

Introduction to MPH Programme

The field of public health is inherently multi-disciplinary and the interests and expertise of the Public Health faculty and students, which extend across the biological, quantitative, and social sciences. With our roots in biology, we are able to confront the most pressing diseases of our time — Communicable Diseases AIDS, cancer, and heart disease--by adding to our knowledge of their underlying structure and function. Core quantitative disciplines like epidemiology and biostatistics are fundamental to analyzing the broad impact of health problems, allowing us to look beyond individuals to entire populations. And, because preventing disease is at the heart of public health, we also pursue the social sciences to better understand health-related behaviors and their societal influences--critical elements in educating and empowering people to make healthier lifestyle choices.

From training national and international leaders, the North South University has been at the forefront of efforts to benefit the health of populations worldwide. Shaping new ideas in our field and communicating them effectively will continue to be priorities in the years ahead as we serve society's changing health needs.

Focus of Public Health

Major focus areas of public health are as follows:

- Population
- Public service ethic, as an extension of concerns for the individual
- Emphasis on disease prevention and health promotion for the whole community
- Public health paradigm employs a spectrum of interventions aimed at the environment, human behavior and lifestyle, and medical care
- Biological sciences central, stimulated by major threats to the health of populations; research moves between laboratory and field
- Public Health Nutrition
- Reproductive and Child Health
- Numerical sciences an essential feature of analysis and training
- Social sciences an integral part of public health education

Careful study of the existing health system, the probable shape of a future system, and the preparation of students for required public health practice, research, and teaching activities continue at the forefront of educational planning. In particular, consideration is given to the system roles that need to be filled, the career decisions graduates need to make, and the group and personal relationships necessary to the task of problem solving. As a result of these considerations, a number of carefully designed educational programs have been developed.

The Mission

As a leading private university in Bangladesh, the Master of Public Health Programme of North South University is dedicated to protecting health and saving lives. Every day, the different departments involve in Public Health work to keep millions around the world safe from illness and injury by pioneering new research, deploying its knowledge and expertise in the field and educating tomorrow's scientists and practitioners in the global defense of human life. The overarching mission of the Master of Public Health Course of North South University, Dhaka is to advance the public's health through learning, discovery, and communication.

The Objectives

Among the overall educational objectives for all graduates of the School is the development of individual competence and improved skills, particularly in (1) recognizing and defining public health problems, setting priorities, and using scientific approaches to problem solving; (2) accumulating appropriate data information, analyzing and interpreting findings, and assessing relevance and validity; and (3) communicating effectively with colleagues and a variety of groups involved in delivering health services.

THE MAJOR COURSE OBJECTIVES ARE:

- to provide the highest level of education to public health scientists, practitioners, and leaders
- to foster new discoveries leading to improved health for the people of this country and all nations
- to strengthen health capacities and services for communities
- to inform policy debate, disseminate health information, and increase awareness of public health as a public good and fundamental right.

The master of public health (MPH) degree is the most widely recognized professional credential for leadership in public health. The program emphasizes active, student-directed learning, problem solving, and the acquisition of skills essential to the practice of public health. The program is organized around five career-oriented concentrations (see later in Major areas chapter). In addition to the common core curriculum, each concentration offers specialty electives and a selection of areas of interest, allowing students to explore in depth one or more spheres of relevance to their career goals. The concentrations and areas of interest enable students in the interdisciplinary MPH program to establish a second "home" in one of the school's academic departments

The primary educational objective of the different programs leading to the MPH degree is to provide all candidates with a strong public health foundation along with opportunities to gain new knowledge, credits of view, and skills in the specific areas of public health in which they choose to concentrate. Some previous health or other relevant work experience is highly desirable for all candidates.

For many candidates, the MPH will not be their first professional degree. Many students enter the MPH degree program with previous master's or doctoral degrees or with varying years of practical experience in professional fields related to public health. Graduates of medical, nursing, dental, and other clinical programs, and applicants who have earned master's or doctoral degrees in other health-related areas, or in other academic or professional areas, will find their academic backgrounds well suited to this program.

MPH Summary of Requirements

To earn an MPH. degree, all students must satisfactorily complete 51 credits of coursework averaging, on a full-time basis, 15 credits each term; and a practicum (practical experience) equivalent to at least one term including one dissertation. All programs of study also require a master's essay and/or culminating experience.

In addition, students without a health professional background are required to prepare for and to take a Medical Background Examination in their first term of study, in order to demonstrate familiarity with the basic aspects and terminology involved in the activities of health professionals. The applicant who could not be able to demonstrate satisfactory performance has to take conditional courses of minimum 15 credits in basic health sciences.

