



Department of Exercise Science

Master of Public Health
in Physical Activity &
Public Health Degree

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Why the MPH in Physical Activity and Public Health?

Physical inactivity is recognized as a major public health problem in the United States; it has been shown to be a significant risk factor for an array of chronic diseases including coronary artery disease, hypertension, diabetes and certain cancers. Nearly 40% of the adult population is essentially sedentary and another 22% is less physically active than recommended by experts. By 2010, a goal for the nation is to reduce the proportion of sedentary adults by one-half to 20%. Achieving this goal will require a coordinated public health approach.

As the first academic program in the nation designed to prepare professionals trained in the science of physical activity and its promotion in populations, the Master of Public Health in Physical Activity and Public Health addresses this need directly. Persons who successfully acquire this degree will play an integral role as a physical activity specialist on interdisciplinary teams whose primary focus is the promotion of healthful behaviors and the prevention of disease conditions in public health settings.

The program takes full advantage of the existing faculty in the Department of Exercise Science; Health Promotion, Education and Behavior; Epidemiology and Biostatistics and other resources of the Arnold School of Public Health (Center for Health Promotion & Disease Prevention [Prevention Research Center], Office of Public Health Practice, and Center for Research in Nutrition and Health Disparities), the local and state public health departments, and federal public health agencies.

For whom is the program designed?

The Department of Exercise Science in the Arnold School of Public Health offers the Master of Public Health in Physical Activity and Public Health for health professionals who have a career interest in physical activity. The purpose of the program is to provide students with unique opportunities to:

- study issues germane to physical activity and public health;
- acquire appropriate background knowledge and experience in an epidemiological approach to public health problems as they relate to physical activity; and
- develop skills integral to the design, implementation, and evaluation of public health programs that are intended to promote increased physical activity in populations.

The MPH in Physical Activity and Public Health is also designed for professionals working in physical activity programs within community or government settings. These settings may be city, county, or state health departments; the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; health maintenance organizations; medical clinics, etc. It will offer physicians and Ph.D. research scientists trained in diverse areas an opportunity to learn about public health applications for physical activity.

What will I know and be able to do with this degree?

Graduates of this program of study will:

- understand physical activity as it relates to core functions of public health;
- develop research-based knowledge about relationships between physical activity and health;
- use accepted public health methods to evaluate the impact of physical inactivity on communities and identify the benefits and risks of participation in physical activity at community levels;
- acquire skills needed to develop and evaluate physical activity interventions in a variety of community settings;
- understand how social and behavioral theories are used in programs designed to promote physical activity in community settings; and
- work with public health educators and other professionals to promote physical activity to diverse populations.

How do I choose between programmatic and surveillance emphasis?

- The surveillance emphasis prepares the individual for employment as a physical activity research and measurement specialist in public health and private agencies.
- The programmatic emphasis prepares the individual for employment as a physical activity specialist in community health promotion and intervention settings.

Where can I expect to find opportunities for a career?

Employment opportunities for graduates with a MPH degree in Physical Activity and Public Health are many and diverse. They may include:

- *Health Department Settings* - Nearly all states in the United States have physical activity practitioners that work at state, district, and local levels.
- *Federal Agencies* - the US Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have a commitment to the promotion of physical activity in the US population; the National Institutes of Health sponsor many physical activity programs among their various Institutes.
- *Prevention Research Centers* - There are 33 such centers housed in universities throughout the country. The centers provide health promotion and evaluation programs to the community, conduct research, and develop linkages between community, state health department, and university programs.
- *Professional Organizations* - There are numerous professional organizations and societies with a focus on physical activity and health. Examples include the

American College of Sports Medicine, National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity, and National Society for Physical Activity Practitioners in Public Health.

- *Commercial Organizations* - Many commercial organizations, (e.g. book publishers, national strength and conditioning organizations, hospitals, nursing homes, health and fitness clubs, and employee wellness organizations), market exercise and physical activity products and may employ graduates with an MPH degree in Physical Activity and Public Health.
- *Nonprofit Organizations* – a number of local, state, and national nonprofit organizations implement physical activity programs, or provide technical assistance and resources to others who implement physical activity programs. These include the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Association, National Center for Older Adults, National Center for Biking and Walking, America Walks, National Safe Routes to School Program, and statewide or community-based physical activity coalitions.

