MPH65/Health Policy
Field of Study Session

Nancy Turnbull
MPH65/HP Field of Study Leader

August 27, 2019
Course Planning and Registration: Basics

- Good to plan an initial schedule for your entire program
- **Your goal**: 65 credits to graduate
- **This week’s registration goal**: A fall course schedule in my.harvard by Friday, August 30th
- Need to meet with your adviser before Add-Drop Deadline
- **Add/Drop Deadline** – Sept. 12 (Fall1 and Fall courses), Nov. 7 (Fall 2 courses)
- **Ordinal/Letter Grade requirement**: At least 47.5 credits
- **Pass/Fail grade limit**: Maximum of 17.5 credits
- **Audits** (5 credit max/term, faculty discretion about whether you can audit)
- **Full Time Status** (15 or more credits/term: important for students on visa)
MPH Program Requirements

• **School-wide MPH core requirements (12.5 credits)**
  - ID 201 *Core Principles of Biostatistics and Epidemiology for Public Health Practice*
    - *Biostatistics and Epidemiology*
  - MPH 100: *Short Course Sequence*
    - *You must take MPH-100 – NO waivers*

• **Field of study-specific requirements for Health Policy (27.5 credits)**
  - Coursework and practicum
Health Policy Competencies

• Assess how the structure, organization, and financing of the U.S. health care system affect system performance in terms of effectiveness, efficiency, and equity of health care delivery and health

• Evaluate policy options to address health policy challenges facing the U.S., including economic and political implications

• Recommend a course of action for addressing a health policy challenge, including the likely effect on efficiency, quality, effectiveness, costs, and equity

• Design an effective political strategy to achieve a desired health policy outcome

• Prepare professional quality health policy memos, reports, and presentations that are informed by skillful use of evidence and are appropriate to their purpose and audience
HP Field of Study Requirements

- **US Health Care System**: HPM 210, *US Health Policy* (2.5 cr)
- **Economics**: HPM 206, *Economic Analysis* (5 cr)
- **Political Analysis**: HPM 247, Political Analysis and Strategy (5 cr)
- **Policy Perspectives**: One of seven courses (2.5 cr)
- **Analytical Methods**: 2.5 credits of approved coursework; many options
- **Policy Focus area**: 5 credits in a policy focus area of your choice (cannot double count required courses towards this focus area)
- **Practicum**: HPM 965 (2.5 credits in Spring 2019 and Fall 2019)
- **Leadership**: 2.5 credits (lots of options)
Knowledge of the U.S. Health System

HPM 210: United States Health Policy (Fall1)

Professor John McDonough

- Head of Executive and Continuing 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

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
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 Perspective: Option 1 & 2
Vulnerable Populations or Economics

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 Perspective: 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
Policy Perspective: Option 4
Federal Public Health 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 Perspective: Option 5
Health Care Delivery Reform

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

Michael Barnett, MD, SM

• Assistant Professor of Public Health Policy, HPM

• Research focuses on improving quality of care and efficiency

• Recent focus on role of physicians in opioid crisis
Policy Perspectives: **Option 6: PH Law**

HPM 213: Public Health Law (Spring 2)

Ameet Sarpatwari, JD, PhD

- Epidemiologist and Lawyer
- Division of Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacoeconomics, Brigham and Women’s Hospital
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
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

This is a prerequisite for all Spring RDS courses
Analytical Methods for Policy:
Option 2: Program Evaluation

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

Professor Vilsa Curto, PhD

- Assistant Professor of Health Economics and Policy
- Research focus on evaluating appropriateness of government interventions in health care markets
Analytical Methods for Policy: Other Options

- 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)

- Any other courses must be approved by Nancy (can be at another school)
Policy Focus Area of Interest

• 5 credits of coursework to gain greater depth in a policy area or discipline

• A few possibilities:
  
  • Decision Science, Global Health Policy, Payment and Financing, Health Economics, Mental Health, Quality and Patient Safety, Women’s Health, Children’s Health, Health Disparities, LGBTQ Health

• Other areas of interest can be proposed and approved by Nancy

• Coursework doesn’t have to be at Harvard Chan
Leadership

2.5 credits from these courses or another approved by Nancy

- HPM 245 (Winter) *Public Health Leadership Skills*
- HPM 503 (Winter): *Understanding Public Health: From Frameworks to Practice* (1.25 credits)
- HPM 278 (Spring1): *Skills and Methods of Negotiation*
- HPM 513 (Spring 1): *Writing Persuasively about Public Health*
- HPM 552 (Fall1): *Health Policy and Leadership* (1.25 credits)
- HPM 252 (Spring2): *Negotiation*
- HPM 539 (Fall1 and Fall2): *Health Care Organizations & Organizational Behavior*
Applied Practice Experience and Integrative Learning Experience

- HPM 965: *Practice and Culminating Experience for Health Policy* (Spring and Fall)
- Class sessions in spring and 2nd fall semesters
- Practicum (can start in spring or summer)
- Poster presentations in Fall
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 2019 opens on Thursday, October 25.
WinterSession Travel Courses

• Global Health and Population Information Sessions
  • Monday, September 9 (1-1:50 pm in Kresge G1)
    • Nepal, Chile, Mexico and Middle East (exact countries TBD)
  • Tuesday, September 10 (1-1:50 pm in Kresge G1)
    • Brazil and Maternal Health trips

• Program Evaluation with the Center for Disease Control (SBS 550)
  • Meeting TBD
If You Want to Waive a Course

• MPH Core requirements
  • See MPH Curriculum Guide for contact and process for these requirements (ID201). 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 Director (Nancy Turnbull)
  • 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
  - Population Mental Health
  - 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

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• Anne Occhipinti, Kresge G-29 (aocchipi@hsph.harvard.edu)

HPM Department

• Nicole Pires, Kresge 336 (npires@hsph.harvard.edu)
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Questions

• **Overarching questions** that need to be answered now?

• **Concerns or specific issues?**