On a full-time basis, the MPH is typically completed in one and one-half to two years. Full- and part-time students are expected to complete all program requirements within five years.

Coursework

The 51 credits of coursework required for the MPH degree include core courses; programme required courses, and usually some electives.

Core Courses (Total 19 credits: Total course work 72 hours: to be completed by 2 semesters): The core curriculum required for all MPH candidates is comprised of courses in Biostatistics*, Environmental Health Sciences, Epidemiology, Health Policy and Management, and Behavioural and Health Communication Sciences. These courses provide a common body of knowledge in basic public health philosophy and practice, and are required of all candidates for the MPH degree regardless of previous training, professional interests career objectives, or program concentration. All core courses are offered at least twice a year. By successfully completing a waiver examination in a core area, a student may be permitted to substitute a course in the same or another area.

Programme (Elective) Courses (Total 16 credits: Total course work 180 hours: to be completed by at least 3 semesters) : These courses provide a series of educational experiences focusing on specific public health areas and offer students opportunities to concentrate on particular issues, skills, interests, or career goals. All candidates for the MPH degree are expected to select one of the following programs and to follow the prescribed program of study within that area: Epidemiology, Public Health Management, Behavioural Sciences and Health Communication, Reproductive Health and Environmental Health Sciences. Applicants must indicate on the application form which concentration they would like to pursue. Each of these areas of concentration has specific educational objectives, requirements, and methods of study. For an overview, see Academic Programs. When students first enroll, Departments will provide them with handbooks containing all course and administrative requirements.

Elective Courses: Elective courses may be selected from within a student's area of concentration or in a related field, and from courses offered within the programme or in other parts of the University. Most elective credits are earned in formal courses; some may be earned on a tutorial (independent study) basis. The choice of electives is made with the approval of the student's faculty advisor.

*Students are urged to assure their necessary skill levels in math and algebra before arrival at the School.

PRACTICUM (PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE) [Total credit 3 hours: Course works: 30 hours: to be completed within a semester]

All MPH degree candidates must meet a practical experience requirement equivalent in time and effort to a minimum of one academic term. The practicum provides educational opportunities that are different from, and supplementary to, the more academic aspects of the program. The focus, content, approach, and timing of the practicum vary with the major courses and with the particular needs of each student. For example, it may take the form of field or agency observations; placement in an administrative, research, or clinical setting; participation in ongoing research or program activities; or independent study. It may be completed before or after the final term of academic work, or be integrated into the academic program. Students must consult with the course in-charges or practicum advisor to assure

satisfying the requirement.

Special Study (Total 3 credits hours: Total course study 15 hours: to be completed in one semester together with any other course) : All MPH student must submit a report on their own experience through evaluating any current public health issues putting recommendation depending on the observation of such programme if any recently on going in their country.

Dissertation (Total 10 credits hours: Total course study 80 hours: to be completed by one exclusive semester): All MPH students the student will conduct a field research in their chosen public health field and will write a masters level dissertation. Planning for this work will be initiated during the elective period along with a faculty advisor. Fieldwork can be done in Bangladesh or in home country for international students. Synopsis of Research Topic must be approved by Dissertation committee of the MPH programme before commencing the research work.

CULMINATING EXPERIENCE

Each of the programs requires students to demonstrate their ability to integrate their academic studies with some aspect of their future professional practice. These culminating experiences will take different forms, as determined by the course in-charges. Students may be required to demonstrate their mastery through comprehensive examinations, master's essay, field placement, capstone seminar, or other experiences by which faculty can determine that the student has the ability to apply the principles, concepts, and skills learned in the classroom to their chosen area of public health practice

Currently the academic program of the MPH is organized into three major areas. Every faculty in these areas engages in research and service along with their primary function of teaching and guiding. The research programs address many major public health issues, reflecting the diversity of faculty expertise and interest and emerging public health problems of metropolitan cities, the region, the nation, and the world. Under faculty guidance, students have an excellent opportunity to develop and enhance their research skills and gain firsthand experience in the design and execution of research protocols and service programming. Research is carefully woven into the students' educational environment through both direct involvement with research projects and inclusion of research methods and findings in courses taught by faculty.

Students are required to choose an area of concentration in all degree programs. Students who already have health professional training and experience, and whose career needs require an interdisciplinary approach that goes beyond the scope of a single Department within the School, can elect General Public Health when applying for the Master of Public Health degree.