GUIDELINES FOR MPH PA/PH STUDENTS

Admission Requirements

1. Students seeking admission to the MPH-PA/PH must first meet the general requirements of The Graduate School of the University of South Carolina. Admission to The Graduate School requires a degree from a college or university with regional accreditation. Academic records should indicate that the applicant:
 - graduated with a rank in the upper half of the class (average GPA of admitted students is 3.39), and
 - completed an undergraduate program with appropriate preparation in the field in which graduate work is to be undertaken (preferred courses include biology, physiology, anatomy, psychology, and health education)
2. Other requirements include:
 - acceptable GRE score (average of admitted students is 467 on verbal, 570 on quantitative)
 - an official transcript from each school or college previously attended (all prior post-secondary school study must be represented)
 - a minimum of three letters of recommendation
 - a detailed written statement describing the program track selected (programmatic or surveillance) and specific career goals
 - demonstration of a broad educational background reinforced with public health interests and experiences in physical activity
3. International applicants whose native tongue is not English must submit a satisfactory score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the University of Cambridge's IELTS Academic Course Type 2 exam. The minimum acceptable score on the TOEFL is 570 (manual) or 230 (computer based). The

minimum acceptable overall band score on the IELTS Academic Course Type 2 exam is 6.5.

Applications are reviewed by the MPH in PA/PH Advisory Committee which includes representatives from the departments of Exercise Science; Epidemiology and Biostatistics; and Health Promotion, Education and Behavior. As indicated in the *Graduate Studies Bulletin*, "admission is determined by the dean of The Graduate School, upon the recommendations of the department or college concerned, on the basis of an appraisal of the credentials submitted."

Application Process

The following is an outline of the sequence of events that leads to admission to the Master of Public Health in Physical Activity and Public Health degree program. Any questions regarding this sequence may be addressed to the program's Graduate Director in the Department of Exercise Science (all relevant forms are included in the appendix).

- Student submits the application through the Schools of Public Health Application System (SOPHAS); **deadline for summer and fall enrollment is February 15th; deadline for spring enrollment is July 15th;**
- The USC School of Public Health Office of Student and Alumni Services forwards completed SOPHAS application to the Department of Exercise Science;
- The program Graduate Director circulates the completed application to members of the MPH-PA/PH Advisory Committee; the committee meets to discuss applications and decide admission recommendation;
- The Department of Exercise Science notifies the student of their recommendation by letter and forwards the recommendation to The Graduate School, which officially informs the student of his/her admission status.

Only upon official notification from The Graduate School is the application process completed.

Advisement

- After official notification of acceptance from The Graduate School, the student should contact the Department of Exercise Science; (803) 777-5267; ljfrazi@gwm.sc.edu; Room 102 of the Blatt Building on Wheat Street near Pickens Street;

- The Department of Exercise Science refers the student to program Graduate Director (for fall admissions, the initial advisement occurs during the school's student orientation held mid-August);
- The student arranges an appointment with the program Graduate Director; students must be advised prior to registering for any term;
- The student's file is retained in the Department of Exercise Science.

Program of Study

A total of 45-46 credit hours in public health is required for the completion of this degree and includes School of Public Health core courses for a Master of Public Health degree (Epidemiology; Biostatistics; Health Services Policy & Management; Environmental Health Sciences; Health Promotion, Education & Behavior), eighteen to nineteen (18-19) hours of a physical activity core (including six hours of Public Health Practice), twelve (12) hours in an area of emphasis (surveillance or programmatic), and satisfactory completion of a comprehensive examination.

The student and program Graduate Director develop a Program of Study (*Form GS20*); this must be filed with The Graduate School via the Department of Exercise Science no later than the completion of 12 semester hours. Changes to the program of study must be completed using Form GS43 (*Program of Study Adjustment form*) and must be on file prior to application for graduation.

