Welcome to the University of Minnesota School of Public Health!

All students are responsible for knowing the rules and policies that govern their academic program. To this end, we are providing you with this guidebook which covers your specific academic program requirements. Please refer to it often.

Many Graduate School processes are in transition. Please stay in touch with your Program Coordinator as some paper processes will convert to electronic processes.

In addition, you are responsible for knowing University of Minnesota and School of Public Health policies and procedures that pertain to all students. Links to these policies and procedures can be found by clicking on the “Current Students” link at http://www.sph.umn.edu/current/resources/.

_The University of Minnesota is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, or sexual orientation._

This publication can be made available in alternative formats for people with disabilities. Direct requests to the Office of Admissions and Student Resources, School of Public Health, MMC 819 Mayo, 420 Delaware Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455; 612.626-3500 or 800.774.8636.
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1. **EPIDEMIOLOGY MPH DEGREE PROGRAM**

1.1 **Fall 2015 Program Curriculum**

- Standard Program [48 credit minimum]
- Accelerated Program [42 credit minimum] for students who have a prior earned doctoral level degree

**Guide to Curriculum Notes**

Some courses have specific grade and grading basis requirements. For this reason, please pay close attention to the following notes.

- Epidemiology MPH students must take these courses on an A-F grade basis.
- Epi MPH students must earn a minimum grade of B- in the following courses: 6341, 6342, 6343, 6350, 6450 and 6451. Students who earn less than a B- in these courses are required to repeat the course and cannot graduate until they earn at least a B-. The Program Director of Epidemiology may override this rule based on evidence of exceptional circumstances, such as illness or family emergencies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Epidemiology Courses [18 credits]</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course</strong></td>
<td><strong>Notes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6325 or PubH 6420</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6341</td>
<td>① ②</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6342</td>
<td>① ②</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6343</td>
<td>① ②</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6350</td>
<td>① ②</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 7394</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 7396</td>
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</tbody>
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Choose one of the following:

- PubH 6381 ① Genetics in Public Health Fall 2 2
- PubH 6385 ① Epidemiology and Control of Infectious Diseases Spring 2
- PubH 6386 ① Public Health Aspects of Cardiovascular Disease Fall 2
- PubH 6387 ① Cancer Epidemiology Spring 2
- PubH 6389 ① Nutritional Epidemiology Fall 2
- PubH 6605 ① Reproductive and Perinatal Health Spring (odd years) 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biostatistics Courses [8 credits]</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course</strong></td>
<td><strong>Notes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6450</td>
<td>① ②</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6451</td>
<td>① ②</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Health Core [8 credits]</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course</strong></td>
<td><strong>Notes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6101 or PubH 6102</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 6741 or PubH 6742</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 6751</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic Science Course [4 credits]</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course</strong></td>
<td><strong>Notes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6355</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electives [8-10 credits]</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 credits required for the standard program.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 credits required for the accelerated program.</td>
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</table>
Recommended Competency Areas can be found at: http://z.umn.edu/epichcomp1415. Please scroll down the list to find the Epi MPH list.

5000-level or greater in courses related to health science or statistics; courses at the 4000-level may be allowed as electives but there are specific guidelines related to their approval. Contact a Program Coordinator prior to registering for a 4000-level elective.

The following courses are offered by the Epidemiology MPH program and are recommended as elective courses:

PubH 6344 Research Methods: Application for the Culminating Experience Project
PubH 6363 Group-Randomized Trials in Epidemiology
PubH 6365 Epidemiology of Global Health
PubH 6370 Social Epidemiology
PubH 6381 Genetics in Public Health
PubH 6385 Epidemiology and Control of Infectious Diseases
PubH 6386 Public Health Aspects of Cardiovascular Disease
PubH 6387 Cancer Epidemiology
PubH 6389 Nutritional Epidemiology

The list below is a compilation of courses other Epidemiology MPH degree-seeking students have taken in the past five years as electives. Elective courses can be taken from other departments such as, but not limited to, Veterinary Medicine (VMed), Health Informatics (HInf), Educational Psychology (EPsy), Statistics (Stat), Biochemistry (BioC), Writing Studies (WRIT), Molecular, Cellular, Dev. Biology and Genetics (MCDG), Genetics, Cellular and Developmental Biology (GCD), Microbiology (MicB), Microbiology, Immunology and Cancer Biology (MICa). See section 1.2 for more information.

PubH 6034 Program Evaluation for Public Health Practice
PubH 6045 Skills for Policy Development
PubH 6049 Legislative Advocacy Skills for Public Health
PubH 6055 Social Inequalities in Health
PubH 6078 Public Health Policy as a Prevention Strategy
PubH 6131 Working in Global Health
PubH 6133 Global Health Seminar
PubH 6182 Emerging Inf Dis: Current Issues, Pol. & Controversies
PubH 6470 SAS Procedures and Data Analysis
PubH 6562 Info Technology in Healthcare
PubH 6589 Medical Technology Evaluation
PubH 6605 Reproductive and Perinatal Health
PubH 6606 Children's Health: Issues, Programs, and Policies
PubH 6607 Adolescent Health: Issues, Programs, and Policies
PubH 6617 Practical Methods for Secondary Data Analysis
PubH 6627 Sexuality Ed: Criteria, Curricula, & Controversy
PubH 6634 Advocacy and Children's Rights
PubH 6673 Grant Writing for Public Health
PubH 6702 Integrative Leadership Seminar
PubH 6724 The Health Care System and Public Health
PubH 6730 International Comparative Health Systems
PubH 6732 Topics and Methods in Global Health Assessment
PubH 6765 Continuous Quality Improvement
PubH 6801 Health and Human Rights
PubH 6803 Conducting a Systematic Literature Review
PubH 6807 Global Health, Relief, and NGO's
PubH 6809 Advanced Methods in Health Decision Science
PubH 6832 Economics Health Care System
PubH 6876 PubH Systems Analysis and Development
PubH 6877 PubH Systems Analysis and Development Pract
PubH 6906 Global Nutrition
PubH 6933 Nutrition and Chronic Diseases
Note: Due to content overlap, Division of Epidemiology and Community Health students taking both 6325 and 6420 may only use one of the courses for degree credit.

Note: Due to the content overlap, Epi MPH students cannot use PubH 6320 as an elective if they are taking PubH 6341.

1.2 Other MPH Degree Requirements

Public Health Core Area Requirements
Students working towards an MPH degree must satisfy competency requirements in the six core areas of public health – administration, behavioral science, biostatistics, environmental health, epidemiology, and ethics – by completing one of the following in each core area:

- Satisfactorily pass one of the pre-approved courses in the core area (see pre-approved course list below);
- OR
- Pass an equivalency exam in the core area;
- OR
- Pass an advanced course in the core area as approved by the respective division head or the Educational Policy Committee;
- OR
- Complete a graduate level course, with a grade of B or better, at an accredited university or college that meets the competencies defined by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). The School of Public Health Educational Policy Committee, upon petition of the student, will determine acceptance of a course for transfer.

Pre-approved Courses Meeting Public Health Core Area Requirements

**Administration**
PubH 6751 Principles of Management in Health Services Organizations – 2 cr.

**Behavioral Science**
PubH 6020 Fundamentals of Social and Behavioral Science – 3 cr.

**Biostatistics**
PubH 6414 Biostatistical Literacy – 3 cr.
PubH 6450 Biostatistics I – 4 cr.
PubH 6451 Biostatistics II – 4 cr.

**Environmental Health**
PubH 6101 Environmental Health – 2 cr.
PubH 6102 Issues in Environmental and Occupational Health – 2 cr.

**Epidemiology**
PubH 6320 Fundamentals of Epidemiology – 3 cr. [note: this is not part of the Epidemiology MPH required sequence]
PubH 6341 Epidemiologic Methods I – 3 cr.
Ethics
PubH 6741 Ethics in Public Health: Professional Practice and Policy – 1 cr.
PubH 6742 Ethics in Public Health: Research and Policy – 1 cr.

Registration Requirement
Students are required to register for at least 2 semesters and 15 credits in the School of Public Health.

Course Numbers and Graduate Credit
5xxx-, 6xxx-, 7xxx- and 8xxx-level courses are considered graduate-level. 1xxx- and 3xxx-level courses are for undergraduates and will not receive approval for graduate credit. Under some circumstances – with approval of the student’s Program Director – 4xxx-level courses may be applied towards an MPH degree as long as they are taught by a member of the graduate faculty.

SPH Grading Policies

Grade Point Average
Students must achieve a cumulative grade point average of no less than 3.0 (B) across their entire program to receive an MPH degree.

S-N Grade Option
MPH students may take no more than 20% of their coursework on an S-N grading basis, exclusive of those topics, seminars, and field experience courses offered only on an S-N basis.

Public Health Core Courses
Courses designated as part of the public health core must be taken for a letter grade (A-F). Students will be required to achieve no less than a B- grade in each course taken on an A-F basis. Students may retake public health core courses at their own expense until they achieve a grade of B- or better. However, a retaken course may be counted only once toward degree requirements in the student’s study plan.

Each public health major may require higher levels of achievement for its own students in public health core courses that are also core to the major. This may include restrictions on retaking public health core courses that are also core to the major, or requiring more than a B- performance level. Students should consult their Program Coordinator for documentation of these requirements.

Field Experience
All students matriculating in an MPH program must complete a formal, supervised fieldwork experience; see section 1.5.

MPH Study Plan
Students are required to submit a completed MPH Study Plan to their Program Coordinator at least one semester prior to their anticipated completion of coursework. Earlier submission (e.g., in the second to last semester) is suggested to allow the Program Coordinators to review the study plan and notify students if they are missing any requirements prior to their last term of study.

Culminating Experience
MPH students must complete a culminating experience, demonstrating familiarity with the tools of research or scholarship in the major, the capacity to work independently, and the ability to present the results of the investigation effectively; see section 1.6.

Comprehensive Examination
MPH students must complete an oral examination as specified by the Epidemiology major; see section 1.6.

Time Frame
The maximum time allowed by the School of Public Health for completion of an MPH degree is five years. The five-year period begins with the first term of enrollment after admission to a degree program within the School.
Course Transfer Credits
Effective beginning with students entering the program in Fall 2007, a student may seek transfer of no more than 40% of their total graduate or professional program credits taken at the University of Minnesota or at another college or university prior to the MPH program matriculation. Course credits may be used to satisfy public health core or other program requirements as jointly approved by the Program Director and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. No course credits older than 5 years from the date of the student’s matriculation will be accepted for transfer. A grade of “B” or better is required for each course requested for transfer credit.

MPH students who have completed graduate-level coursework at the University of Minnesota or another college or university may petition to transfer those courses toward their MPH degree. To be considered for transfer, graduate level coursework must have been taken at an accredited graduate institution. Students must:

1. Meet with their Program Coordinator to discuss the petitioning process. If the petition is acceptable to the advisor, the student will complete and sign the Petition form, and attach an official transcript on which the final grade has been posted.

2. Submit the Petition form to the Program Coordinator for processing. The Petition form can be found at policy.umn.edu/forms/otr/otr172.pdf

   The Program Coordinator will forward the petition to the Program Director and then to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for final evaluation and/or approval.

Course Substitutions and Waivers
All student requests that deviate from the degree curriculum requirements outlined in this Guidebook must be made on a Petition form. The Petition form can be found at policy.umn.edu/forms/otr/otr172.pdf.

Students should note that the process for approving a course substitution or waiver could take up to one month, so plan accordingly.