MPH with Major areas

- MPH in Epidemiology
- MPH in Public Health Management
- MPH in Behavioural Sciences and Health Communication
- MPH in Reproductive and Child Health
- MPH in Environmental Health Sciences

Course Information

GENERAL

Courses are reviewed and new courses approved throughout each academic year. Courses are grouped in this Bulletin under Department or Program to provide a general guide to the perspective from which the course is taught.

The University reserves the right to withdraw, add to, or modify the courses of instruction or to change the instructors or scheduling at any time.

KEY TO COURSE NUMBERS

Each course number consists of the capital letter “PBH” followed by four digits.

The first digit indicates the level of the course as follows:

- 6 Master’s level course
- 8 Advanced master’s level course

The second digit indicates the subject area of the course:

- 0 General Public Health
- 1 Biostatistics
- 2 Population and Family Health
- 3 Environmental Health Sciences
- 4 Epidemiology
- 5 Public Health Management
- 6 Behavioural Sciences and Health Communication
- 7 Reproductive and Child Health
- 8 Public Health Nutrition
- 9 Doctoral research

The last one digits identify that particular course of that subject.

TERM DESIGNATIONS

The academic year is divided into three semester, Fall, Spring, and Summer. Fall and Spring courses meet for 14 weeks, usually with one class meeting per week. In the Fall and Spring, a few courses are given for quarter (half-term) periods.

CREDITS OF COURSE CREDIT

The number of credits that a course carries appears after the title of the course in the sections that follow. Most courses carry 2 credits.

TUTORIALS

Students may have an interest in an area or specific topic that is not addressed in the

curriculum. A tutorial (independent study), which is a leaning contract between a student and faculty member to explore an area of mutual concern, is intended to provide opportunities for specialized study. Tutorials are offered by every department and are available for 1 or more credits per semester. Before registering for a tutorial, the student must first obtain the approval of the sponsoring faculty member.

GRADES

Letter grades indicating the quality of course work completed is interpreted as follows

Numerical Scores	Letter Grade	Grade Points Per Credit
93 and above	A Excellent	4.0
90 – 92	A-	3.7
87 – 89	B+	3.3
83 – 86	B Good	3.0
80 – 82	B-	2.7
77 – 79	C+	2.3
73 – 76	C Average	2.0
70 – 72	C-	1.7
67 – 69	D+	1.3
60 – 66	D Poor	1.0
Below 60	F* Failure	0.0
	I** Incomplete	0.0
	W** Withdrawal	0.0
	R** Retaken	0.0

* Credits for courses with this grade do not apply towards graduation.

** Credits for courses with this grade do not apply towards graduation and they are not accepted in the calculation of the grade point average.

The exact cut off points for assigning letter grades is at the, discretion of individual instructor. The same applies to the assignment of + or - after a letter grade. It is meant to give more flexibility so that shades of performance can be distinguished and rewarded. The + and - has a value of 0.3 grade point.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

Students' grade-point averages are numerical values obtained by dividing the total grade points earned by the credits attempted. Only courses' graded A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, and F are used to determine credits attempted.

Only the grades earned in the courses that are required for a degree are included in the GPA calculation. Grades earned in other courses are reported on the transcript but are not counted in calculating the GPA.

GPA - Class Equivalence

NSU students are graded on GP A. Comparison of the GPA earned by NSU students to the

Classes earned by students in other universities in the country is as follows:

GPA 3.00 and above = First Class

GPA 2.50 to 2.99 = Second Class

GP A 2.00 to 2.49 = Third Class

Grade Change

Grade change is strongly discouraged. Letter grades may be changed only for posting errors or errors in calculation. If a grade change is inevitable, it must be completed within one semester following the submission of the grade. The program directors and department chairs will ask for necessary papers and records to substantiate the grade change.

Incomplete (I)

The grade of Incomplete (I) may be used in special circumstances. The Incomplete may be given only at the end of a semester to a student whose work is progressing, "but who has left unfinished a small amount of work for completion without further class attendance. The instructor must file with the Registrar an Incomplete Grade form describing the work to be completed, indicating a tentative final grade to be assigned if the work is not completed and the time period in which the work must be completed (no longer than the following semester).

The student has the responsibility to take the initiative in completing the work and is expected to make up the incomplete as specified by the instructor. If action is not taken the "I" grade will revert to the tentative final grade. The final grade becomes an "F" if no tentative grade is assigned. In the event the instructor from whom a student received an incomplete is not available, the disposition of a case involving an incomplete grade resides with the Head of the Department. The grade 'I' must be replaced within one semester after the grade is assigned.