ACADEMIC COURSEWORK

Public Health Core Courses* (15 hours)

EPID 700 (3)	Introduction to Epidemiology
or EPID 701 (3)	Concepts and Methods of Epidemiology
BIOS 700 (3)	Introduction to Biostatistics
or BIOS 701 (3)	Concepts and Methods of Biostatistics
ENHS 660 (3)	Concepts of Environmental Health Sciences
HSPM 700 (3)	Approaches and Concepts for Health Administration
HPEB 700 (3)	Concepts and Methods in Health Promotion

Physical Activity Core (18-19 hours)

EXSC 700 (3)	Exercise and Public Health
EXSC 530 (3)/530L (1)	The Physiology of Muscular Activity (for students without an undergraduate degree in Exercise Science)
or EXSC 780	Physiology of Exercise (for students with an undergraduate degree in Exercise Science)
EXSC 710 (3)	Behavioral Aspects of Physical Activity
EXSC Elective (3)	
PUBH 798 (6)	Public Health Practice

* EPID 701 and BIOS 701 are required for surveillance track students.

Emphasis Area (12 hours)

Surveillance Emphasis – prepares students for employment as a physical activity research and measurement specialist in public health and private agencies.

Required Courses (9)

BIOS 710 (3) Effective Data Management for Public Health
EPID 730 (3) Public Health Surveillance Systems
EPID 820 (3) Seminar in the Epidemiology of Health Effects of Physical Activity

Suggested Electives (3)

BIOS 757 (3) Intermediate Biometrics
BIOS 759 (3) Biostatistical Methods for Rates and Proportions
BIOS 840 (3) Research Design in the Biomedical Sciences
EPID 741 (4) Epidemiologic Methods
EPID 742 (3) Epidemiological Concepts in Selected Disease or Health Conditions
EPID 744 (3) Investigative Epidemiology: Cardiovascular Disease
EPID 746 (3) Investigative Epidemiology: Cancer
EXSC 563 (3) Physical Activity & the Physical Dimensions of Aging
EXSC 710 (3) Behavioral Aspects of Physical Activity
EXSC 778 (3) Exercise & Childhood Obesity
EXSC 784 (3) Exercise Testing & Programming
EXSC 863 (3) Physical Activity & the Aging Process
EXSC 883 (3) Chronic Disease Rehabilitation Through Exercise
HPEB 710 (3) Evaluation of Health Promotion Programs
HPEB 748 (3) Community Health Development
HPEB/EXSC 754 (3) Community-Based Physical Activity Interventions
HSPM 717 (3) Health Services Research Methods I

Programmatic Emphasis – prepares the student for employment as a physical activity specialist in community health promotion and intervention settings.

Required Courses (9)

HPEB 702 (3) Planning Health Promotion Programs
HPEB 710 (3) Evaluation of Health Promotion Programs
HPEB/EXSC 754 (3) Community-Based Physical Activity Interventions or HPEB 748 (3) Community Health Development

Suggested Electives (3)

EPID 730 (3) Public Health Surveillance Systems
EPID 742 (3) Epidemiological Concepts in Selected Disease or Health Conditions
EPID 820 (3) Seminar in the Epidemiology of Health Effects of Physical Activity
EXSC 563 (3) Physical Activity & the Physical Dimensions of Aging
EXSC 731 (3) Mechanisms of Motor Skill Performance
EXSC 778 (3) Exercise & Childhood Obesity
EXSC 784 (3) Exercise Testing & Programming
EXSC 863 (3) Physical Activity & the Aging Process
EXSC 883 (3) Chronic Disease Rehabilitation Through Exercise
HPEB 701 (3) Theoretical Foundation of Health Promotion
HPEB 711 (3) Applied Health Communication
HPEB 712 (3) Changing Health Practices
HPEB 731 (3) Health Promotion for Older Adults
HPEB 752 (3) Nutrition & Public Health
HPEB 753 (3) Obesity & Eating Disorders
HPEB 760 (3) Health Education in Occupational Worksites
HSPM 707 (3) Ethical Issues in Health Care & Research
HSPM 714 (3) Perspectives in Community Health Organizations
HSPM 717 (3) Health Services Research Methods
HSPM 718 (3) Health Planning
MGMT 770 (3) Organization Behavior
PUBH 710 (3) Ethics and the Health Sciences