Course Substitution Procedures:
The process outlined below should be followed when requesting that a course substitute for a required course in the degree program.

1. Obtain the course syllabi of the required course in your degree program and the proposed substitute course and a transcript on which the proposed course grade has been posted (if the proposed course has already been completed).

2. Complete the Petition form with the following information in each section:
   - Briefly state the exception or approval to be considered: describe the course requested for substitution including the course title, number of credits, term and year taken, and the name of the institution where the course was taken. Also list the course/requirement in your degree program for which you are asking for the substitution.
   - Provide an explanation or reason to grant your request below: Indicate what skills and/or content overlaps between the required course(s) and the proposed substitute course(s).

3. Compile the above materials and have the request reviewed by your Program Coordinator. She will complete the Department section of the Petition form and indicate whether or not they approve of the request.

4. The student should submit these materials to the Program Coordinator who will forward it to the appropriate Credentials Committee for review. The student will be notified via e-mail of the committee’s decision.

5. If the substitute course is to replace a School of Public Health Core course (administration—PubH 6751, behavioral/social science—PubH 6020, biostatistics—PubH 6414/6450, environmental health—PubH 6101/6102, epidemiology—PubH 6320/6341, ethics—PubH 6741/6742), there is an additional step to get School-level approval. To complete this next step, provide two additional copies of the above materials. All of those materials should be submitted to your Program Coordinator. Upon receipt of those materials, the Program Coordinator will review the request with the Program Director and then if approved by the Program Director, all copies of the request will be forwarded to the Student Services Center to be presented to the appropriate SPH Educational Policy committee members. The student will be notified via e-mail of the committee’s decision. If the Program Director does not approve of the request, the Program Coordinator will inform the student that the request will not be forwarded to the SPH Educational Policy Committee for review.
Application for Degree

MPH students are required to complete an Application for Degree form. There are strict deadline dates before a student can be cleared for graduation. You must turn in the form by the end of the first business day of the month in which you want your degree cleared. Copies of this form can be obtained from policy.umn.edu/Forms/otr/otr177.pdf. We request that you turn the form in to your Program Coordinator instead of directly to the Office of the Registrar (OTR). Your Program Coordinator will fax the form to the OTR and keep a copy on file as evidence that is has been submitted.

1.3 Standard Sample Schedules

Students are strongly encouraged to meet with their academic advisors each term prior to registration. Your Program Coordinator is responsible for making sure you are taking the appropriate courses so if you would like to meet with the Program Coordinator at any time to ensure you are on track for graduating, please don’t hesitate to make an appointment. Doing so will ensure that you are on track for graduation and will ensure that any complications are resolved in a timely manner.

Note: Part-time schedules are available upon request from one of the Program Coordinators. Careful planning must be considered when attending part-time to make sure courses that are sequential in nature are taken in the appropriate order. Contact a Program Coordinator at epichstu@umn.edu for assistance with your schedule.

Please keep in mind that these are just sample schedules and you can deviate from them. If you are uncertain about how any deviation from the proposed sample below may affect your schedule over the next two years please contact your Program Coordinator.

Full-Time Standard Program Option [48 credits]

Fall Semester I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6325</td>
<td>Data Processing with PC-SAS</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6341</td>
<td>Epidemiologic Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6355</td>
<td>Pathophysiology of Human Disease</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6450</td>
<td>Biostatistics I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6751</td>
<td>Principles of Management in Health Services Organizations (2nd half semester)</td>
<td>2</td>
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Spring Semester I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6101</td>
<td>Environmental Health</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6342</td>
<td>Epidemiologic Methods II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6451</td>
<td>Biostatistics II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 Elective Courses</td>
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May or Summer Session I

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<th>Course</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PubH 7396</td>
<td>Field Experience</td>
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Fall Semester II

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6020</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Social and Behavioral Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6343</td>
<td>Epidemiologic Methods III</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6350</td>
<td>Epidemiologic Methods III Lab</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6386</td>
<td>Public Health Aspects of Cardiovascular Disease*</td>
<td>2</td>
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Spring Semester II

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<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6742</td>
<td>Ethics in Public Health: Research &amp; Policy</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 7394</td>
<td>Master's Project/Culminating Experience: Epidemiology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 Elective Courses</td>
<td>6</td>
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* This course is an example of one of six course options
Full-Time Accelerated Program Option [42 credits]

**Fall Semester I**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6341</td>
<td>Epidemiologic Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6450</td>
<td>Biostatistics I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6751</td>
<td>Principles of Management in Health Services Organizations (2nd half semester)</td>
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**Spring Semester I**

<table>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 6101</td>
<td>Environmental Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 6325</td>
<td>Data Processing with PC-SAS</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6342</td>
<td>Epidemiologic Methods II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6387</td>
<td>Cancer Epidemiology*</td>
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<td>PubH 6451</td>
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<td>PubH 6742</td>
<td>Ethics in Public Health: Research &amp; Policy</td>
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**May or Summer Session I**

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<td>Fundamentals of Social and Behavioral Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 7396</td>
<td>Field Experience</td>
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**Fall Semester II**

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<td>PubH 6350</td>
<td>Epidemiologic Methods III Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 7394</td>
<td>Master's Project/Culminating Experience: Epidemiology</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Elective Course</td>
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</table>

* This course is an example of one of six course options

### 1.4 Waiver Request for Pathophysiology of Human Disease

Students with a prior earned doctorate in a health discipline are not required to take PubH 6355, Pathophysiology of Human Disease, and do not need to request an exemption. The following procedures apply for students wishing an exemption from the course. It is the student's responsibility to:

1. Request the waiver at least two weeks prior to the start of the term the course is taught; and
2. Provide the Program Coordinator, Shelley Cooksey, with a copy of the syllabus (syllabi) of the course(s) already taken with equivalent content. The student also must supply a copy of their transcript(s). Shelley will forward the syllabus (syllabi) and transcript(s) to the course instructor(s) for approval.

The instructor(s) will then review the course packet to verify that previous course work fulfills the learning objectives for Pathophysiology of Human Disease. If, upon inspection, the instructor affirms the course content is similar, he/she will grant the waiver and provide the Program Coordinator with documentation for the student's file either approving or rejecting the request for exemption.

The granting of an exemption from 6355 does not reduce the total number of credits required in the student's program. However, it allows the student to take other elective credits.

**Note:** PubH 6355, Pathophysiology of Human Disease, is taught during the Fall semester. The deadline to provide materials to Shelley Cooksey is Friday, August 21, 2015.
1.5 Field Experience

Goals
School policy requires all MPH students to complete a supervised field experience consisting of at least 90 hours of applied work. The purpose of the field experience is to provide students with the opportunity to practice and apply their epidemiological knowledge and skills in a practice-based setting. The goals of the epidemiology field experience are to apply epidemiologic skills in the following areas:

1. Review scientific literature
2. Assist with proposal development
3. Design data collection forms
4. Collect epidemiologic data
5. Create databases/enter epidemiologic data
6. Analyze epidemiologic data
7. Write scientific reports
8. Participate in other community-based public health activities where epidemiologic skills are needed

The field experience must involve a project with defined objectives and evaluation criteria. The field experience should complement the epidemiology training and therefore must be done after completion of Epidemiologic Methods I and II. Students must develop a plan for the field experience with the consent of their academic advisor. For some students, the field experience may include aspects of study design and/or data collection and management. For other students with experience in data collection and management, it may be desirable to choose a field experience with greater emphasis on data analysis or grant preparation. However, the field experience must be independent from the culminating experience and cannot be started until the contract has been approved.

Field Experience Requirements

1. A member of the Epidemiology MPH faculty must agree to act as the student's faculty field experience advisor. This faculty member need not be the student's academic advisor or culminating experience advisor. The Epidemiology faculty member can be either primary or adjunct faculty; see section 1.8 for a list of faculty.

2. The site preceptor, who will supervise the field experience, must be an epidemiologist or other public health professional approved by the academic advisor, the faculty field experience advisor, or the Epidemiology Program Director. The site preceptor does not have to have a doctoral level degree but should have at least a MPH or equivalent level degree. For example, someone in a Health Department who has an Epidemiology MPH could be the field preceptor. The site and the site preceptor must be outside of the University of Minnesota.

3. The field experience must consist of at least 90 hours. Students must register to receive graduate credits (90 hours equals two semester credits). Depending on the length of the experience (i.e., more than 90 hours) and the faculty field experience advisor’s evaluation of the scope of the work, an additional 1-3 credits (up to a maximum of five credits) may be earned. These additional credits can be applied to the total credit requirement for the MPH degree, resulting in a net reduction of elective credits needed to complete the degree. Students must register under PubH 7396: Field Experience. This course is graded on an S-N basis only. Students will be allowed to register after they have submitted a complete Field Experience/Internship Contract (see How To Register below).

4. Timing of the field experience is flexible. However, because the intent is to reinforce concepts learned in the classroom, students must complete their first full year of coursework (the epidemiology and biostatistics core sequences) before beginning the field experience. Students may wish to consider summer session as the most feasible period in which to complete the field experience requirement due to the time involved.

5. The responsibility of arranging for the field experience rests with the student. Although a paid field experience is permitted, students should not expect such arrangements as the norm.
6. If permission from the Human Subjects Committee (Institutional Review Board) is necessary based on the proposed field experience work scope, the student must secure such permission before beginning. The faculty field experience advisor should be consulted for direction.

7. Although students are responsible for arranging their own field experience, there are a number of resources available to help:

- Epidemiology faculty;
- The School of Public Health Career Center; (sph.umn.edu/careers/)
- The School of Public Health Alumni Society; (sphalumni.umn.edu/s/1604/start.aspx)
- The Minnesota Department of Health (www.health.state.mn.us/);
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov/);
- American Cancer Society (www.cancer.org/);
- American Heart Association (www.heart.org/HEARTORG/).

- Students who are interested in opportunities outside Minnesota are encouraged to network with Health Department officials in their hometowns, or in areas in which they eventually hope to work. International field experience is allowed;
- There are additional opportunities to work with local health-related industries, including managed care organizations, hospital research units, and other industries with a health emphasis.

How to Register and Complete the Field Experience

1. Identify a faculty advisor. The faculty field experience advisor must be an Epi MPH faculty member, but does not have to be your academic advisor (see section 1.8 for a list of faculty members eligible to serve as a faculty field experience advisor).

2. Once a potential placement has been identified, the student should make contact with the organization to identify and define a specific project or area, time commitment, and a site preceptor.

3. The Field Experience/Internship Learning Agreement Contract form must be completed online, approved (with electronic signatures) by all parties and submitted to the Program Coordinator. The form is available at: www.ahc.umn.edu/sphfieldexp/index.cfm. The contract must be submitted online before students will be given information on how to register and be eligible to begin the field experience. Once the signed Field Experience/Internship Contract form is submitted online, a Program Coordinator will contact the student via e-mail with specific registration information for PubH 7396.

4. Certain facilities are required by Minnesota law to submit paperwork for a criminal background check for all personnel with direct, unsupervised client contact. If their field experience, culminating experience, or dissertation is in such a facility, students may be asked by the institution to submit paperwork.

5. Some agencies may ask students to sign agreements concerning confidentiality of data or other data practices. This may be especially true in those settings where students will have access to personal identifiers.

6. Upon completion of the field experience the student and the site preceptor are required to submit an evaluation form online via the SPH Field Experience Portal at www.ahc.umn.edu/sphfieldexp/index.cfm. Once the evaluation forms have been reviewed by the faculty advisor a grade change will be submitted.