Withdrawal (W)

The grade Withdrawal (W) is assigned when a student officially drops a course during the period between the ends of the third and sixth week. Prior to that time if a student drops a course no entry is made on the academic record. A "W" does not affect the student's GP A.

Retaking

Courses

Students may elect to repeat a course. When a student retakes a course, the actual grade will be recorded instead of "R". All passing grades will be used to calculate the CGPA even if a course is retaken. When a student retakes a course in which student received "F" grade(s) earlier, s/he must apply not to include the "F" grade(s) in his/her CGPA calculation. An "F" grade earned in any credit course will be used to calculate CGPA until the course is retaken and an application is submitted. The retake policy in case of courses with "F" grades will apply immediately to all students at NSU irrespective of their date of enrollment. There will be no limit on the number of times a course can be retaken. This retake policy is effective from Spring 2003 semester.

Students who wish to retake a course must register for the course again and will be assessed tuition and applicable fees.

Abandoning Course

Grades F will be recorded for students who have not fulfilled academic obligations and have not obtained a grade, and for students who abandon their courses without officially

withdrawing from a course.

Outline of the MPH Course Curriculum

Description of required courses	No. of courses	Total Credits
Introduction to Public Health	1 (courses content may differ for different groups of entering students)*	NC
Core courses for all Major course areas	9	19
Elective courses in Major Program Areas	5	10
Directed reading Courses	3	6
Field Assignment		3
Dissertation		10
Practicum or internship		3
Total		51

* Introduction to Public Health (for non health professionals) will comprise a week of lectures and readings to familiarize students to basic vocabulary, concepts and biomedical fundamentals of public health. It is designed to enable students from non-health disciplines to participate fully in the academic program along side health professionals.

Introduction to Public Health encompasses the orientation of public health scenario of Bangladesh including the cultural, historical, political, religious aspects of living that constantly influence the health aspect of Bangladesh.

Overview and Degree Programs, MPH Catalog 2006-2007

CORE COURSES (Total 19 credits: Total course work 72 hours)

Following courses are core courses and students have to enroll for all the courses below:

Bands	Course Title	Credits
1	Culture and Human Values in Public Health	
	PBH601 Cultural, ethical and communication perspective of Health	3
	PBH615 Qualitative research methods and data analysis	2
	PBH669 Independent field study on culture and human values in public health	2
	Total	7
2	Community Diagnosis in Public Health:	
	PBH641 Concepts of Epidemiology and Biostatistics	3
	PBH616 Quantitative research methods	2
	PBH611 Independent field study on community diagnosis in public health	2
	Total	7
3	Managing Public Health:	
	PBH651 Management Concepts and process	2
	PBH653 Health Economics and Health Care Financing	2
	PBH659 Independent field study on management of public health	1
	Total	5
	Core Course totals	19

Elective Courses

Elective Courses: (Total 16 credits: Total course work 180 hours)

Prerequisite: core courses. Student will choose 5 courses from at least 3 of the following concentration areas.

Bands	Course Title	Credits
4	Methods for Research on Social and Behavioral Dimensions of Public Health	
	PBH611 Principle of Biostatistics	2
	PBH612 Frequency Distribution, , Measurement of Central tendency, Dispersion	2
	PBH613 Probability, Sampling, Sampling Error	2
	PBH614 Regression Analysis, Test of Significance, Statistical Inference	2
	Epidemiology in Public Health Practice	
	PBH642 Principle of Epidemiology	2
	PBH643 Measurements in Epidemiology	2
	PBH644 Epidemiological designs	2
	PBH645 Nutritional Epidemiology	2
	PBH646 Cancer Epidemiology	2
	Environmental Health sciences	
	PBH631 Introduction to environment and ecosystem	2
	PH632 Management of Physical Environment	2
	PBH633 Recent environment health issues	2

	PBH634 Occupational health hazards and occupational health safety	2
	Public Health Management	
	PBH652 Principle of Management	2
	PBH654 Public health and hospital management	2
	PBH655 Public Health Ethics and Legislation	2
	PBH656 Communication in Health System and in hospitals	2
	PBH657 Community Health and Primary Health Care	2
	PBH658 Health leadership: role and responsibilities	2
	Behavioural sciences and Health Communication	
	PBH661 Introduction to Behavioural Sciences and its importance in Public Health	2
	PBH662 Medical anthropology and belief model	2
	PBH663 Illness behaviour	2
	PBH664 Theory of communication and level of communication	2
	PBH665 Motivation and behavioural change	2
	PBH666 Doctor –patient relationship and breaking bad news	
	Reproductive and Child health including family Planning	2
	PBH671 Concept of Reproductive and Child Health	2
	PBH672 Emergency obstetric care delivery system	2
	PBH673 Safe motherhood initiative and component	2
	PBH674 Gender issue in Reproductive Health	2
	PBH675 Violence against women and its prevention	2
	PBH676 Growth of child, child's nutrition	2
	PBH677 Child abuse and prevention	2
	PBH678 Population control and use of contraceptives	2