Suggested Sequence of Course of Study

Programmatic Emphasis:

	First Year
Fall:	EPID 700 (3) BIOS 700 (3) EXSC 530 (3)/530L (1) or EXSC 780 (3) HPEB 700 (3)
Spring:	EXSC 700 (3) HPEB 710 (3) EXSC 710 (3) HPEB 702 (3)
Summer:	HSPM 700 (3) ENHS 660 (3) or Elective (3)
	Second Year
Fall:	ENHS 660 (3) or Elective (3) Elective (3) PUBH 798 (3)
Spring:	PUBH 798 (3) HPEB/EXSC 754 (3) or HPEB 748 (3)

Surveillance Emphasis:

	First Year
Fall:	EPID 701 (3) BIOS 701 (3) BIOS 710 (3) EXSC 530 (3)/530L (1) or EXSC 780 (3)
Spring:	EXSC 700 (3) EPID 730 (3) Electives (6)
Summer:	HSPM 700 (3) ENHS 660 (3)
	Second Year
Fall:	HPEB 700 (3) EPID 820 (3) EXSC 731 (3)
Spring:	PUBH 798 (6)

Guidelines for Public Health Practice Requirement (PUBH 798)

Public health in the United States is practiced in diverse settings that include both public and private agencies. Regardless of the type of agency in which it is practiced, public health includes a philosophy of social justice, concepts of community, and population perspectives. The range of public health activities in populations include preventing epidemics and the spread of disease, protecting against environmental hazards, preventing injuries, promotion and encouraging health behaviors, responding to disasters and assisting communities in recovery and assuring quality and accessibility of health services (Public Health in America, APHA, 1995).

▪ **Prerequisites**

Minimum course prerequisites for the practicum experience: completion of three (3) of the public health core courses; EXSC 700 and 530/530L or 780; and completion or concurrent enrollment in at least three (3) track courses.

- **Academic Credit**

Students in the MPH in PA/PH degree program must satisfactorily complete a total of six (6) credit hours in public health practice. Practice can be taken in more than one semester, and credit hours assigned are variable depending upon the nature and extent of the work tasks undertaken. Three hours of practice work in a regular semester (fall or spring terms) requires an average of ten (10) hours of actual work each week including writing the final report, or twenty (20) hours per week for six (6) credits. In a summer term, six (6) hours of credit would require forty (40) hours per week.

- **Practicum Committee**

Each student in the MPH in Physical Activity and Public Health degree program must have a practicum committee. The practicum committee is composed of the program's graduate director, the student's faculty practicum advisor, and the mentor from the practicum site. The practicum committee provides support for and oversees experiences included in the practicum.

The academic advisor does not automatically serve as the practicum advisor. The student may select this person from any school faculty with relevant interests.

- **Ethics and Professional Standards**

Public Health practice combines the accomplishment of a task with intentional learning on the part of a student. In Public Health Practice, students are responsible for initiating their work and establishing learning objectives.

In Public Health Practice, the student's work is for the host organization's benefit, and must not be used outside its purview without specific permission, usually in writing. The results of this work are controlled by the host organization or its representative.

Professional conditions of confidentiality are to be honored according to prevailing practice of the sponsoring organization. In general, information received from an individual or organization belongs to that individual or organization and recipients (i.e., students) are not free to pass along this information to other parties without the consent of the individual or organization.

Students should adhere to ethical principles and review by the Arnold School of Public Health and agency ethics/IRB committees.

All IRB projects involving human subjects must be reviewed and approved by the appropriate ethics review committee. Research qualifying for exemption (typically secondary data analysis of existing data, observational studies with adults, or evaluation of service/public activities) can be approved by the SPH IRB Liaison: see <http://spar.research.sc.edu/PDF/Studyexempt.pdf> for detailed requirements for exemption. IRB exemption requests should be submitted to the

SPH Office of Research in HESC 102. All other research must be approved by the USC Institutional Review Board; the full IRB application is available at <http://spar.research.sc.edu/PDF/IRBAppI.pdf>. Some projects must also be approved by the agency review committee at which the practicum is conducted.

