

9. Academic Schedule

The academic session consists of two semesters per year. Generally the Fall Semester (September - February) starts in September and the Spring Semester (February - August) begins in February.

10. Admission Procedure

Normally Purbanchal University notify on intake of candidates for MPH program by specifying the name of specialization courses to be offered in the particular academic year.

The application form and the information can be obtained on request from Faculty of Medical and Allied Sciences, Purbanchal University, Biratnagar or Contact Office of the University, Kathmandu or affiliated colleges or institutes having MPH program. Only the eligible candidates will be allowed to take part in the entrance test.

The subjects in the entrance test will be in accordance of Bachelor of Public Health Syllabus of Purbanchal University. The University may also hold interviews for the candidates before their final selection for admission. The candidates will be admitted on merit basis. Eligible foreign national students may apply against limited seats on the basis of an interview.

12. Attendance Requirement

The students must attend every lecture, tutorial, seminar and practical classes. However, to accommodate for sickness and other contingencies, the attendance requirement shall be a minimum of 80% of the classes in any particular subject, otherwise s/he shall not be allowed to take the final examination in that subject. If a student is continuously absent in the class for more than four weeks without notifying the authorities, his/her name will be removed from the school roll.

13. Repeating a Course

Since passing of all courses individually is a degree requirement, the student must retake the failing core course when offered and must successfully complete the course. Retaking a course in which a

student has earned a D grade is optional. Student can retake a course when one receives GPA less than 2.0. The grade earned on the retake will be substituted for the grade earned previously.

14. Final Examination

University conducts final examination at the end of each semester. The procedure of final examination conduction will be as per the examination rules of the University.

The performance of a student in a semester will be evaluated in terms of the semester grade point average (SGPA). The student's final grade will be calculated on cumulative grade point average (CGPA).

SGPA = Total honor points earned in a semester/total number of credits registered in a semester.

CGPA = Total honor points earned/total number of credits completed.

15. Divisions

In Purbanchal University, CGPA 2.5 or more and 3.0 or more are considered as Second and First divisions, respectively. To obtain a degree with distinction, a student must obtained CGPA 3.6 or better

16. Dismissal from the program

A student is normally expected to maintain a CGPA of 2.0. A student failing to maintain a satisfactory academic standard shall be dismissed from the program. In case a student gets less than 2.0 SGPA then in marginal cases only the Dean or the faculty can allow the student to continue his/her studies on the recommendation of program director or the subject committee.

17. Educational principles guiding implementation of the Curriculum

It is believed that qualitative/pragmatic teaching-learning activities will be achieved through:

- Problem based/participatory learning
- Promoting teachers as a facilitator of learning
- Promoting an environment where both the teachers and students are treated with dignity and respect
- Promoting coordination and team spirit among participants
- Promoting active learning interaction among participants
- Promoting self-learning as a life-long process
- Creating an environment of readiness among participants for creative and enquiry-lead learning
- Promoting the environment of fair judgment among participants
- Measuring learning through the application of appropriate KAP instruments
- Providing clear teaching-learning policies and guidelines
- Adapting adult learning theories and principles

In addition, the following strategies should be assured in term of resource requirements for implementing the curriculum

- Availability of adequate number of faculty experts
- Ensure that faculty experts are competent in their professionalism
- Recruiting quality students
- Adequate financial support
- Adequate physical facilities
- Adequate teaching learning materials/instruments and equipment
- Clear policy guidelines with supportive management team

Scientists/professionals of national or international repute will be invited to deliver special lecture and seminar.

The medium of instruction and examination for M.P.H. program will primarily be English.

18. Other

All other rules and regulations will be followed as already established by Purbanchal University.

Note: The provisions of this document are not to be regarded as a binding contract between the University and the students. The University reserves the right to change any provisions or requirements contained in this document at any time, without pre-notification, within the students' term of residence.