Relationship Between Field Experience and Culminating Experience

The culminating experience and field experience should represent separate activities, although they may be related. The culminating experience should involve more independent work than the field experience. A culminating experience could evolve from a field experience with an organization, but should be defined separately; the same work cannot be counted for both. If they are related, careful consideration must be given in wording the contract to differentiate the requirements of the field experience from the culminating experience.

We suggest that students do an internship at one organization, and their culminating experience with a different organization. While it is not required, doing them with different organizations has several advantages. It gives the student an insight into two organizations, expands the number of people the student can use for future references for jobs, and increases the number of places they may turn to for job opportunities.
1.6 Culminating Experience

Purpose
The purpose of the culminating experience is to enable students to demonstrate:

- Familiarity with the tools of research and scholarship in the field of Public Health;
- The ability to work independently;
- The ability to plan and carry out a systematic investigation related to a public health issue; and
- The ability to effectively present, in written and oral form, the results of their investigation.

Project Options
The culminating experience for students in the Epidemiology MPH program may take one of three forms:

- A written report, often in the form of a manuscript suitable for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, that demonstrates the student's ability to do quantitative analyses, utilizing data collected by the student or obtained from another source. This option is chosen by the vast majority of students.
- A systematic review, of publishable quality, that demonstrates the student's ability to critically review the literature and synthesize published findings on a medical or public health topic. A systematic review is not a simple literature review, and students should understand the difference before selecting this option. If you choose this option, consider enrolling in PubH 6803, Conducting a Systematic Literature Review.
- A grant proposal to the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Students who have never done quantitative analysis outside of normal coursework are strongly encouraged to do a written report that includes a quantitative analysis. Examples of quantitative analysis projects might include the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data collected by the student, or secondary analysis and interpretation of data collected by a research project within the Division or data from a public access source such as NHANES.

Examples of systematic reviews include those articles published in epidemiologic review journals and other peer-reviewed journals. A review should follow the guidelines for systematic review as developed by one of the following groups:

- Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews handbook.cochrane.org/
- American Journal of Epidemiology

An excellent example of a systematic review:

A grant application that includes a literature review and/or quantitative analyses also could serve as a culminating experience.

Choosing a Topic
When choosing a topic, students should seek a balance between interests, project feasibility, and skills to be gained.

- Interest in the topic: the project requires independent effort and self-motivation. Students who have a strong interest in the topic they choose will be more likely to complete the project in a timely fashion.
- Feasibility (availability of data, timeline): it is reasonable to expect that the project will require at least a full semester to finish (see timeline below), but there is substantial variability. For example, projects that require primary data collection may take longer to complete. Before embarking on the project, students and advisors should be aware of any potential factors that may slow or delay the project.
• Skills required or to be gained: The culminating experience is both a learning opportunity and an opportunity to demonstrate mastery of core competencies in epidemiology. It may provide an opportunity to develop new skills that may be useful in a career as an epidemiologist and public health professional.

**Finding an Advisor/Project**

All students must have a faculty advisor to guide and approve the steps in the culminating experience process. This advisor does not have to be the same person as the student's academic advisor. However, the **culminating experience advisor must be an Epidemiology MPH faculty member**; see section 1.8 for a list of eligible faculty.

Because of the extensive time commitment involved in advising culminating experiences, it is suggested that students seek a match of academic interests, community contacts and/or personal compatibility with a project advisor. It may take several months to identify a project advisor and topic that provide a good match for the student’s interests and goals. Students who do not have someone in mind by the time they are ready to write the proposal should discuss potential project advisors with their academic advisor, the Program Director, and/or the Program Coordinators.

Students can expect their project advisor to: (A) Be available, with reasonable advance notice, for consulting with the student at all stages of the project; (B) Review and approve all project protocols and methods; and (C) Provide guidance about the format and content of the final product.

There are a variety of strategies that students might use to find a project and project advisor.

- Find faculty working in your area of interest—make an appointment with a faculty member who may share your interests or introduce yourself to faculty who provide guest lectures in courses that you are taking.
- Identify research projects in your area of interest—there are many ongoing research projects both in and outside the Division that might provide the opportunity that you are seeking.
- Identify topics in connection to a research assistant position—many students who have the opportunity to work as a research assistant are able to develop a research question within the context of a study with which they are working.
- Seek help from your academic advisor—your advisor may be able to put you in touch with individuals working in your area of interest.
- Utilize the MPH Project Directory—this directory is on the Division of Epidemiology and Community Health web site at Epi Student Resources. This document is updated each year and provides a list of primary and adjunct faculty with ongoing research that might lend itself to a culminating experience. If you are interested in working with someone who is not primary or adjunct faculty for the Epidemiology MPH program, be sure to discuss it with the Program Coordinator or Program Director.

When a faculty member agrees to serve as the culminating experience advisor, the student should complete and submit the **Culminating Experience Approval Form** at [http://docs.sph.umn.edu/epich/student/Culminating-Exp-Approval.pdf](http://docs.sph.umn.edu/epich/student/Culminating-Exp-Approval.pdf). Students must have this form approved and submitted to Shelley Cooksey, Program Coordinator, before they can start work on their culminating experience. Students will not be allowed to register for PubH 7394 Master's Project/Culminating experience: Epidemiology until this form is turned in to Shelley Cooksey.

**Authorship**

Choosing a topic that may lead to a publishable paper is a potential benefit for both students and the faculty members who work with them. Although not all projects will result in a publication, it is a good idea for students and project advisors to discuss authorship issues early in the process, preferably before embarking on the project. Students are encouraged to consider submitting their work for publication in peer-reviewed journals; the project may be formatted to meet a specific journal’s criteria either before or after the MPH defense has occurred.

Issues that should be discussed include:

- Publications procedures and policies that may exist for a given study
- Whether or not the student will be first author on the paper submitted for publication
- Expectations regarding co-authorship for members of the masters project committee
- Expectations regarding co-authorship for study investigators not on the culminating experience committee
• Whether or not the student will be responsible for submitting the paper to a journal, making revisions and handling responses to reviewers, and reviewing proofs
• Expectations for timely submission to a journal and contingency plans if timelines are not met

Forming the Culminating Experience Committee
The examination committee must include at least three faculty members:

1. The culminating experience advisor, who must be an Epidemiology MPH faculty member, will chair the committee (see sec. 1.8 for a list of eligible project advisors).

2. The student's academic advisor must be the second member, and that person is always an Epidemiology MPH faculty member as well. If the academic advisor is also the culminating experience advisor, then the second committee member must be another Epidemiology MPH faculty member (see sec. 1.8 for a list of eligible members).

3. The third faculty member on the committee must be from "outside" the student's major--this is a School of Public Health policy. The third member can have either a primary or official adjunct appointment with the University, but the third faculty member cannot be an Epidemiology MPH faculty member; see section 1.8 for a list of faculty. If they are not on the list but have a University faculty appointment, they are eligible to be the "outside" member. Once the initial committee membership is put together, the student is strongly encouraged to check with the Program Coordinators to confirm the faculty members' roles. Note that exceptions are rare, and usually only given for adjunct faculty if the student exhausts all other possibilities. An Epidemiology MPH faculty member with a primary appointment can never serve as an "outside" member.

Working with the Culminating Experience Advisor and Committee
It is important for students to develop a strong working relationship with their committee and to keep them updated on their progress. To ensure that the process goes smoothly, students should consider the following:

• Reach an agreement with the culminating experience advisor on the appropriate scope and amount of work for the project before beginning the project
• Meet with each committee member to learn about his/her expectations for the culminating experience. For example, some members will expect to review interim data analyses or early drafts of the written document. Others may wish to wait until there is a relatively polished version of the document to provide feedback.
• Get approval of methods section and data tables from all committee members before writing the results and discussion
• Allow sufficient time PRIOR to the 2-week deadline for oral exam to get comments from committee members so that revisions can be made; plan for multiple revisions
• Recognize that the culminating experience is not ready to defend until the committee says it is ready

Costs Associated with the Culminating Experience
Students are responsible for costs associated with completing their culminating experience. These costs are sometimes offset in part by the organization with which the student is working. Funds may also be available from Division of Epidemiology and Community Health by applying for the J. B. Hawley Student Research Award; see section 2.6. Students who choose the data analysis project option may find the research project with which they are associated can cover the costs of their project. There are also resources available for statistical computing. The Division of Epidemiology and Community Health will provide MPH, MS and PhD students working on research projects free access to the Division's research computers. This policy is addressed to those students who need computer access for faculty-sponsored research that is part of their Master's or PhD project. The following rules apply:

• A sponsoring faculty member should initiate access for the student and specify the time period that the access is needed.
• Access beyond the initial time period is renewable at the request of the faculty member and subject to approval by the Computer Resources committee.
• To be courteous, the student should run only one job at a time.
• The computer may not be used for other coursework.
• This access is limited to the main research computers and does not necessarily include exclusive use of a PC or Mac (the student is assumed to need access to the specialized analysis software only available on the Epi main system).
• Any problems should be reported to the faculty sponsor, not the computer support staff or the Program Coordinators.

Human Subjects Information
All students at the University of Minnesota who conduct any research using human subjects or secondary data are required to submit their research proposal to the University of Minnesota Institutional Review Board (IRB) for approval prior to conducting their study. This includes research that would be considered exempt from IRB review if submitted outside of the MPH degree program. This submission is an academic requirement of all academic programs in the Division of Epidemiology and Community Health, and the IRB is prepared to review our students’ proposals, even if they return a review of exempt. There are a few situations, such as the systematic review of literature, where an IRB application is not required. If you have any doubt, contact your Program Director or project advisor for advice.

The approval process can take up to two months. This time must be accounted for when developing the proposal timeline. No contacts with potential or actual study participants, including recruitment or other research, may occur until final IRB approval. Please consult with your project or academic advisor for information on IRB procedures.

Timeline
Although there are no formal data on the length of time students have taken to complete their culminating experience, experience indicates that they should plan for a minimum of one semester (four months). The actual length of the project will depend on a number of factors, including:

• Identifying a project and/or project advisor in a specific subject area
• Type of project: Projects requiring primary data collection, substantial data management activities, or sophisticated data analyses may require more time.
• External factors beyond student's control: Projects may be delayed because students have to obtain approval from parent study administrators, wait for access to data, or work around faculty schedules.
• Student's level of motivation and discipline
• Other obligations such as coursework, jobs, family, etc.

Students generally underestimate the amount of time it will take to complete their project. It is best to be conservative and plan by working backwards from expected finish date. Here are some reasonable timelines for some of the important milestones, although the length of each step varies substantially, depending on the project:

• Finding project and project advisor (2-3 months)
• Reading research literature to determine research questions (1-2 months)
• Obtaining human subjects approval (1 month)
• Obtaining parent study approval, if necessary (1 month)
• Obtaining and preparing data set for analysis (1-2 months)
• Conducting analyses (1-2 months)
• Writing first draft of document (1-2 months)
• Obtaining feedback from committee members and making revisions (usually repeated multiple times) (1-2 months)
• Distributing final project to committee members (at least 2 weeks before oral exam)

Project Outline
There is no mandatory format for writing culminating experiences. Many take the form of manuscripts prepared for publication in peer-reviewed journals; the grant proposal option follows the specific format required by the NIH. Copies of former students’ culminating experiences are located near cubicle 398E on the third floor of WBOB. Students may browse through these, but cannot take them from the student study area.

