

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PHD

Overview

The PhD program in International Health and Sustainable Development (IHSD) prepares the next generation of global public health researchers to conduct state-of-the-art research on global health and development issues, to reduce inequities, and to shape a sustainable future for the planet. The PhD program provides students with the skills to identify, assess, and apply scientific theories and research methodologies; to conduct original scientific research studies in resource-constrained settings; to leverage research findings towards best practice and strategic planning for global health programs; and to teach, mentor and advise students, programs, development officials, and governments. Students will develop understanding of relevant theories, the capacity to employ interdisciplinary and mixed-method research approaches, cultural competency, and the skills for ethical conduct of research.

Program Competencies

- Critique empirical and theoretical knowledge relevant to health and development issues and factors associated with inequities in resource poor settings.
- Formulate evocative, relevant, and clear research questions addressing global health and development issues.
- Generate applied qualitative and quantitative field research, including working with local partners, maintaining appropriate cultural sensitivities, addressing ethical issues, and managing and analyzing primary and secondary data.
- Explain research methodologies, scientific findings, and programmatic and policy implications of research findings to the scientific community and program implementers.
- Teach in an area of specialization, whether substantive, regional/geographic, and/or methodological.

Requirements

Course ID	Title	Credits
PhD Foundational Courses		
SPHL 6020	Foundations in Public Health	3
SPHL 6050	Biostatistics for Public Health	3
SPHL 6060	Epidemiology for Public Health	3
SPHL 6080	Design Strategies in Public Health Programs	3
BIOS 6040	Intermediate Biostatistics	3
IHSD 6300	Monitoring of Global Health Programs	3
PhD Core Courses		
SBPS 8760 or EPID 7120	Social Epidemiology/Social Determinants of Health II Epidemiologic Methods II	3
SPHL 8080	Public Health Pedagogy	3
SPHL 7500	Public Health Grant Writing	3
IHSD 8250	Advanced Research Methods in Global Health	3
SBPS 8750	Social Determinants of Health I: Theory	3
SBPS 7280	Qualitative Methods I: Basic Foundations	3
SBPS 8800	Senior Graduate Research Seminar I	0
SBPS 8830	Senior Graduate Research Seminar II	1
IHSD 7200	Sustainable Human Development: Theory and Practice	3
Electives (Choose Three)		9
Total Credit Hours		49

Research ethics

IHSD doctoral candidates will complete the CITI ethics training course (or equivalent) no later than the end of the second year of their program and will remain certified for the duration of the academic program.

Teaching Assistant Requirement

All PhD students at SPHTM are required to serve as a teaching assistant (TA) for two SPHTM graduate courses while enrolled in the PhD program.

Students should register for Teaching Assistantship Educational Experience (0 credits) during the terms they complete each TA requirement. The courses for which the student will serve as a TA must be approved by the faculty advisor.

Comprehensive Examination

Upon completion of required coursework listed above students will be required to pass a comprehensive examination to demonstrate knowledge of, and competency with, the PhD core coursework, and concentration-specific coursework, as well as their specialty area. The exam will be administered by the concentration PhD program director and two additional faculty members in the department.

Prospectus

After passing the comprehensive exam a student must defend their prospectus. Upon agreement of all committee members, a student will defend the prospectus in an oral exam which is open to the school. Students need to follow all deadlines and submit all forms as specified in the school PhD handbook.

Dissertation

Students must complete a dissertation representing applied public health research that meets the school requirements for a PhD dissertation. Upon agreement of all committee members, a student will defend the dissertation in an oral exam which is open to the school. Students need to follow all deadlines and submit all forms as specified in the school PhD handbook.

Model Schedule (not including Foundational Courses)

The model schedule represents an overall plan for completing degree requirements. Students should consult their academic advisor to plan their actual schedule in terms of total credits per semester and course sequencing.

		Credit Hours
Year 1		
Fall		
IHSD 7200	Sustainable Human Development: Theory and Practice	3
SBPS 8750	Social Determinants of Health I: Theory	3
SBPS 7280	Qualitative Methods I: Basic Foundations	3
SBPS 8800	Senior Graduate Research Seminar I	0
Credit Hours		9
Spring		
SBPS 8760 or EPID 7120	Social Epidemiology/Social Determinants of Health II or Epidemiologic Methods II	3
IHSD 8250	Advanced Research Methods in Global Health	3
SBPS 8830	Senior Graduate Research Seminar II	1
Elective		3
Credit Hours		10
Summer Session		
Elective		3
Credit Hours		3
Year 2		
Fall		
SPHL 7500	Public Health Grant Writing	3
SPHL 8080	Public Health Pedagogy	3
Elective		3
Credit Hours		9
Spring		
SPHL 9990	Dissertation	0
Credit Hours		0
Summer Session		
SPHL 9990	Dissertation	0
Credit Hours		0

Year 3

Fall

SPHL 9990	Dissertation	0
Credit Hours		0

Spring

SPHL 9990	Dissertation	0
Credit Hours		0

Summer Session

SPHL 9990	Dissertation	0
Credit Hours		0

Year 4

Fall

SPHL 9990	Dissertation	0
Credit Hours		0

Spring

SPHL 9990	Dissertation	0
Credit Hours		0

Total Credit Hours		31
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