Any necessary approvals must be obtained prior to beginning work on the project.

▪ **Financial Support**

If financial resources are required for doing a Public Health Practice activity, the responsibility for negotiating these arrangements rests with the sponsoring agency and the student. These costs and responsibilities for coverage are included in the practice proposal. **Responsibilities of a graduate assistantship cannot be used to satisfy practice requirements.**

▪ **Developing a Work Task**

For some students, a work task may be defined and negotiated for a practice activity prior to establishing specific learning objectives. In this case, discovering the learning potential of a given work task is required. For others who have developed and articulated learning objectives, the requirement is to locate and determine experiences which will enable the student to develop the specific skills.

There is no magic or proper way to find the right setting or task. The challenge is to locate something that needs to be done that some organization and persons within the organization cares about, and then determine if that task can be done in the time you have available and if it allows you to pursue your learning objectives.

Experience with organizations which have sponsored SPH students suggest that if six major conditions are present, a sound practice activity can be developed.

The conditions are:

- An organization wants or needs something done, and it 'controls' or 'owns' the work results.
- The student has some previously developed competence or experience that indicates the potential for contributions to the organization and citizenry. This includes knowledge gained in prerequisite courses.
- The student has well thought out and communicated learning objectives which can be pursued in the framework of doing the task.
- The student demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of what is to be done and is able to identify a supportive network of people.
- A mentor is identified who both wants the work done and wants to assist the student in pursuing designated learning objectives.

- The student seeks advice and monitoring from his/her faculty advisor.

The draft work task proposal contains a minimal checklist of items which are considered important in preparing a work task proposal for Public Health Practice. Complete this draft first and discuss it with your practice faculty advisor. **The Public Health Practice Agreement form should be completed before the start of the practicum.**

It is recommended that the student schedule regular conferences with the faculty advisor.

▪ **Participant Roles in PUBH 798**

Students are expected to:

- Take initiative and responsibility in defining competence to be developed, arranging or selecting an appropriate setting for practice activity, developing clear work and learning objectives and completing work and learning tasks by the dates agreed upon.
- Arrange appropriate meetings with faculty advisor and mentor, including the final oral presentation.

Faculty Advisors are expected to:

- Advise students in developing work and learning proposals.
- Advise students regarding ethics review required of the practice project.
- Participate in meetings with students and mentor at the location of student's Practice.
- Provide ongoing expert advice and guidance as needed or requested.
- Assess learning outcomes and assign pass/fail grade at appropriate time.
- Attend final oral presentation by student.

Mentors are expected to:

- Assist SPH staff and students to define short-term tasks of potential use to his or her organization.
- Review student's proposal for usefulness to organization, determine limits of mentor's role with student, and provide on-site direction to the work component of the Practice.
- Provide student logistical support (arranging space, equipment, use of phones, use of computer and/or computer software, secretarial help, making introductions, providing data or helping gain access to it, and general advice within the organization.
- Assist with assessment of student's work and growth in competence during the Practice.

▪ **Final Report and Oral Presentation**

The student must write a final report on his/her practice experience and give a 30-45 minute oral presentation based on this report. The report should address the objectives set down in the student's practice plan.

The student is responsible for arranging the time and place of the oral presentation. The faculty advisor, mentor and program graduate director, must be present at the presentation. Announcements of this presentation must be posted throughout the Arnold School of Public Health building at least two weeks prior to the presentation so that anyone who wishes can attend.

▪ **Additional Guidance for Practicum with Programmatic Emphasis**

The goal of the programmatic track practicum is for the student to gain experience in planning, implementing, and evaluating a theory-based physical activity and public health program or initiative. The practicum is an opportunity for the student to put into practice what s/he has learned in class. The practicum can also provide a transitional period prior to the student entering the public health workforce.