A written report usually includes four main sections: introduction, methods, results, and discussion, with a title page and abstract preceding the introduction. Journals often place strict word or page limits on articles submitted
for publication. By contrast, the culminating experience has no upper page limit and may be longer than a standard published article because students need to provide enough detail to demonstrate to their committee members that they have thoroughly reviewed the literature, understand the methods that they have used, have conducted a systematic data analysis, and are able to interpret their results. A random survey of culminating experiences recently submitted for the epidemiology MPH found that the median length excluding references, tables, figures, and appendices was 20 pages, double-spaced, with a range of 13-44 pages.

For projects reporting results from observational research, guidance on format and content can be found in the Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE) statement: guidelines for reporting observational studies (Epidemiology 2007; 18: 800-804).

The Introduction often includes:

- Statement of the problem
- Brief summary of evidence to date
- Gaps in evidence to be addressed by project
- Statement of purpose of project or hypotheses

Common subsections of the Methods include:

- Study description
  - Design of parent study, if applicable
  - Study design for project research question, if different from parent study design
- Description of participants
  - How identified and recruited
  - Response rates
  - Inclusions/exclusions
  - Final sample size
- Data Collection procedures
  - Methods of data collection
  - Types of data collected
- Definition of exposure/confounders/outcome
- Description of statistical analysis

The Results section typically provides:

- Basic description of study participants (e.g., Table 1)
- Description of results of each analysis

The Discussion usually will:

- State main findings
- Compare findings to current literature
- Discuss limitations and how limitations could affect interpretation of results
- Provide conclusions about contribution of project to current state of evidence

Writing

Many students have little experience with technical writing and find completing the culminating experience paper to be a greater challenge than previous writing activities, such as term papers or other academic exercises. Students should consider the following tips:

- Break the writing into manageable parts, e.g., by focusing on one section at a time. For example, some epidemiologists will first decide on the content and format of tables and figures, then write the results, methods, introduction, and discussion, in that order.
- Create a reasonable plan for writing: don’t expect to be able to draft the whole document in one session.
- Keep track of ideas for the discussion section: Because the discussion is often the last section written, it is helpful to develop a list of discussion points that can be expanded later.
- Use active rather than passive tense.
• Do not worry about perfection on the first draft, but make the best use of the committee’s time by allowing them to focus on the science of the project and not forcing them to correct pervasive spelling, grammatical, and formatting problems. The project advisor is a good guide as to when the document is ready to distribute to other committee members.
• Follow through on revisions provided by committee members: Committee members will become frustrated if they think that the student is ignoring their comments and suggestions.
• Avoid use of jargon; write in plain English
• Allow yourself enough time to put the first completed draft aside for several days and then to read the document as a unit.

Study plan
• Students need to complete Part I (pages 1 & 2) of the Study Plan at least one semester before completion of their coursework. The form can be found at Epi Student Resources.
• Part II of the Study Plan (page 3) can be left blank and will be filled in by a Program Coordinator upon completion of the degree program.
• Turn in the completed Study Plan to Shelley Cooksey (cubicle 398E WBOB), who will then review it to account for all degree requirements.
• Students are strongly urged to keep a copy of their Study Plan for their own files.

Scheduling the oral examination
• Students are responsible for scheduling the oral exam with their committee members. Because faculty have busy schedules, it is best to do this well in advance.
  o Students also need to reserve a small conference room for a minimum of two hours. It is a good idea to reserve the room starting 30 minutes prior to the time that the presentation is to begin. Allowing that additional 30 minutes will ensure that any audio-visual equipment has been set up and the presentation works as anticipated.
  o To schedule a room in the West Bank Office Building (WBOB), call 612-624-1818.
• Students need to arrange for audiovisual equipment for their presentation. To reserve an LCD projector and/or laptop, please notify Shelley Cooksey at least two weeks in advance. These arrangements can usually be accommodated in WBOB conference rooms with at least two weeks notice. Try to reserve rooms 310 or 364 in WBOB because those rooms have a big screen TV that serves as the projector for your defense and can be hooked up directly to your laptop.
• At least two weeks prior to the exam, students must notify Shelley Cooksey, cooks001@umn.edu, of the scheduled oral exam date so that the proper paperwork can be forwarded to the culminating experience advisor. Please note that this paperwork cannot be prepared on the day of the exam. Without the proper forms, the student would be able to hold the exam, but the committee would not have the paperwork to sign. The student would then be responsible for obtaining the necessary signatures on the study plan.
• Students should consider sending an e-mail to committee members on the day before the exam reminding them of the day, time, and location of the examination.

Preparing for the Exam
• At least two weeks prior to the exam, students must forward a copy of their paper to their committee members for review.
• Two weeks prior to the scheduled defense date, students should notify the Program Coordinator of the day/time/location of the oral defense.
• Some students may find it helpful to meet with committee members after members have had a chance to review their paper. This may help the student identify important issues that they should be prepared to discuss at the oral examination.
• Students should prepare a 20-30 minute Powerpoint presentation that describes their project (background, research questions, methods, results, discussion). They may wish to have the culminating experience advisor review a written draft of this presentation in the days or weeks before the exam.
• Students should be prepared to discuss strengths and weaknesses of the methods and to interpret and defend the results.
• Students should bring copies of presentation materials to distribute to committee members on the day of the exam.
• Students should communicate with their committee members—a defense should not be scheduled until the committee feels that the paper is of the appropriate quality.
• While the oral defense is not a cumulative exam of the coursework in the degree program, students should be prepared to defend their methodology and understanding of epidemiologic concepts.

**During the exam**
The material covered in the oral examination is comprehensive and includes the culminating experience, course materials and seminars, and issues of practical application. However, most examinations focus primarily on the culminating experience itself.

Most exams will follow the process outlined below.

• The culminating experience advisor, who also serves as the chair, convenes the meeting
• Student initially leaves room so that committee members can review transcripts and plan for the exam
• Student returns to the room and procedures for conducting the exam are discussed
• Student gives the presentation, possibly interspersed with questions from the committee if the student wishes to take questions during the presentation as opposed to at the end of the presentation
• Additional questions are asked at the conclusion of the presentation
• Once all questions have been asked and answered, the student leaves room so that committee members can discuss the outcome of the exam
• The committee decides whether the outcome is pass without revisions, pass with revisions, does not pass
• The student is invited back into room and informed of the results
• If the outcome is a pass or pass with revisions, the study plan is signed by the committee members
• If the student did not pass, the committee will explain what steps are necessary before they will approve the culminating experience
• The culminating experience advisor returns the study plan to the Program Coordinator

**Finalizing the Paper**
After successfully completing the oral exam, the student and culminating experience advisor must work together to ensure that the final document is prepared and submitted to the Program Coordinator.

• After the oral exam, the student and project advisor should meet to discuss any revisions that need to be made to the paper. Finalizing the paper as soon as possible after the oral exam is best way to assure that student will complete the process.
• The student should make changes according to committee expectations. In some cases, a final review by the project advisor on behalf of the committee may be sufficient. More extensive changes may require additional review by all committee members. The project is not completed until the committee is satisfied with the quality of the oral presentation and final paper.

### 1.7 Follow-up Career Survey

Students must submit the Follow-Up Career Survey prior to receiving their degree or certificate. Students may complete the process online at the appropriate link on the current student Web page [https://secure.ahc.umn.edu/PublicHealth/CareerSurvey](https://secure.ahc.umn.edu/PublicHealth/CareerSurvey). Upon submitting the electronic survey, the student's relevant Program Coordinator will be notified by e-mail.

