MPH45/Health Policy
Field of Study Session

Meredith Rosenthal, PhD,
C. Boyden Gray Professor of Health Economics and Policy

Presenting on behalf
of

David Hemenway
MPH45/HP Field of Study Leader

August 27, 2019
MPH/HP: Who You Are

42 Students

- 25 women, 17 men
- 22 United States citizens
- 3 US/dual citizens & 3 citizens from outside US
  - Canada, Dominican Republic, Nigeria, Taiwan, Singapore
- 9 medical/dental students
- 1 JD/MPH Student
Who We Are: MPH Program

• **MPH** is a school-wide degree program
  • Governed by MPH Steering Committee
  • Supported by school-wide Office of Education

• **Health Policy Field of Study**
  • Also supported by Health Policy and Management (HPM) Department

• Key resources
  • **Office of Education staff** (Kresge, G-29)
    • Anne Occhipinti and Emily Davies
  • **HPM staff** (Kresge, 3rd floor)
    • Jen Moltoni and Nicole Pires
Course Planning and Registration: Basics

• Plan an initial schedule for the entire year
• **Your goal**: 45 credits to graduate
• **This week’s registration goal**: A fall course schedule in my.harvard by August 30, 2019.
• Meet with your adviser before Add-Drop Deadline
• **Add/Drop Deadline**: Sep 12 (Fall 1/Fall courses), Nov 7 (Fall 2 courses)
• Registration for Winter Session: October 25, 2019
• Registration for Spring Session: January 9, 2020
• **Pass/Fail grade limit**: 12.5 credits
• **Maximum credits per semester**: 27.5 credits
• **Grade Point Average**: minimum requirement 2.7 (out of 4.0)
• **Audits**: 5 credit max/term, faculty discretion
• **Full Time Status**: 15 or more credits/term (important for students on visa)
MPH Program Requirements

• School-wide MPH core requirements
  • Biostatistics, Epidemiology
  • MPH 100: Short Course Sequence

• Field of study-specific requirements for Health Policy
  • Coursework and practicum and culminating experience
MPH School-wide Core

• Biostatistics and Epidemiology:
  • ID 201 Core Principles of Biostatistics and Epidemiology for Public Health Practice
    • PLEASE NOTE: Those who have taken BST 202 and 203 AND EPI 500 during the Summer 2019 session do not need to take ID 201.

• Other Public Health core disciplines:
  • MPH 100 Short Course Sequence
    • PLEASE NOTE: There are no waivers granted for MPH 100.
Health Policy Field of Study

 Competency Domains

• Knowledge of US Health System

• Policy Disciplinary Perspectives

• Economics, Political Analysis

• Choice of: health policy and vulnerable populations; community organizing; or law

• Analytical Methods: Quantitative Methods in Program evaluation or Decision science

• Communication
Knowledge of the U.S. Health System

HPM 210: United States Health Policy (Fall1)

Professor John McDonough

• Head of Exec and Professional Education at Harvard Chan

• Former U.S. Senate staffer, Massachusetts state legislator, executive director of leading consumer health advocacy group

• Deeply involved in ACA design, passage and preservation

John’s Blog:
http://healthstew.com/author/jemcd1/
Disciplinary Perspective: Economics

HPM 206: Economic Analysis (Fall)

Professor David Hemenway

- Director of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center
- Leading researcher on reducing firearm violence
- MPH-45 Health Policy Field of Study Leader
Disciplinary Perspective: Political Analysis

HPM 247: Political Analysis and Strategy (Spring at HKS)

Professor Bob Blendon

- Joint appointment at Harvard Kennedy School
- Senior Associate Dean for Policy Translation and Leadership Development
- Directs Harvard Opinion Research Program
Policy Perspectives: Option 1 & 2
Vulnerable Populations and Health Policy

HPM 211: Health Care Safety Net and Vulnerable Populations (Fall 2)

Or

HPM 545: Health Care Issues: Public vs. Market Resolutions (Spring 2)

Professor Ben Sommers
- Health economist and practicing primary care doc
- Former Senior Advisor in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Policy Perspectives: Option 3
Consumer Organizing and Advocacy

HPM 520: Organizing Consumer and Community Interests in Health System (Fall 2)

Susan Sherry

- Deputy Director, Community Catalyst, one of US’s leading national consumer health advocacy group

- 30 years of experience working in health policy and consumer advocacy and organizing

Photo by Suzi Camarata
Policy Perspectives: Option 3
Health Care Delivery

HPM 505: Health Care Delivery Reform in the US (Spring 1)

Michael Barnett, MD, MSc.