	PBH679 Infertility	2
	Public Health Nutrition	
	PBH681 Fundamental Biochemistry	2
	PBH682 Nutrition problem in Bangladesh	2
	PBH683 Nutritional Diseases and its prevention	2
	PBH684 Assessment of nutritional status	2
	PBH685 Food safety and hygiene	
	Control of communicable and non communicable diseases	
	PBH648 Pulmonary TB, malaria, dengue and diarrhea control	2
	PBH649 Control of CVD, DM, Road Traffic accidents, Drug abuse	2
	Students are also expected to enroll in 3 directed reading courses. PBH849, PBH869, PBH859	6
	Total	16

Special Study

The following courses are obligatory courses for all MPH students: (Total study course is 125 hours)

Bands	Course Title	Credits
	Special Study	
5	PBH608 Special study on a Public Health issue ((in depth experience in a single operating program)	3
6	PBH888 Dissertation (guided research design, data collection, analysis, interpretation and presentation)	10
7	PBH855 Practicum or Inteernship (with Health agency posting or home agency)	3
	Total	16
	Total Credit credits for MPH	51

Detailed of the Courses

BLOCK ONE (Total Hours: 72)

Culture and Human Values in Public Health:

Total 07 credit course

The mission of the course is to foster interdisciplinary teaching and research on developmental epigenesis: that is, how biologically based differences in individual susceptibility and resistance work together with social, physical and cultural environments to influence the emergence of disease and the preservation of health over the human life course.

The course offers diverse perspectives on the preservation of health and the origins of disease. The course represents, among others, the fields of medicine, epidemiology, sociology, health education, anthropology, health psychology, human reproduction, nutrition, economics, journalism, and moral philosophy. With a collective emphasis on the prevention of disease and the promotion of health, the course shared interests center upon five scholarly and teaching themes: Biological factors, social environmental factors, and biology-environment interactions in human adaptation and the genesis of disease; the role of time (e.g., historical, developmental) in the life course epidemiology of mental and physical disorders; Socio-cultural disparities in population health; Place and health: i.e., the role of the built environment in disease prevention and health promotion; and translation of interdisciplinary research into medical and public health practice. These include qualitative research procedure together with data analysis

Community Diagnosis in Public Health:

Total 07 credit course

One of the mainstays of public health, Epidemiology studies the occurrence and distribution of disease and other health-related conditions in populations. Epidemiology's principles and methods provide knowledge of the natural history of diseases and are the foundation for preventive health interventions; they form the basis for rational decisions concerning clinical and medical practice and public health policy. Research in the Epidemiology includes the new Laboratory for Emerging Infections and Pathogen Identification; the new Program for folic acid supplementation in reproductive women exposed to arsenic toxicity, define disease pathogenesis, and a comprehensive cancer research, health promotions, and risk-reduction campaign plus studies on environmental epidemiology, cardiovascular disease, psychiatric disorders, reproductive and women's health, and genetic factors in disease. The course will focus on:

- Principle of Epidemiology
- Measurements in Epidemiology
- Epidemiological designs

The Quantitative Methods (QM) concentration prepares students for public health careers in which the analysis of numerical data plays a pivotal role. It is designed for mid-career health professionals and for those in the early stages of their careers who plan to emphasize the application of quantitative methods to decision-making and to etiologic research in public

health. The program of study combines coursework in the fundamentals of biostatistics and epidemiology, an introduction to current issues in public health research and practice, and a flexible requirement for additional quantitative coursework in decision sciences and the quantitative aspects of quality assessment. Concentrators may choose advanced courses from any of the areas of quantitative study offered at the School or elsewhere in the University, including biostatistics, epidemiology, decision sciences, demography, needs assessment, and evaluation. Gaining depth in the concentration is essential for any professional position. The contents of the course are as follows:

- Principle of Biostatistics
- Frequency Distribution, Measurement of Central tendency, Dispersion
- Sampling, Test of significance- Chi Square test

Managing Public Health:

Total 05 credit course

The course managing public health problem trains graduates for positions of senior-level leadership in health services policy and management and to conduct research and disseminate knowledge that will advance the organization, financing, and delivery of health and medical services. The two weeks curriculum includes one week field placement. Professional achievement and promise are evaluated on the basis of an applicant's demonstrated or potential administrative and policy analysis skills, career interests and goals, relevant work experience in the health care or human services fields, initiative and innovative ability, evidence of thoughtful career planning and compatibility of those plans with the graduate curriculum, and commitment to a career in health. The students are asked to address their knowledge of the health care field gained from paid or voluntary experience; describe the origins of their interest in health policy, including past interest or involvement in management or policy-relevant activities; and describe their career goals as related to health policy and/or management.