### 1.8 Program Faculty List

#### Primary Faculty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>E-Mail</th>
<th>Research Expertise</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alvaro Alonso, MD, PhD</td>
<td>626-8597</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alonso@umn.edu">alonso@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Epidemiology of hypertension, nutritional epidemiology, neuroepidemiology (multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristin Anderson, PhD, MPH</td>
<td>626-8568</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ander116@umn.edu">ander116@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Cancer etiology; Laboratory-based cancer epidemiology; Pancreatic cancer; Adult solid tumors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Contact Information</td>
<td>Research Interests</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicole Basta, PhD, MPhil</td>
<td>625-6615, <a href="mailto:nebasta@umn.edu">nebasta@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Infectious disease epidemiology; evaluating the impact of vaccines and other interventions; epidemiologic methods; clinical epidemiology; maternal and child health; global health; health disparities; evidence-based public health policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin Capistrant, ScD</td>
<td>624-2891, <a href="mailto:bcapistr@umn.edu">bcapistr@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Epidemiology and Demography of Aging; Disability; Social Epidemiology; Cardiovascular Disease; Depression; Cognitive Function; Global Health; Caregiving; Families; Racial/Ethnic Health Disparities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellen W. Demerath, PhD</td>
<td>624-8231, <a href="mailto:ewd@umn.edu">ewd@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Body composition and obesity assessment; Developmental determinants of cardiovascular disease risk; Lifecourse epidemiology; Genetic epidemiology of obesity, diabetes, and coronary heart disease; Biomarkers of biological senescence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin Capistrant, ScD</td>
<td>624-2891, <a href="mailto:bcapistr@umn.edu">bcapistr@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Epidemiology and Demography of Aging; Disability; Social Epidemiology; Cardiovascular Disease; Depression; Cognitive Function; Global Health; Caregiving; Families; Racial/Ethnic Health Disparities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Finnegan, Jr., PhD</td>
<td>624-5544, <a href="mailto:finne001@umn.edu">finne001@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Media communication and public health; Community campaigns; The &quot;Knowledge Gap&quot; and health outcomes; Digital information technology and its impact on public health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Folsom, MD, MPH</td>
<td>626-8862, <a href="mailto:folso001@umn.edu">folso001@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Cardiovascular disease epidemiology; Heart disease surveillance and risk factors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Harnack, DrPH, RD</td>
<td>626-9398, <a href="mailto:harna001@umn.edu">harna001@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Nutritional epidemiology; Nutritional assessment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendy Hellerstedt, PhD</td>
<td>626-2077, <a href="mailto:helle023@umn.edu">helle023@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Birth outcomes for underserved women; adolescent reproductive health and pregnancy prevention; pregnancy intention; relationship of parity to chronic disease and birth outcomes, women's health, perinatal and reproductive health, socioeconomic status and health disparities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Jacobs, Jr., PhD</td>
<td>624-4196, <a href="mailto:jacob004@umn.edu">jacob004@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Cardiovascular disease epidemiology; Nutritional epidemiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Jeffery, PhD</td>
<td>626-8580, <a href="mailto:jeffe001@umn.edu">jeffe001@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Health behavior change; Dietary intervention; Obesity epidemiology, treatment, and prevention</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhonda Jones-Webb, DrPH</td>
<td>626-8866, <a href="mailto:jones010@umn.edu">jones010@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Alcohol studies; Alcohol policy as a prevention strategy; Minority health issues; Behavioral epidemiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shalini Kulasingam, PhD</td>
<td>624-7554, <a href="mailto:Kulas016@umn.edu">Kulas016@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Human papillomavirus (HPV), cervical cancer, cancer screening, vaccines, public health policy, decision and cost-effectiveness modeling</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamakshi Lakshminarayan, MD</td>
<td>626-0915, <a href="mailto:laksh004@umn.edu">laksh004@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Neuropediatrics; health service research, clinical decision making</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry Lando, PhD</td>
<td>624-1877, <a href="mailto:lando001@umn.edu">lando001@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Global issues in tobacco reduction; Smoking cessation; Treatment of medically compromised smokers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeAnn Lazovich, PhD</td>
<td>626-9099, <a href="mailto:lazov001@umn.edu">lazov001@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Cancer prevention and control; Cancer epidemiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan Lifson, MD, MPH</td>
<td>626-9697, <a href="mailto:lifso001@umn.edu">lifso001@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>HIV/AIDS; International health; Infectious disease epidemiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russell Luepker, MD, MS</td>
<td>624-6362, <a href="mailto:luepk001@umn.edu">luepk001@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Cardiovascular disease epidemiology and prevention; Health behavior; Community trials; Clinical trials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamela L. Lutsey, PhD</td>
<td>624-5812, <a href="mailto:lutsey@umn.edu">lutsey@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Cardiovascular disease epidemiology with a focus on serum vitamin D, sleep disordered breathing, coagulation factors, diet, and venous thromboembolism.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Maclehose, PhD</td>
<td>624-1932, <a href="mailto:macl0029@umn.edu">macl0029@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Epidemiologic methods, Bayesian methods, biostatistics, reproductive epidemiology, environmental epidemiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Mason, PhD, MPH</td>
<td>624-9556, <a href="mailto:smmason@umn.edu">smmason@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Psychosocial stress and stress mechanisms, women’s health, maternal and child health, health disparities, exposure to violence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claudia Munoz-Zanze, MV, MPVM, PhD</td>
<td>626-2849, <a href="mailto:munozzan@umn.edu">munozzan@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Infectious disease</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>E-Mail</td>
<td>Research Expertise</td>
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<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
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<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heather H. Nelson, PhD, MPH</td>
<td>626-9887</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hhnelson@umn.edu">hhnelson@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Cancer susceptibility and etiology using both laboratory and epidemiologic tools; gene-environment interactions; skin cancer, mesothelioma, and other exposure-related malignancies. Member: University of Minnesota Cancer Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruby Nguyen, PhD</td>
<td>626-7559</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nguy0082@umn.edu">nguy0082@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Women’s health, etiology of reduced fertility, infertility and later disease, intersection of genital tract infections on reproduction, pregnancy-related morbidity, and epidemiologic methods in studies of fertility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Michael Oakes, PhD</td>
<td>624-6855</td>
<td><a href="mailto:oakes007@umn.edu">oakes007@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Quantitative methods; Social epidemiology; Research ethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theresa Osypuk, SD, SM</td>
<td>625-8279</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tosypuk@umn.edu">tosypuk@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Social epidemiology, health disparities racial/ethnic, socioeconomic, and nativity/immigrant disparities in health, their geographic patterns, and causes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Pankow, PhD, MPH</td>
<td>624-2883</td>
<td><a href="mailto:panko001@umn.edu">panko001@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Cardiovascular disease epidemiology; Genetic epidemiology; Diabetes epidemiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Pereira, MPH, PhD</td>
<td>624-4173</td>
<td><a href="mailto:map@umn.edu">map@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Nutrition and physical activity in the prevention of obesity; Type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna Prizment, PhD</td>
<td>626-0250</td>
<td><a href="mailto:prizm001@umn.edu">prizm001@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>All aspects of cancer epidemiology: risk factors for cancer (including obesity and diabetes) and survival after cancer diagnosis, with the focus on colorectal, pancreatic, ovarian and bladder cancers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simon Rosser, PhD, MPH</td>
<td>624-0358</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rosser@umn.edu">rosser@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>HIV prevention research; Human sexuality; Sex offending and religious identity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamela Schreiner, PhD</td>
<td>626-9097</td>
<td><a href="mailto:schre012@umn.edu">schre012@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Cardiovascular disease etiology related to visceral fat accumulation, dyslipidemia, and perimenopause. Structural and functional brain MRI; applied statistical methodology; human-animal interaction research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyn Steffen, PhD, MPH, RD</td>
<td>625-9307</td>
<td><a href="mailto:steffen@umn.edu">steffen@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>CVD epidemiology and prevention; Nutritional epidemiology; Stroke surveillance; Diet relations with diabetes; Insulin resistance and obesity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weihong Tang, PhD, MS, MD</td>
<td>626-9140</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tang0097@umn.edu">tang0097@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Cardiovascular disease epidemiology, genetic epidemiology of chronic disease with an emphasis on cardiovascular disease, metabolic syndrome, diabetes, and obesity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traci Toomey, PhD, MPH</td>
<td>626-9070</td>
<td><a href="mailto:toome001@umn.edu">toome001@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Policy research; Community organizing; Prevention of alcohol and tobacco-related problems; Intentional and unintentional injury prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Widome, PhD</td>
<td>624-3518</td>
<td><a href="mailto:widom001@umn.edu">widom001@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Social epidemiology with a focus on the effects of environmental factors such as public policy on individual behavior, especially in youth and young adults</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Adjunct Faculty**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>E-Mail</th>
<th>Research Expertise</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Alexander, PhD, MS</td>
<td>625-7934</td>
<td><a href="mailto:balex@umn.edu">balex@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Occupational and environmental epidemiology; environmental determinants of injury, cancer, respiratory health, reproductive health; global health; application of biological markers in epidemiological research; exposure models for occupational and environmental epidemiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Bender, DVM</td>
<td>625-6203</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bende002@umn.edu">bende002@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Antimicrobial resistance; food safety; zoonoses and emerging diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sally Bushhouse, DVM, MPH, PhD</td>
<td>651-201-5374</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sally.bushhouse@state.mn.us">sally.bushhouse@state.mn.us</a></td>
<td>Cancer epidemiology and surveillance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timothy Church, MS, PhD</td>
<td>626-1494</td>
<td><a href="mailto:churc001@umn.edu">churc001@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Cancer screening, prevention, and causes; Epidemiologic study design; Cardiac disease and medical devices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Danila, PhD</td>
<td>651-201-5116</td>
<td><a href="mailto:richard.danila@state.mn.us">richard.danila@state.mn.us</a></td>
<td>Emerging infectious diseases including foodborne and bacterial diseases; Preparedness for bioterrorism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>Email</td>
<td>Specialties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristen Ehresmann, RN, MPH</td>
<td>651-201-5507</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kristen.ehresmann@state.mn.us">kristen.ehresmann@state.mn.us</a></td>
<td>Immunizations</td>
</tr>
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<td>Kristine Ensrud, MD, MPH</td>
<td>725-2158</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ensru001@umn.edu">ensru001@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Osteoporosis; Women's health (epidemiology)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Fink, MD, MPH</td>
<td>725-2501</td>
<td><a href="mailto:howard.fink@med.va.gov">howard.fink@med.va.gov</a></td>
<td>Chronic disease epidemiology; Health outcomes in the areas of osteoporosis and sexual dysfunction; Preparation, maintenance and dissemination of systematic reviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myron Gross, PhD</td>
<td>624-5417</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gross@umn.edu">gross@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>The role of micronutrients in health and disease; Cancer pathobiology; Biomarkers of dietary factor consumption and cancer progression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craig Hedberg, PhD</td>
<td>626-4757</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hedbe005@umn.edu">hedbe005@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Food safety and infectious diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan Hirsch, MD</td>
<td>863-3900</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hirsc005@umn.edu">hirsc005@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>The pharmacotherapy of peripheral arterial disease and claudication; Thrombolysis for deep venous thrombosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike John, PhD, MPH, DDS</td>
<td>625-6521</td>
<td><a href="mailto:johnx055@umn.edu">johnx055@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Temperomandibular disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamela Jo Johnson, PhD, MPH</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:johns245@umn.edu">johns245@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Epidemiologist and health survey methodologist with broad interests in health services epidemiology and population health focusing on social disparities in health and healthcare.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Kaplan, MD</td>
<td>624-1112</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kapla001@umn.edu">kapla001@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Infectious disease and pediatric cardiology with a special interest in streptococcal infections (epidemiology, microbiology, and immune response)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Lexau, PhD, MPH</td>
<td>651-201-5283</td>
<td><a href="mailto:catherine.lexau@state.mn.us">catherine.lexau@state.mn.us</a></td>
<td>Antibiotic resistance, including methicillin resistant Staph aureus; pneumococcal disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy M. Linabery, MS, PhD</td>
<td>624-0278</td>
<td><a href="mailto:linabery@umn.edu">linabery@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>My current research is concentrated on the etiology of another class of hematomic malignancy, childhood and adolescent lymphomas. I am particularly interested in exploring the role of immune-mediated factors in the development of Hodgkin and non-Hodgkin lymphomas in the young through the application of molecular biology techniques. By characterizing molecular phenotypes and examining their correlation with potential risk and prognostic factors, this work may inform future prevention and treatment initiatives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Lynfield, MD</td>
<td>651-201-5414</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ruth.lyffield@state.mn.us">ruth.lyffield@state.mn.us</a></td>
<td>Infectious disease epidemiology; emerging infectious diseases, antibiotic resistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Maldonado, PhD, MSPH</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Margolis, MD, MPH</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Neglia, MD, MPH</td>
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<td>Pediatric Hematology/Oncology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Partin, PhD, MS</td>
<td>725-2000 x3841</td>
<td><a href="mailto:melissa.partin@med.va.gov">melissa.partin@med.va.gov</a></td>
<td>Cancer prevention and control; Patient education; Shared decision making</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenny Poynter, PhD</td>
<td>625-4232</td>
<td><a href="mailto:poynt006@umn.edu">poynt006@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Evaluating the role of genetic and epigenetic alterations in the etiology of pediatric germ cell tumors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judith Punyko, PhD, MS</td>
<td>651-201-3629</td>
<td><a href="mailto:judy.punyko@state.mn.us">judy.punyko@state.mn.us</a></td>
<td>Epidemiologic methods and bias; disease surveillance systems and quality assurance; descriptive epidemiology in public health; chronic disease epidemiology in adult and pediatric populations; and maternal and child health/epidemiology – in particular health disparities, access to care, (most recently) autism and other developmental disabilities, and PRAMS data analyses (serve as the principal investigator for the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) in Minnesota.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>Email</td>
<td>Research Areas</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nelson Rhodus, DMD, MPH</td>
<td>625-0693</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rhodu001@umn.edu">rhodu001@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Oral cancer: early detection and chemoprevention; Oral manifestations of systemic disease; Chronic degenerative autoimmune diseases; Sjögren's Syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randall Singer, DVM, MPVM, PhD</td>
<td>625-6271</td>
<td><a href="mailto:singe024@umn.edu">singe024@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Infectious disease epidemiology; Ecologic approach to disease systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirk Smith, DVM, MS, PhD</td>
<td>651-201-5240</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Kirk.Smith@state.mn.us">Kirk.Smith@state.mn.us</a></td>
<td>Foodborne diseases (including surveillance and outbreak investigations) antimicrobial resistance in foodborne bacterial pathogens, zoonotic diseases, parasitic diseases, and diseases of free-ranging wildlife populations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jon Snyder, PhD, MPH</td>
<td>612-337-8986</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jsnyder@cdrg.org">jsnyder@cdrg.org</a></td>
<td>Kidney disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logan Spector, PhD</td>
<td>624-3912</td>
<td><a href="mailto:spector@epi.umn.edu">spector@epi.umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Etiology of childhood cancer; Design, conduct; Analysis of epidemiologic studies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brent Taylor, MPH, PhD</td>
<td>612-467-4941</td>
<td><a href="mailto:taylorbc@umn.edu">taylorbc@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Clinical epidemiology, particularly related to chronic geriatric diseases such as osteoporosis and prostate cancer, and quantitative methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bharat Thyagarajan</td>
<td>624-1257</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thya0003@umn.edu">thya0003@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Molecular epidemiology and research in causes of pancreatic and breast cancer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beth Virnig, PhD, MPH</td>
<td>624-4426</td>
<td><a href="mailto:virni001@umn.edu">virni001@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>Administrative data for cancer surveillance and studies of treatment patterns</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.9 Graduation Checklist

General steps for all MPH majors

1. Student submits completed Study Plan to their Program Coordinator at least one semester prior to the anticipated completion of coursework.