The MPH in PA/PH student following the programmatic track should graduate having been exposed to a variety of physical activity and public health settings and populations. Thus, for the practicum, the student should usually work in a setting and with a population different from the student's graduate assistantships or previous volunteer/work experience. The student should ideally work in a non-university setting.

In some cases, the student may become involved in a portion of an ongoing program or initiative, but in all cases the practicum should involve significant responsibility and decision-making on the part of the student.

The practicum should include experiences to build two or more of the following competencies:

- Assessing organizational and community needs for physical activity
- Planning, implementing and evaluating physical activity programs and initiatives
- Developing and communicating physical activity messages
- Building physical activity coalitions
- Identifying physical activity resources/supports
- Developing and using a variety of educational methods and materials for physical activity promotion
- Acting as an advocate for physical activity policy issues

Comprehensive Examination

A comprehensive examination is required for all master's students. The purpose of the exam is to evaluate the knowledge acquired by the student in the core and major courses, and to evaluate mastery of the major concepts and methodologies in the discipline.

The comprehensive exam will be taken upon completion of the majority of major coursework, defined as satisfactory completion in all required courses listed on the student's program of study within three (3) credit hours (excluding public health

practice). The exam will be written with an in-class format and will have three major sections: public health core, physical activity core and emphasis area core.

The exam will be coordinated by the Department of Exercise Science. The advisory committee will build four sets of questions with input from other faculty who teach required courses and who are academic advisors for PA/PH students:

- Public health core;
- Physical activity core;
- Surveillance emphasis;
- Programmatic emphasis.

Each section will contain at least 3-4 questions, of which the student will select at least two to answer. The number of questions may be greater to reflect shorter questions, with the targeted completion time being 1.5 hours per section. The exam will be offered in mid-March, or at another time agreeable to the graduate Program Director and student.

Each section will have at least two readers, who will classify the section as pass or fail. Readers may be assigned to individual questions within a section. Readers for a given question or section will meet to reconcile any discrepancies in evaluation in order to reach a consensus on pass or fail. Additional readers may be called in if necessary. In general, readers will be program advisors in the respective area.

To pass the comprehensive exam, a student must pass all three sections.

If a student does not pass the comprehensive exam, the advisory committee in conjunction with the student's academic advisor, will determine the appropriate follow-up on an individual basis. Options include a second individualized written exam, remedial work with a specified project addressing a particular area of weakness, and/or a follow-up oral examination.

The determination of the outcome of the comprehensive examination, pass or fail, is forwarded to the student and to The Graduate School by the Office of Academic Affairs.

Description of Required Courses

- | | |
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| BIOS 700 | Introduction to Biostatistics. (3) Health related statistical applications. Descriptive statistics, probability, confidence intervals, hypotheses testing, regression, correlation, ANOVA. May not be used for graduate credit in epidemiology or biostatistics. |
| BIOS 701 | Concepts and Methods of Biostatistics. (3) Descriptive and inferential statistical applications to public health. Probability, interval estimation, hypothesis testing, measures of association. For students planning further study in epidemiology or biostatistics. |
| BIOS 710 | Effective Data Management for Public Health. (3) (Prereq or co req: BIOS 700) Statistical data management techniques. Microcomputer |

applications, communication between microcomputers and mainframe, tape and disk storage, access of large health-related databases.