Health economics is a branch of economics concerned with the formal analysis of costs, benefits, management and consequences of health care. Health economics often uses mathematical models to synthesize data from biostatistics and epidemiology for support of medical decision making, both for individuals and for wider health policy.

It is the branch of economics concerned with the application of economic theory to phenomena and problems associated with health and health care. Topics, among others, include the meaning and measurement of health status, the production of health and health care, the demand for health and health services, health economic evaluation, health insurance, the analysis of health care markets, health care financing, and hospital economics.

Against a background of increasing demands on limited resources, health economics is exerting an influence on decision making at all levels of health care. Health economics seeks to facilitate decision making by offering an explicit decision making framework based on the principle of efficiency. It is not the only consideration but it is an important one and practitioners will need to have an understanding of its basic principles and how it can impact on clinical decision making.

Health economics is the discipline of economics applied to the topic of health care. Broadly defined, economics concerns how society allocates its resources among alternative uses.

Through this course, student will learn how to apply microeconomic tools to the study of

health and medical care issues. They shall have the opportunity to examine the special features of medical care as a commodity, the demand for health and medical care services, the economic explanations for the behavior of medical care providers (i.e., physicians and hospitals), the functioning of insurance markets, and technology diffusion. In this course the student may get the touch on current policy topics such as the prospective payment system, relative value scales, insurance reform, rationing, and price regulation. The student will be able to examining the role of and economic justification for government involvement in the health care system. This course may give the scope to use the tools we have learned to review and analyze various proposals for health care reform.

At the end of this course, the student should:

- be able to understand basic microeconomic tools, apply these techniques to issues related to the production and distribution of medical services, and understand what health economists think is different about health care markets as compared to other markets;
- be able to understand the role of economic incentives, competition (or lack thereof), and regulation on the functioning of the medical care system and should be able to use this information to assess the economic efficiency and equity aspects of the current system;
- have a broad understanding of the health economics literature in several broad areas outlined on the syllabus and be able to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the literature to date;
- have a broad understanding of institutional changes going on currently in the medical care system and be able to analyze the economic aspects of medical care policy issues and reform proposals

BLOCK TWO (Total Hours: 180)

Programme and Elective Courses in Public Health issues

Objective:

These elective courses will provide students with in-depth knowledge and experience in selected areas of public health and relevant related skills. Student shall choose at least 5 elective courses from at least 3 of the following concentration areas.

Course offerings will be scheduled depending upon student demand and interest and availability of faculty expertise.

Methods for Research on Social and Behavioral Dimensions of Public Health

PBH611 Principle of Biostatistics	2 Credits
PBH 612 Frequency Distribution, , Measurement of Central tendency, Dispersion	2 Credits
PBH613 Probability, Sampling, Sampling Error	2 Credits
PBH614 Regression Analysis, Test of Significance, Statistical Inference	2 Credits