- Assistant Professor of Public Health Policy, HPM
Disciplinary Perspective: Option 4
Federal Public Policy

HPM 502: Federal Public Policy and Population Health (Spring 1)

Sara Bleich, PhD

- Professor of Public Health Policy, HPM
- Carol K. Pforzheimer Professor at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study
Policy Perspectives: *Option 5: Law*

HPM 213: Public Health Law (Spring 2)

Ameet Sarpatwari, JD, PhD

- Epidemiologist
- Lawyer
- Division of Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacoeconomics, Brigham and Women’s Hospital
Policy Perspectives: Option 6
Injury Control

ID 240: Principles of Injury Control (Spring 1)

Professor David Hemenway

- Director of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center
- Leading researcher on reducing firearm violence
- MPH-45 HP Field of Study Leader
Analytical Methods for Policy:
Option 1: Decision Analysis

RDS 280: Decision Analysis (Fall 2)

Professor Ankur Pandya

- Harvard Center for Health Decision Science
- Research focuses on simulation models to improve cardiovascular health
- Formerly Assistant Professor at Weill Cornell Medical College
Analytical Methods for Policy: 
Option 2: Program Evaluation

HPM 543: Quantitative Methods in Program Evaluation (Spring 2)

Vilsa Curto, PhD

- Assistant Professor of Health Economics and Policy
- Research focuses on evaluation of health plans, pricing regulations in individual health insurance and ACA Medicaid expansions assessment of health program interventions
Analytical Methods for Policy: Option 3: Various

- **Any RDS course** (RDS 282, 284, 285), OR

- **Any intermediate or advanced biostatistics or epidemiology course** offered at Harvard Chan (beyond ID 201, BST 201, and EPI 201/202), OR

- **Any one of the following courses at the Harvard Chan School or cross-registration options:**
  
  - GHP 504, Introduction to Qualitative Research for Global Health (Spring 1, 2.5cr)
  - GHP 525, Econometrics for Health Policy (Fall, 5.0cr)
  - GHP 537, Field Methods in Humanitarian Crises I (Spring 1, 1.25cr)
  - SBS 281, Principles of Social and Behavioral Research (Fall 2, 2.5cr)
  - SBS 501, Community-Based Participatory Action Research (Fall 2, 2.5cr)

  - HGSE EDU S052, Applied Data Analysis (Spring, 5.0cr)
  - HKS API 206, How Do You Know It Works? Program Evaluation in Practice (Spring, 5.0cr)
Practice and Culminating Experience

HPM 945: Practice and Culminating Experience for Health Policy (Fall and Spring)

Amy Rosenthal, MPA and MPH (Harvard Chan)

- Executive Director, Health Care for All
- Experience as state legislative senior staffer, policy director of gubernatorial campaign, political consultant, and executive director of a policy foundation
Winter Session

- **January Winter Session**: January 6 - 24, 2020
  [www.hsph.harvard.edu/registrar/winter-session](http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/registrar/winter-session)

- Credits count in your **spring semester total**

- Guidelines set by the MPH program
  - You must participate in an activity that will enhance your academic experience.

- Info sessions about Global Health Winter Session courses and field projects will be held in September

- Winter Session courses updated in Courses and Schedules around mid-October

- **Planning ahead**: Registration for Winter 2020 opens on Thursday, October 25.
If You Want to Waive a Course

- **School-wide Core requirements**
  - To waive ID 201, students must follow the process detailed in the MPH Curriculum Guide. There is a form that needs to be completed and submitted to the Registrar’s Office.
  - Please note that MPH 100 cannot be waived.
  - Your academic advisor **cannot** waive required core courses.

- **Field of Study requirements**
  - Contact the Field of Study Leader (David Hemenway).
  - Your academic adviser **cannot** waive FoS requirements.

- **If you waive a course, you do not get credit, just the ability to take more electives**

- **You **must** let Cleo Hereford and Nicole Pires know if you waive a course (including documentation of the approval)**
Some tips

• Don’t overload your course schedule
  • 25 credits is generally the maximum you should take in a semester
• Think carefully about how to use your elective credits
• Save time for the “Other Curriculum”
  • Student groups
  • Lectures, talks, and seminars
    • HPM’s monthly research seminar
    • Leadership Studio and Voices from the Field
• Harvard Innovation Lab (i-lab) Challenges
Some tips

• Consider participating in an interdisciplinary concentration
  • Public Health Leadership
  • Women, Gender, and Health
  • Maternal and Child Health/Children, Youth, and Families
  • Humanitarian Studies, Ethics, and Human Rights
  • Epidemiology of Infectious Disease
  • Obesity Epidemiology and Prevention
  • Nutrition and Global Health
People and resources are here to help!

Office of Education

- Emily Davies, Kresge G-29 (edavies@hsph.harvard.edu)
- Anne Occhipinti, Kresge G-29 (aocchipi@hsph.harvard.edu)

HPM Department

- Nicole Pires, Kresge 336 (npires@hsph.harvard.edu)
- Jen Moltoni, Kresge 338 (jmoltoni@hsph.harvard.edu)

Field of Study Leader:
David Hemenway (hemenway@hsph.harvard.edu)
Questions

• Overarching questions that need to be answered now?

• Concerns or specific issues?