- ENHS 660 Concepts of Environmental Health Sciences. (3) Environmental health sciences presenting the earth as a complex system in which people, plants, animals, and non-living physical-chemical components interact.
- EPID 700 Introduction to Epidemiology. (3) (Prereq or Coreq: BIOS 700) Principles of epidemiology with examples of selected health problems. Health status of populations and conceptual tools for translating epidemiologic findings into public health action.
- EPID 701 Concepts and Methods of Epidemiology. (3) (Prereq or Coreq: BIOS 701) Conceptual foundation of epidemiologic research, quantitative methods, and epidemiologic study design. Intended for those who will be involved in epidemiologic research.
- EPID 730 Public Health Surveillance Systems. (3) (Prereq or Coreq: EPID 700/701) Introduction to the concepts, implementation and evaluation of surveillance systems to monitor the health of human populations.
- EPID 820 Seminar in the Epidemiology of Health Effects of Physical Activity. (3) (Prereq: EPID 700) Seminar presentation and group discussion on the major issues in the study of physical activity and exercise and their impact on health.
- EXSC 530 The Physiology of Muscular Activity. (3) (Prereq: EXSC 223 and 224) The individual and combined roles of the major organ systems of the body in maintaining homeostasis during muscular exercise.
- EXSC 503L The Physiology of Muscular Activity Laboratory. (1) Laboratory procedures in exercise physiology; measurement of physical fitness components.
- EXSC 700 Exercise and Public Health. (3) An introduction to exercise science with emphasis on the relationships between exercise and health for promotion of physical activity in clinical and public health settings.
- EXSC 710 Behavioral Aspects of Physical Activity. (3) Psychosocial and behavioral factors in physical activity. Topics include mental health effects of exercise, behavior change theories applied to mental health effects of exercise, behavior change theories applied to physical activity, and physical activity determinants and interventions.
- EXSC 754/
HPEB 754 Community-Based Physical Activity Interventions. (3) Overview of the role of the physical activity specialist within the community health department. Development, initiation, and evaluation of campaigns, resources, community capacity building, and coalitions to promote physical activity.

- HPEB 700 Concepts and Methods in Health Promotion (3) An introduction to fundamental principles and practices of public health promotion including history, ethics, cultural competence, professional responsibilities, overview of theory and models, and selection and implementation of instructional methods.
- HPEB 702 Planning Health Promotion Programs. (3) Health promotion planning frameworks; issues in planning, implementing and evaluating health promotion programs in a variety of settings.
- HPEB 710 Evaluation of Health Promotion Programs. (3) (Prereq 700 or consent of instructor) Planning and implementation of health education program evaluations. Emphasis on political, practical, and theoretical aspects of evaluation.
- HPEB 748 Community Health Development. (3) Organizational development, policy influence, capacity building, empowerment, community diagnosis and coalition development for enhancing health.
- HSPM 700 Approaches and Concepts for Health Administration. (3) An interdisciplinary perspective on the field of health administration. Philosophy concepts, and skills of implementation, management and evaluation are presented and discussed. Principles in the practice of health administration are applied to identified problems and situations.
- PUBH 798 Public Health Practice. (1-6) (Prereq BIOS 700 or 701 & EPID 700 or 701 & EXSC 700) Limited work experience or service project in an approved public health setting relating to physical activity.

Graduation/Hooding Ceremony

The University holds commencement ceremonies in May, August and December of each year. In addition, the Arnold School of Public Health hosts a Hooding Ceremony each May for students who graduated in December of the previous year or anticipate graduating in May or August of the current year.

- **During the final semester of study, the student applies for graduation; the deadline for application for graduation is set by the Office of the Registrar each semester. For fall and spring semesters, this deadline is within the first three weeks of classes; for August graduation, the deadline is within days of the first summer term.**
- The graduation application form is available in the Arnold School of Public Health's Office of Student & Alumni Services (HESC 112) or may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar;
- The Department of Exercise Science verifies the completion of all degree requirements and submits clearance for graduation to The Graduate School;

- Clearance for graduation also requires that the student complete and submit the exit questionnaire; this questionnaire is distributed by the Office of Academic Affairs;
- The Graduate School notifies the Registrar's Office that all degree requirements have been completed; this notification usually does not occur until several weeks after the actual commencement ceremony; the diploma is distributed via mail.
- The student is responsible for purchasing caps, gowns, hoods, and announcements for graduation and should be mindful that these purchases are made in a timely fashion;

ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS

It is the responsibility of every student at the University of South Carolina at Columbia to adhere steadfastly to truthfulness and to avoid dishonesty, fraud, or deceit of any type in connection with any academic program. Any student who violates this rule or who knowingly assists another to violate this rule shall be subject to discipline. Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the Carolinian Creed.

The *Graduate Bulletin* states, "Graduate courses may be passed for degree credit with a grade as low as C, but a student's cumulative grade point average must be at least **B** (3.00 on a 4.00 scale). Additionally, the student's average on all courses numbered 700 or above must be no less than 3.00 at the time of graduation. Grades earned on credits transferred from other universities do not count in the grade point average."