2. Student files the Application for Degree form with their Program Coordinator by the end of the first business day of the month in which they intend to graduate.

3. Student completes all coursework and requirements by noon on the last business day of the month in which they wish to have their degree conferred.

4. Student completes and circulates the culminating experience paper and schedules the oral exam at least two weeks before the scheduled oral examination date; see section 1.6.

5. Student notifies Shelley Cooksey, cooks001@umn.edu, of the date of the oral exam at least two weeks prior to the exam so that their study plan can be forwarded to the project advisor; see section 1.6.

6. After the oral exam, project advisor returns the student's study plan to the Program Coordinators; see section 1.6.

7. Student submits one unbound, unstapled copy of the culminating experience paper and abstract to Shelley Cooksey. See section 1.6.

8. Student submits the Follow-up Career Survey. See section 1.7

All Division of Epidemiology and Community Health students who fulfill, or anticipate fulfilling, the above requirements and deadlines for Fall 2015 through Summer Session 2016 are eligible to participate in the School of Public Health commencement ceremony on May 16, 2016. We encourage you to attend!

It is considered highly unethical and inappropriate to use or include in your title or professional signature any degree that you have not completed. This means you cannot use the MPH title prior to completing all your degree requirements and your degree has been conferred. The School does not recognize or confer the title “MPH Candidate”.

# University of Minnesota Calendar 2015-2016

The official University Calendar can be found at [onestop.umn.edu](http://onestop.umn.edu).

## Fall Semester 2015

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<tr>
<th>August</th>
<th>26-28</th>
<th>Equivalency Exams</th>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>SPH New Student Orientation</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>New PhD Student Reception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Labor Day holiday – University closed</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Classes begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Registration for Spring Semester 2016 begins</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26-27</td>
<td>Thanksgiving holiday – University closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Last day of instruction</td>
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<td>17-19, 21-23</td>
<td>Final examinations</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>End of Fall semester</td>
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<td>24-25</td>
<td>University Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Grades due</td>
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## Spring Semester 2016

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<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>TBA</th>
<th>Equivalency Exams</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Martin Luther King holiday – University closed</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Classes begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>14-18</td>
<td>Spring break – no classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Last day of instruction</td>
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<td>9-14</td>
<td>Final examinations</td>
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<td>End of Spring Semester</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Grades due</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>May Intersession begins</td>
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2. DIVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

2.1 Welcome

Epidemiology and Community Health is one of four Divisions that make up the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota. The Division of Epidemiology and Community Health is home to six majors in the School of Public Health:

- Clinical Research MS
- Community Health Promotion MPH
- Epidemiology MPH
- Epidemiology PhD
- Maternal and Child Health MPH
- Public Health Nutrition MPH

The Interim Division Head is Dr. Dianne Neumark-Sztainer

The Program Coordinators are here to assist students in the Division. Students are invited to contact any one of them with questions or concerns.

Shelley Cooksey          Andrea Kish          Kathryn Schwartz-Eckhardt

E-Mail ................ epichstu@umn.edu
Phone .................. 612-626-8802
Fax ....................... 612-624-0315
Campus Mail .......WBOB, #300, Delivery Code 7525
US Mail .............1300 South Second Street, Suite 300, Minneapolis, MN 55454

2.2 The West Bank Office Building (WBOB)

The offices are located in the West Bank Office Building (WBOB) at 1300 South 2nd Street in Minneapolis. Students can find directions to WBOB at http://www1.umn.edu/twincities/maps/WBOB/.

Forms

We have PDF versions of forms at Student Forms. Microsoft Word documents of all the forms are also available upon request. Contact the Program Coordinators at epichstu@umn.edu to obtain the Word documents via e-mail.

Evening and Weekend Access

Division graduate students who do not have a paid appointment in the Division can have access to the student computer lab and student mailboxes after work hours and on weekends. Students obtain access by filling out a form to have their UCard programmed for access to the third and forth floors of WBOB. Students are given the option to sign up for building access at Orientation. After orientation, contact a Program Coordinator for information.

Note: There is approximately a one-week turnaround time to get a student’s UCard programmed, so please plan accordingly.

Computer Lab

The Division computer lab in WBOB includes four PC's available for student use. The computer lab is located in the student lounge in room 466. The general policy for use of these computers is that they are for Division graduate students for work pertaining to their degree program. All four of the computers have SAS and two of them have STATA. Printers are available.

Copier and Fax Access

The Division does not allow copy machines or fax machines to be used for personal use. Personal copies can be made for a cost at various locations throughout campus. Unfortunately, there is not a copier for use in WBOB.
2.3 Division Communication with Students

The Division communicates information to students in the following ways:

- **E-mail:** Students should read their U of M e-mail daily or at a minimum twice a week. Communication between the Program Coordinators and students regarding changes in programmatic requirements or announcements, as well as advisor, faculty, and student-to-student contacts is usually through e-mail. If you do not register for courses for two full academic years you will lose access to your e-mail account and will need to contact the Technology Helpline to restore your access. Alumni maintain lifetime access to their University e-mail account as long as the account is accessed on a regular basis.

- **My U Portal:** This is a form of communication and information exchange within the University. Students are expected to check their portal regularly. Access to the portal is available at [https://www.myu.umn.edu/](https://www.myu.umn.edu/).

- **Weekly SPHere:** A weekly electronic publication for students. This publication contains important deadline reminders as well as updates on students and faculty research and activities.

- **Division Newsletter:** The Division administrative staff produces a more extensive monthly newsletter titled EpiCHNews. EpiCHNews is available on the Epi web site at [http://www.isph.umn.edu/epich/](http://www.isph.umn.edu/epich/).

- **Bulletin Boards:** There is a student bulletin board to the right of the reception desk on the third floor of WBOB.

- **School/University News:** The School of Public Health distributes a monthly electronic newsletter. The University of Minnesota student newspaper is called The Daily and is available campus-wide.

2.4 Seminars

The Division of Epidemiology and Community Health sponsors weekly scientific seminars between September and June to exchange ideas and research findings pertinent to the field. Because the Division has a large faculty, staff and student body, the seminar provides a forum for exchange of information among people who may not otherwise meet or work together. All faculty and students are strongly encouraged to attend regularly.

Division faculty members and other scientific staff are asked to present at least one seminar every two years. Each year, the seminar brings in about 10 scientists from outside the Division.

Weekly notices are posted in the Division's third floor reception area as well as sent out electronically. Most seminars are held 10:00-11:00 a.m., Fridays, in Room 364 of WBOB. Seminars by visiting scientists may be at other times. Students can check the EpiCH Web site for seminar information by going to [http://www.isph.umn.edu/epich/](http://www.isph.umn.edu/epich/).

2.5 Academic Credit for Independent or Directed Coursework

Independent and directed coursework can be taken to fulfill elective credits and can take many forms depending upon the student's interests and needs. All independent/directed coursework needs the support of a faculty member who agrees to serve as an "instructor/advisor" for the independent or directed course. The expectation is that the student has something specific to propose prior to approaching a faculty member.

To fulfill the course requirements, the student and instructor should agree on the type, scope, and length of a final academic "product" whether it is a paper(s), an annotated bibliography, curriculum, training modules, media piece(s), etc. It is expected that the faculty member and student will meet regularly during the term.

It is very unusual for students to take more than four credits total of independent or directed coursework (over and above any credits earned for the field experience or master's project/thesis requirement). Students are expected to fulfill the majority of their elective credits through regularly-scheduled courses.

**Examples of Independent and Directed Coursework**

1. Students interested in a theory, an evaluation method, or a skill not covered in depth in a specific course could arrange for an independent study course with a faculty member knowledgeable in that area and/or willing to work with the student.
2. The student wants to attend a conference, workshop, or mini-course, but there is no academic credit involved. The student must find a faculty member willing to work with the student to develop academic work over and above the actual event to fulfill some elective credits. This must be arranged ahead of time, not after the event has occurred.

Additional comments
Arranging an independent/directed course depends upon the student putting together an academically rigorous proposal and finding a faculty member to serve as an instructor. The faculty instructor does not have to be the student's academic advisor or master's project advisor. The instructor must be a member of the major associated with the course number; see below.

The student should also receive prior approval from their academic advisor to count the independent/directed work as an elective course.

Choosing Course Numbers
Independent study, directed study, and readings courses are available within the Division of Epidemiology and Community Health. The student and instructor should agree on the course number/title that most closely matches the work being proposed. Course options are:

- **PubH 7091** Independent Study: Community Health Promotion (only CHE faculty can serve as instructor)
- **PubH 7391** Independent Study: Epidemiology (only Epi MPH or Epi graduate faculty can serve as instructor)
- **PubH 7392** Readings in Epidemiology (only Epi MPH or Epi graduate faculty can serve as instructor)
- **PubH 7691** Independent Study: Maternal and Child Health (only MCH faculty can serve as instructor)
- **PubH 7991** Independent Study: Public Health Nutrition (only PubH Nutr faculty can serve as instructor)
- **PubH 8392** Readings in Clinical Research (only Clinical Res. graduate faculty can serve as instructor)
- **PubH 8393** Directed Study: Clinical Research (only Clinical Res. graduate faculty can serve as instructor)

**Note:** Other majors in the School of Public Health may have independent/directed coursework opportunities in their areas. Check with the Divisions of Environmental Health Sciences, Health Policy Management, and/or Biostatistics. You could also do an independent/directed course with another graduate-level program. Remember that your academic advisor has to approve it as an elective.

Procedures
1. Student meets with the faculty member to discuss the requirements for the independent/directed course.
2. Student fills out an **Independent/Directed Study Contract** form outlining the requirements for the course and has the form signed by their academic advisor and Independent/Directed Study instructor. This information is vital to receive proper credit for this course (i.e., a grade). The instructor needs to agree to work with the student and both need to agree on the requirements. The form can be downloaded from the web at http://www.isph.umn.edu/epich/current-student-forms-and-policies/.
3. Student gives the completed/signed **Independent/Directed Study Contract** to a Program Coordinator. She then enters in electronic permission enabling students to register for the course.
4. At the end of the semester, the instructor assigns a final grade. The grade will then be entered on the official transcript. It is the student’s responsibility to make sure that all requirements are completed so a grade can be submitted.

### 2.6 Division Resources and Policies

**Incomplete Grades**
For MPH students, all required courses (with the exception of field experience, internship, or master's project/thesis credits) must be completed during the term of registration. Students must complete all course requirements by the end of the registered term so that faculty can submit a grade by the appropriate due date. A grade of incomplete "I" shall be assigned at the discretion of the instructor when, due to extraordinary circumstances, the student was prevented from completing the work of the course on time. The assignment of an
incomplete grade requires a written contract between the instructor and student specifying a deadline by which
the student will complete the course requirements. The student must contact a Program Coordinator to receive
the required contract. In no event may the written agreement allow a period of longer than one year to complete
the course requirements. If the instructor submits an "I" without a written contract a hold will be placed on the
student record, barring the student from registering. If the requirements of the contract are not met by the contract
deadline, a hold will be placed on the student's record unless a new deadline has been renegotiated. Field
experience, internship, and master's projects that are not completed by the end of the term of graduation will
receive a grade of "K" indicating "work in progress."