Epidemiology in Public Health Practice

PBH642 Principle of Epidemiology	2 Credits
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PBH643 Measurements in Epidemiology	2 Credits
PBH644 Epidemiological designs	2 Credits
PBH645 Nutritional Epidemiology	2 Credits
PBH646 Cancer Epidemiology	2 Credits
Environmental Health sciences	
PBH631 Introduction to environment and ecosystem	2 Credits
PBH632 Management of Physical Environment	2 Credits
PBH633 Recent environment health issues	2 Credits
PBH634 Occupational health hazards and occupational health safety	2 Credits
Public Health Management	
PBH652 Principle of Management	2 Credits
PBH654 Public health and hospital management	2 Credits
PBH655 Public Health Ethics and Legislation	2 Credits
PBH656 Communication in Health System and in hospitals	2 Credits
PBH657 Community Health and Primary Health Care	2 Credits
PBH658 Health leadership: role and responsibilities	2 Credits
Behavioral sciences and Health Communication	
PBH661 Introduction to Behavioral Sciences and its importance in Public Health	2 Credits
PBH662 Medical anthropology and belief model	2 Credits
PBH663 Illness behaviour	2 Credits
PBH664 Theory of communication and level of communication	2 Credits
PBH665 Motivation and behavioural change	2 Credits
PBH666 Doctor –patient relationship and breaking bad news	2 Credits
Reproductive and Child health including family Planning	
PBH671 Concept of Reproductive and Child Health	2 Credits
PBH672 Emergency obstetric care delivery system	2 Credits
PBH673 Safe motherhood initiative and component	2 Credits
PBH674 Gender issue in Reproductive Health	2 Credits
PBH675 Violence against women and its prevention	2 Credits
PBH676 Growth of child, child's nutrition	2 Credits
PBH677 Child abuse and prevention	2 Credits
PBH678 Population control and use of contraceptives	2 Credits
PBH679 Infertility	2 Credits
Public Health Nutrition	
PBH681 Fundamental Biochemistry	2 Credits
PBH682 Nutrition problem in Bangladesh	2 Credits
PBH683 Nutritional Diseases and its prevention	2 Credits
PBH684 Assessment of nutritional status	2 Credits
PBH685 Food safety and hygiene	2 Credits
Control of communicable and non communicable diseases	
PBH648 Pulmonary TB, malaria, dengue and diarrhea control	2 Credits
PBH649 Control of CVD, DM, Road Traffic accidents, Drug abuse	2 Credits
Directed Reading Courses	6 Credits
PBH849, PBH869, PBH859	

Directed reading Course: Each student will be expected to enroll in three directed reading

courses (PH8499, PH8699, PH8599) under the supervision of course instructors. Students have to use all available information technology to gather knowledge and equip themselves to accept any challenges of public health in future. These three electives, or an equivalent six credits of directed reading and learning work will be required to fulfill this block study.

BLOCK THREE (Total Hours: 15)

Special Study on Public Health Issue

PBH608 Special study on a Public Health issue ((in depth experience 3 Credits in a single operating program)

Special study involves experiential field attachment with Health Initiatives different government and non government health service provider in Bangladesh in an area chosen from among the elective courses. Four to eight weeks study will be required for three credits.

In this module student will choose one public health issue to study first hand in the field to explore the management, monitoring and evaluation and outcomes through in-depth reading and direct participation in an ongoing field program. Programs for study may be chosen from personal communication with the programme Managers of those programmes. The student will understand the issue from epidemiological, health management and medical anthropological perspectives and will prepare a paper analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of the program for presentation.

BLOCK FOUR (Total Hours: 80)

Dissertation

In this module the student will conduct a field research in their chosen public health field and will write a masters level dissertation. Planning for this work will be initiated during the elective period along with a faculty advisor. Fieldwork can be done in Bangladesh or in home country for international students. Synopsis of Research Topic must be approved by Dissertation committee of the MPH programme. After the approval of the dissertation committee each student will be assigned a research supervisor under his guidance the research should be completed.

The dissertation will involve:

- Research design and development of research protocol
- Ethics and ethical issues arising
- Data collection including design of the research tools and techniques
- Data analysis
- Writing of the dissertation and paper preparation
- Oral presentation and defense

BLOCK FIVE (Total Hours: 30)**Practicum or internship**

To provide a full range of work experience, placement will be made of each student in a health development agency of their choice to enable them to explore the application of their public health knowledge and skills. These placements may be with an NGO, a specific health program in a Department or Ministry of Health, UN agencies and other national and international agencies, wherein an analysis of public health activities of interest to the agency will be undertaken which may include managerial analysis, technical content of program, analysis of impact, etc. A final paper would be written and submitted for evaluation as well as shared with the agency wherein the student is placed.

Total time required will be 14 to 16 weeks for 3 credits

Duration of the MPH Program

The duration of the Masters in Public Health (MPH) program with dissertation will be of 18 to 24 months. However, there will be provision for experienced students to accelerate the six months allocated to dissertation and to have the final internship waived, thus completing the full course in one calendar year. Each of the short course electives will carry two university credits, enabling non-full time students to accumulate credits towards a diploma or degree. A series of short courses will be offered on the core subjects in the beginning year of the program. These courses will be awarded credit that could then be applied toward the requirements for the MPH degree, for candidates accepted into the degree program.

Partner Organizations for MPH Programme support

Following are the partner organizations with whom NSU has made memorandum of understanding to conduct research programme, practical training and internship placement for their MPH programme. These organizations have already demonstrated their strong capabilities on organization and implementation of various health related programmes. They have already made a marked contribution in the field of national and global health issues. They have their multiple programme areas and field clinics across the country for conducting their programmes.