"Graduate students whose cumulative grade point average drops below 3.00 (**B**) will be placed on academic probation and allowed one calendar year in which to raise the grade point average to at least 3.00. Students who do not reach a cumulative 3.00 grade point average during the grace period will not be permitted to enroll for further graduate course work in that degree program."

This rule applies to all in-date graduate courses taken at the University of South Carolina (within six years) whether or not they are included on the student's program of study; it also applies to courses taken in two or more degree programs. A grade of "U" earned in any course will be treated as a grade below "B" for the suspension policy.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

All charges are due and payable on the date that they are incurred, or the due date indicated on the ticket, invoice, or statement. Checks or credit cards for the exact amount of the total charges should be made payable to the University of South Carolina. Any student who has failed to pay all required registration fees on or before the last date to change course schedule (as indicated in the university calendar) may be dropped from class rolls. Any student who fails to relieve any other indebtedness to the university or to any of its auxiliary agencies on the date such obligations become due may not be permitted to remain in university residence halls or be issued a transcript, diploma, or degree.

- **Graduate Assistantships**

Currently, to qualify for an assistantship, a student must be fully admitted to a degree program, maintain a 3.0 average, and enrolled in at least six (6) credit hours, but no more than 13 credit hours. Tuition and fees for graduate students with a graduate assistantship will be the same as tuition and fees for in-state graduate students in the health sciences.

- **Grants, Loans, and Other Financial Assistance**

The University of South Carolina Office of Student Financial Aid provides access to a variety of grants and loans for students in graduate programs of study. For further information and application forms for all types of financial aid, contact the Office of Student Financial Aid at (803) 777-8134.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES & COMPUTER RESOURCES

Department of Exercise Science

The Department of Exercise Science is located in Room 102 in the Blatt Physical Education Building. This is the 'home' of the MPH in PA/PH degree program with a faculty member assigned as the Graduate Director for the program. Since student files are maintained in this office, all student academic transactions must be approved by the office.

A Listserv is maintained for all MPH in PA/PH students. If you are interested in subscribing, send your e-mail address to dsanders@gwm.sc.edu.

Office of Student and Alumni Services

The Office of Student and Alumni Services is housed in the Arnold School of Public Health/Health Science Building (HESC), Room 112. This office provides information to students about the school to prospective students, as well as support services to current students. Services provided to current students include: orientation, registration information, workshops, and providing information regarding the hooding ceremony.

The Office of Student and Alumni Services also encourages interaction among students through the Arnold School of Public Health Student Association (ASPHSA). In addition, the office serves as a liaison between students and faculty within the Arnold School of Public Health and provides information on opportunities offered by the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), among others.

Students are encouraged to read newsletters, Listserv information and the bulletin boards sponsored by the Office of Student and Alumni Services to keep posted on workshops, internships and career information, as well as other relevant issues related to Arnold School of Public Health students.

▪ **ASPHSA**

The Office of Student and Alumni Services sponsors the Arnold School of Public Health Student Association (ASPHSA). This is an active Arnold School of Public Health (SPH) student organization.

The purpose of this council is two-fold: (1) to provide a means for students to have dialogue with the dean and (2) to inform students about important events that are happening within the SPH and the University.

The Executive Council of ASPHSA also assists the SPH in recruiting students to participate in a variety of school-wide events including: seminars, activities associated with Public Health Week, and USC Graduate Student Day.

ASPHSA coordinates many aspects of the annual SPH orientation for new students. All six departments, and the MPH in PA/PH program, have student representation and representatives include students at the undergraduate, master's and doctoral levels. Membership is selected annually by departmental elections.

If you have questions or would like to get involved, contact the Office of Student and Alumni Services.

Computer Laboratory

A computer lab is available to all Arnold School of Public Health students. The lab is located on the second floor of the HESC building, Room 203. Hours of operation are posted in the lab.

The computers in this lab have Internet access, Microsoft Office applications and various specialized applications such as SAS statistical software.