PhD Students only: The symbol "I" may be assigned by an instructor to indicate "incomplete," in accordance with
the provisions announced in class at the beginning of the semester, when in the instructor's opinion there is a
reasonable expectation that the student can successfully complete the work of the course. An "I" remains on the
transcript until the instructor replaces it with a final A-F or S-N grade. Course instructors are encouraged to
establish a time limit for the removal of incomplete grades.

Six Credit Minimum Exemption
The University of Minnesota has a policy that students must register for a minimum of six credits in order to hold a
graduate assistant position. The policy states that "exemption from [this requirement] is determined on a semester
by semester basis" and that "eligibility criteria are to be determined by each graduate program...these criteria will
be well publicized and administered equitably among all Graduate Assistants in the program."

The Division Training Committee (DTC) approved the following policy: "Students will almost always be granted a
one semester exemption so they can finish their work toward the end of their degree program, but must petition
the DTC for more than one semester's exemption and this would be given under only extraordinary, extenuating
circumstances. Extending coursework in order to remain a graduate assistant will not be sufficient reason."
Students who wish to request an exemption should contact Andrea Kish. It may take several weeks for this
request to be reviewed so please submit your request at least one month prior to the start of the term.

Graduate Assistants who wish to be exempt from FICA withholding must register for at least three credits per term
(one credit for PhD candidates working on a dissertation).

Sitting in on a Class
Students are not permitted to attend a class for which they are not registered. This means that if you are unable
to register for a class before it begins for any reason you may not attend the class.

Support for Student Travel
The current Division policy is as follows:
1. The Division will provide up to $800 per student in a 12 month period [a maximum of $3,200 available for all
   students during the fiscal year] for travel to a scientific meeting under the following conditions:
   ▪ The student is currently enrolled in the Epi PhD/MS/MPH, CHP MPH, MCH MPH, PubH Nutr MPH, or
     Clinical Research MS program and must be the presenter of the paper or poster. The student has been
     enrolled in their program as least one term at the time of the conference; the work was done during the
time the student was in their program.
   ▪ The meeting is at a national or international level and has scientific relevance to the student's field of
     study.
   ▪ There are no other sources of support specifically allocated for such travel. For example, whenever a
     training grant provides funds for travel for its fellows, those fellows will not be eligible for travel support
     under this policy. However, students whose work was supported by a research grant with no funds
     specifically for student travel will be eligible for travel support under this policy. Principal Investigators are
     encouraged to provide support for student travel from their grants since their grants benefit as well as the
     students.
2. All requests for travel support must be in writing. The request should be addressed to the Chair of the Division
   Training Committee and given to a Program Coordinator, who will process the request. The request should
   include:
   ▪ The dates, location and purpose of the meeting and describe the student's role.
A copy of the abstract and letter of acceptance must be attached to the request. In addition, a letter from a member of the Division’s faculty indicating that he/she is familiar with the student’s work, judges it to be of good quality, and supports the student’s request.

The request must be made in advance of the scientific meeting. Since the DTC only meets once per month, it is suggested that complete requests be submitted at least six weeks prior to the scientific meeting.

A summary of the travel expenses (cost of air fare, hotel price, registration fees, etc.).

Students need to include information about any other sources of funding they have applied for, even if the funds have not been awarded yet, including SPH Student Senate funds.

3. Allocations under this policy will of course be subject to the availability of funds for this purpose.

Payment for TA English Program
If a nonnative English-speaking Division student is required by their degree program to fulfill a teaching assistantship position (i.e. Epidemiology PhD students), the Division will pay one-half the cost of instruction the first time the student takes the course (the University’s Office of Academic Affairs pays the other half). Students not passing the exam must pay the costs of any additional instruction.

SAS Access
Students can purchase the SAS program for a fee if it is necessary for them to complete research. Additional information on ordering the software is available at http://it.umn.edu/sas-sas-inc. Please note that all 4 of the computers in the student computer lab (466 WBOB) have SAS.

One computer has the SAS Learning Edition 4.1 (an easy to use personal learning tool). The book, The Little SAS Book for Enterprise Guide 4.1 is a guide to a point-and-click interface that is part of the Learning Edition. Using Enterprise, you generate SAS code without writing it. It is available for checkout from Laurie Zurbey, in cube 398C.

J.B. Hawley Student Research Award
The Division has established the J.B. Hawley Student Research Award, a small grant mechanism to support research projects. This is a wonderful opportunity for students and post-doctoral fellows to obtain funds for their research, gain experience in grant proposal writing, and receive faculty feedback on their ideas. During the academic year, we will have two separate award categories. The standard award is open to all students and post-doctoral fellows; the doctoral award is only open to doctoral students in Epidemiology. We anticipate two rounds of requests for proposals (one per semester). The chair of the Research Awards Committee will distribute detailed e-mail solicitations for applications.

STANDARD AWARD

Who May Apply?
Students currently enrolled in degree programs in Epidemiology, Community Health Promotion, Maternal and Child Health, Clinical Research, or Public Health Nutrition or post-doctoral fellows in Epidemiology. Proposed projects do not have to be thesis or masters projects, and may be for any research that involves the applicant (e.g., evaluation of a program for a field experience). Those who have received previous funding from a Hawley Award will not be eligible for further support until they have submitted the required one-page report for their prior award (see below).

How Much?
$3,500 maximum, including fringe benefits when applicable. PhD students may request a maximum of $7,500 to support thesis research.

How Can It Be Used?
The award may be used to support research activities including supplies and equipment. It cannot be used for stipends or salary support for the applicant.
Please note that before making any expenditure with the award (i.e., ordering, purchasing, hiring, or contracting for services) the applicant must meet with accounting personnel in the Division to ensure that procedures are followed.

How Long?
Normally projects are funded for one year.

**DOCTORAL AWARD**

Who May Apply?
Students currently enrolled in the doctoral program in Epidemiology. Proposed projects do not have to be thesis projects, and may be for any research that involves the applicant. Those who have received previous funding from a Hawley award will not be eligible for further support until they have submitted the required one-page report for their prior award (see below).

How Much?
$7,500 maximum, including fringe benefits when applicable.

How Can It Be Used?
The award may be used to support research activities including supplies and equipment. It cannot be used for stipends or salary support for the applicant.

Please note that before making any expenditure with the award (i.e., ordering, purchasing, hiring, or contracting for services) the applicant must meet with accounting personnel in the Division to ensure that procedures are followed.

How Long?
Normally projects are funded for one year.

What is the Format for the Proposal?

1. **Cover Letter**
   Please indicate in the letter whether the project will help support a master's project, master's thesis, PhD thesis, or field experience.

2. **Face Page (1 page)**
   a. Title
   b. Investigator information, including name, address, telephone, and e-mail address
   c. Your degree program
   d. Collaborating investigators (faculty, staff, students), if any

3. **Research Proposal (4 pages maximum; font: 12-point Times or larger)**
   a. Background and Significance (1 page maximum):
      Describe the background and justification for the study and state the research questions/hypotheses.
   b. Research Methods (2 pages maximum):
      Describe the study design and detailed methods. Be sure to include information on each of the following issues (and others, as appropriate):
      - Study population
      - Sample selection and recruitment
      - Measurements
      - Data analysis plan (required for both quantitative and qualitative research)
      - Timeline
      - Sample size (justified by formal statistical calculations or other means)
   c. Human Subjects (no page limit):
All proposals must address protection of human subjects and have the project approved by the University of Minnesota's Institutional Review Board (IRB) prior to receiving funds. However, a project will be reviewed by the Research Awards Committee prior to receiving final IRB approval.

d. References (no page limit):
Citations for articles referenced in the background and significance and research methods portions of the proposal should be listed after the Human Subjects section of the proposal.

4. Detailed Budget (2 page maximum):
The proposed budget should include precise amounts requested in various categories (e.g., postage, supplies, printing, personnel, etc.). Provide a brief justification for the amount requested in each category and state why these funds are needed to conduct the proposed research. The budget should clearly itemize and justify expenditures. If the request is part of a larger project, the proportion to be supported by this award and the rationale and need for this funding mechanism, should be specified clearly.

The following items are NOT allowed: stipends or salary for the applicant, computer purchase, publication costs (e.g., page charges, reprints), and presentation costs (e.g., travel to a conference, conference fee).

5. Letter of Endorsement from Faculty Advisor (1 page):
A primary or adjunct faculty member in the Division of Epidemiology and Community Health must provide a brief letter to accompany the proposal, specifically endorsing the applicant’s request. First, applicants must discuss their proposals with the faculty advisor, who must review the proposal before it is submitted. Then, the faculty advisor’s letter of funding endorsement must state that the faculty member has read and provided input on the proposal. The faculty member must also indicate his opinion of the quality and importance of the research.

6. Appendices, if needed (no page limit)

Submission
Submit your proposal to the Chair of the Research Awards Committee, Division of Epidemiology and Community Health, Suite 300, 1300 South Second Street, Minneapolis, MN 55454-1015

Review Process
All applications will be reviewed by the Division of Epidemiology and Community Health Research Awards Committee, which includes faculty members representing the major fields. Each proposal will be evaluated according to its scientific and technical merits and public health implications. The most important criteria are (1) importance of the area, (2) quality of proposed research, (3) investigator’s experience and resources to accomplish the project, and (4) relevance to public health.

If you have questions regarding preparation of a proposal, please contact the Chair of the Research Awards Committee. Information regarding the status of human subjects (IRB) applications must be provided to the Committee. Award funds will not be released until Division of Epidemiology and Community Health accounts administration has received notification of Human Subjects Committee approval.

Final Report
A one-page report to the Research Awards Committee on progress and outcome is due on the one-year anniversary date of the award.

Other Division Awards and Scholarships
The Division of Epidemiology and Community Health also has several other awards that are granted most years:

- The Colleen Berney Scholarship is given to an incoming first-year student in the Maternal and Child Health major who has demonstrated a strong academic background and an interest in child welfare. The scholarship consists of a $2,000 award.
- The Henry Blackburn Award recognizes the writing and presentation of scholarly work among students in the Master’s programs within the Division. The recipient of the award will receive a certificate and a check for $1,000.
The **Lester Breslow Award** is awarded to a public health student(s) pursuing a graduate degree in the Division of Epidemiology and Community Health who has demonstrated academic excellence in the area of health promotion and disease prevention. The recipient of the award will receive a plaque and a check for $1,000.

The **Marguerite J. Queneau Research Assistantship** (25% appointment for one year) is awarded to incoming public health nutrition students who portray the characteristics of Marguerite Queneau, a nationally and internationally accomplished nutritionist.

The **Ruth Stief Award** recognizes a current Public Health Nutrition student for her/his leadership qualities, academic excellence and potential for an exemplary career in public health. The recipient of the award will receive a certificate and a $500 check.

The **Ruth Stief Research Assistantship** (25% appointment for one year) is awarded to incoming public health nutrition students.

The **Henry Taylor Scholarship** is awarded to help support the expenses of students who are attending the American Heart Association Council on Epidemiology. Students presenting papers at this conference are encouraged to apply for this financial support. One student will be selected to receive a $400 stipend to attend this meeting.

**Division of Epidemiology and Community Health Student Support Policies**

**Doctoral Student Support Policy, for those matriculating Fall 2003 or later**

1. Students can be accepted to the program with varying levels of support including no guaranteed support, guaranteed support for the initial year, or support for multiple years.