- International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases and Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR, B), Mohakhali, Dhaka
- Bangladesh Institute of Public Health, Environment and Research (BIPHER), Mohakhali, Dhaka
- Dhaka Community Hospital, Mog Bazar, Dhaka.

Student Profile and Recruitment

MPH Admission Requirements

The minimum qualifications for admission to Graduate programs are:

Academic Qualifications

1. Bachelors degree in Medicine and Surgery (MBBS) or equivalent professional degree in alternate medicine, dentistry or Doctor of Medicine (MD) from any recognized national and overseas university with at least two years of practical exposure in the professional field. The doctor must have to be registered with Bangladesh medical and Dental Council/ National Registration Authority

or

2. Four-year undergraduate degree from a recognized university with a grade point average of 2.5 or more on a scale of 4.0 in social sciences, anthropology and economics,

or

3. Three-year bachelors' degree with honors, with at least a second class in social sciences, anthropology and psychology

or

4. Master degree in a health related subject or in any social science and science subjects with an experience of working in health related fields

or

5. A two years graduation in nursing from any recognized university after duly completed four years registered nursing course from government recognized institutes. Students other than medical graduated may required to appear before Medical Background Examination Committee to prove their understanding about human health and diseases. They may require to take additional preparatory courses at NSU even after qualifying the test.

The candidate must qualify in an admission application consisting of a statement containing the perspective and goal of the candidate in the field of public health as well as undergo an interview.

An entrance exam designed to measure basic writing, numeric and logical skills may be required of all students.

Admission of International Applicants

For purposes of admission, all persons who are not citizens or permanent residents of Bangladesh are defined as international applicants. In most cases international applicants seeking admission into NSU must meet the same academic standards for admission, as those required for native students. There are wide variations; however, between educational systems throughout the world that makes exact comparison of educational standards difficult.

International applicants are selected on the basis of their prior academic work, English proficiency, probability of success in the chosen curriculum (as evidenced by prior work in the academic area involved), and certification of adequate financial resources.

Provisional Admission

NSU may tentatively accept applicants for admission who cannot produce official transcripts by the first week of classes, such admissions are provisional. All provisional students who enter the University without complete credentials for admission will be required to submit the appropriate credentials as a prerequisite for continued enrollment. Required credentials must be submitted within the semester of initial enrollment.

Fraudulent Applications

Individuals who provide fraudulent information on applications for admission or readmission are subject to immediate dismissal from the university

Students and Faculties

The first batch of MPH students would enter in the Spring of 2006. This will give adequate time for the curriculum to be further developed and put in place before the commencement of the course, for all courses/modules had already been tested elsewhere and field opportunities also has identified and further exploration will be continued as regular basis Admission to the North South University will be evaluated by an admissions committee who will use a combination of academic grades, test scores, interviews and work experience, publications and awards. Though the majority of applicants and admissions are likely to be MBBS and equivalent graduates and nurses, other health personnel will be encouraged to apply. Graduates of advanced degree programs in the social sciences, such as economics, political sciences, and anthropology and who have worked in the health field, will also be eligible for admission. A number of students will have taken one or more of the modules during the course development phase to the degree-granting program which will allowed them to take some courses required in the core curriculum, for which they will be awarded credit provided they meet admission requirements.

The program will be widely advertised especially in Bangladesh and South Asia and among international agencies currently sponsoring international training in public health or related programs. Donors, agencies, nongovernmental organizations, Foundations and Ministries of Health will be apprised of Public Health program of North South University and costs as well as scholarship opportunities.

The Students

As the program will be a multi-disciplinary one, students will be selected from different disciplines. The student body will include:

1. Graduates and post-graduate degree holders in medical and health related studies who want to deepen their understanding of public health;
2. Social science and other graduates who have work experience in the health field and want to specialize in public health;
3. Professionals who are working in NGOs, development organisations or in the private sector with a public health focus;
4. Academics and researchers who want to refine their knowledge and research skills in public health issues.

Faculty

The faculty for teaching courses and guiding students in the program will be carefully chosen considering their academic record, teaching skills and research experience. Team teaching will be used for multi-disciplinary courses or courses requiring both theoretical frameworks and practical experiences. Specialist faculty from other universities and other institutions from within and outside the country will be engaged to conduct courses. Faculty will hold Ph.D degree, MD or equivalent, MPH and be recognized experts in their field. They will be drawn from national and overseas resource pool.