2. Support levels will be set at the level of an NIH Pre-Doctoral Fellow or, if not an NIH Fellow, not more than 50% RA/TA position. This means that those who accept a pre-doctoral fellowship may not also accept an RA or TA position in the Division. Scholarship or block grant awards are not included.

3. Students on fellowships perform their TA requirement as part of the fellowship, with terms to be negotiated with the training director.

4. Requests may be made to the DGS for levels of RA/TA support up to 75% for students who have passed their preliminary examinations and are working on their thesis. These requests are required to show that such additional work does not delay the thesis defense and graduation.

5. Physicians who are licensed to practice medicine in the United States will have an RA/TA stipend set at the doctoral level. Those who are not licensed to practice will be paid at the Masters level RA/TA position stipend.

6. There is no limit on the number of years of support; however, adequate progress toward degree completion is required for continued support.

7. Students may increase support to 75% during the Summer term.

8. This policy only applies to positions held within the Division. For example, a student with a 50% research assistantship in the Division would also be able to hold a 25% research assistantship in the Medical School.

Approved 7/1/03, revised 06/08

**Doctoral students matriculating prior to Fall 2003 should see a Program Coordinator to discuss their student support policy.**

**Master's Student Support Policy**

No one may hold a graduate assistantship of more than 50% (75% in the Summer) in the Division of Epidemiology and Community Health. Adopted 12/17/03, and applies to students matriculating Fall 2004 and after. This policy only applies to positions held within the Division. For example, a student with a 50% research assistantship in the Division would also be able to hold a 25% position in Medical School because that is not in the Division.

**Policy for Graduate Assistant Pay Scale for Post-Baccalaureate Professional Students**

Post-baccalaureate professional students in doctoral-level programs (e.g. dental, medical, law, veterinary students) who have completed two years of their professional studies will be paid at the rate of those who have completed a master’s degree. Those who have not completed the first two years will be paid at the rate of those whose highest degree is a bachelor’s degree. This policy is effective beginning Spring semester, 2004. Adopted 12/17/03.
Requesting Letters of Support – 10 Tips for Students

The following tips may help you get a positive—and productive—response when you request a letter of support from a faculty member for a fellowship, an internship, a scholarship, graduate school admission, or a professional position.

1. FIRST CONTACT: E-MAIL IS OK. Make the e-mail brief. Mention the opportunity for which you are applying, the deadline, what you are requesting, and what you are willing to send for further information (e.g., CV, bullet points, a draft letter). If there is a chance the faculty member will not remember you, mention where you have met.

2. THINK AHEAD. Many faculty members in EpiCH have 10 or more advisees, so they may not be able to respond immediately to student requests. If they receive a request with short notice, they may not be able to respond positively, so contact them well ahead of deadlines so they can schedule your request.

   **Deadlines:** Clearly convey the deadline for the materials you are requesting. It is also fine to re-contact the faculty member a week before the deadline as a gentle reminder. Such contact should include, in addition to the reminder about the deadline, your reiteration that you are happy to provide additional information about yourself, or the opportunity and details about where and how to submit the reference (in case the original contact information was misplaced).

3. REQUEST LETTERS FROM PEOPLE WHO KNOW YOU. A letter from someone who does not know you well may not be a strong letter, as the lack of familiarity is usually reflected in the text. Many requests for references also require individuals to specifically indicate how well they know an applicant. Reviewers may not give much weight to a referral from someone who does not know the applicant well—and they may wonder why the applicant did not select someone who knows her/him well. For example, they could think that either the applicant does not know anyone well OR everyone who knows the applicant well would write a lousy letter—both imagined scenarios are bad.

   **Try to gauge if the person can write a “good” letter for you.** A strategy is to ask this question directly: don’t ask “will you write a letter for me?” Instead, ask “will you write a supportive letter for me?” A hard life lesson is that some faculty members may be unable to strongly recommend you, and it is best to find that out—and respect it—before you agree that the person will write a letter. Most faculty members will reveal any hesitation they have and it is important to listen to it and accept it. A tentative, or a poor, letter can have a strong negative impact on an application.

4. IF YOU CONTACT SOMEONE WHO DOES NOT KNOW YOU WELL, BE PROFESSIONAL. An exception to item #3 is when you have to ask Chairs or Division Heads for letters of support because their support is required by the applicant organization. If you don’t know such people well, and must request a favor, use his/her last, rather than first, name (i.e., Dr. Smith instead of Judy) when you make your first approach. In EpiCH, you will likely be told to use his/her first name, but your professionalism will be noted and appreciated.

5. DON’T ASSUME THAT FACULTY MEMBERS KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE APPLICANT ORGANIZATION. There are hundreds of fellowships, scholarships, etc. for which faculty members are asked to write letters. Faculty members have little or no connection with many organizations beyond writing letters for students. They often receive what, to them, are garbled messages, with acronyms instead of full organization names, and find them incomprehensible. Don’t rely on acronyms or assume any knowledge about the opportunity for which you are applying, even if it is at the SPH or UMN.

   **To inform faculty members,** it is fine to e-mail them URLs and PDFs about the applicant organization, but also include a 1-page synthesis of relevant information. You are asking the faculty member to volunteer time: don’t ask him/her to also go to a website and/or open multi-page PDFs. Those materials can be optional—your one-pager should be all your letter writer needs, along with your CV and some guidance about the text of the letter.

6. DON’T ASSUME FACULTY MEMBERS KNOW YOU WELL ENOUGH TO WRITE A GREAT LETTER OR THAT THEY HAVE TIME FOR A 1-HOUR INTERVIEW TO PREPARE FOR THE LETTER. A great strategy is to offer to provide bullet points about your qualities, eligibility, and interest in the opportunity that can be used by the faculty member to frame the letter. You may even offer to write a draft letter. You are in the **best** position to draft a successful letter and it is not uncommon to provide such help for letters of reference.

7. MAKE SURE FACULTY MEMBERS HAVE CONTACT INFORMATION. Clearly indicate where the letter or rating sheet should be sent! One of the most common—and frustrating—mistakes made by students is to omit this information, resulting in unnecessary contacts, delays, and poor impressions.
8. MAKE SURE YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY AND THAT YOU INTEND TO APPLY BEFORE YOU ASK FOR A LETTER. Unfortunately, it is common for faculty members to write letters, only to be told by students that they found out they were ineligible or decided not to apply after all.

9. MAKE SURE THE MATERIALS YOU PROVIDE DO NOT HAVE TYPOS AND GRAMMATICAL ERRORS. The written word is influential: we often base our impressions about someone’s intellectual qualities on the quality of his/her writing. While this may not be fair, it is what academics (and others) do. You are asking for a laudatory letter of reference, so make sure that your CV, 1-pager, bullet points/draft letter, are clearly and properly written.

10. THANK THE FACULTY MEMBER FOR WRITING THE LETTER AND FOLLOW-UP. It is surprisingly common for students to not thank a faculty member after an application is complete and even less common for students to let faculty members know if they received the scholarships, fellowships, internships, jobs, etc. for which they applied. Faculty members commit time to letters of reference because they want students to succeed—they are rewarded with thanks and updates.

Division of Epidemiology and Community Health Websites
EpiCH website ........................................................................................................http://www.sph.umn.edu/academics/divisions/epich/
EpiCH Student Guidebook and Forms ..........www.isph.umn.edu/epich/current-student-forms-and-policies/
EpiCH course grid ......................................................... www.isph.umn.edu/epich/current-student-forms-and-policies/
Course syllabi ........................................................................................................http://www.sph.umn.edu/academics/syllabi/
Job Tip Sheet ................................................................. www.isph.umn.edu/epich/current-student-forms-and-policies/
EpiCH faculty information.................................................................http://sph.umn.edu/faculty1/ech/
EpiCH seminar ....................................................................................................http://www.isph.umn.edu/epich/
EpiCH telephone directory ..................................................http://docs.sph.umn.edu/epich/EpiCHDirectory.pdf

2.7 Division Advising Information

Team approach to Advising at the Master’s level
At the master’s level students are advised by a team which includes their academic advisor, their Program Coordinator, and the Program Director for their major. The role of the academic advisor is to advise students on things like their career goals and objectives, provide advice for securing a field experience, and help students with their initial culminating experience planning. The role of the Program Coordinator is to assist students with course planning, petitions, and to provide general procedural advice. The Program Director will meet with students as a group to discuss issues related to the entire major and is also available to assist students with any issues they might be having with the program.

Guidelines for Faculty/Student Interactions
Faculty members often develop close working relationships with students, especially advisees. Often a relationship is formed that provides benefits to both the faculty member and the student. Faculty should be cognizant of the power differential in these types of relationships and set appropriate boundaries. Although faculty members may not intend that a request of a student be an obligation, they should be aware that such requests might place a student in a difficult position. Some students are intimidated by faculty members and may not feel free to decline such requests. Since faculty/student interactions often are situations that are ambiguous, included below are examples to help you think through a variety of situations that you may encounter:

- **A faculty member asking you to drive them somewhere, including the airport, home, or main campus.** Such a request does not fall under a student’s duties. A situation when this may be acceptable is when the student has the same destination.

- **A faculty member asking you to work extra hours or late hours.** Students should be expected to work the hours for which they are paid. Students may volunteer to work extra hours to gain more experience (e.g.
grant writing), gain authorship on a paper or help meet a deadline – but should not be expected to work these extra hours.

- **Your advisor asking you to housesit, take care of your children or pets, or help you move.** While some students may not mind house sitting, taking care of children or pets, or helping someone move, others may only agree to do these jobs because they feel obligated or worry that saying no will somehow affect their relationships with faculty members. To avoid problematic situations, a faculty member may post a flyer requesting a sitter or mover for pay without the faculty member's name attached to the request – ensuring that respondents really want the job.

Faculty members who are uncertain about the appropriateness of requests they have for students should consult with the DTC Chair. Students should talk with their Program Director, DGS, or Program Coordinator if they have concerns about the appropriateness of requests from faculty members.

The University of Minnesota’s Board of Regents policy on Nepotism and Consensual Relationships (including student and faculty relationships) can be found at [http://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/policies/Nepotism%26Personal.pdf](http://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/policies/Nepotism%26Personal.pdf).

### Confidentiality

Student records—including materials related to advisees—are protected under Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99; 1974) and the Student Data Privacy Act. Student information should be secure – not left in an unlocked location. If advisors have a concern about a particular student, only student support staff, appropriate Program Director/DGS, or DTC Chair should discuss the situation and have access to records. Any confidential information shared by a student with a faculty member must remain confidential – whether the student approaches you as an advisor, instructor, Program Director, DGS, or DTC Chair. Talking about individual students in hallways and other public areas should be avoided.

If a faculty member feels he/she must consult with another faculty member about a student, consider talking about the issue without providing the name of the individual student. If the student's name must be shared, tell the student ahead of time that you intend to talk with the Program Director (or other appropriate person) about the issue in question. Some issues, such as sexual harassment, are governed by law and require faculty members to report the problem to the Division Head. In these situations, explain to the student that you are required to report the incident/problem.

### Guidelines for Changing Advisors

**Master's Students**

At the master's level, students may change academic advisors if they have serious personality or other conflicts with their assigned advisor. In that case, they should discuss their reasons and their preferences for a different advisor with the program chair or program coordinator. The change will be finalized at the discretion of the program chair.

**PhD Students**

Many PhD students shift their courses of study and focus over their graduate careers, but doing so does not necessarily require a change in advisors. Faculty advisors can facilitate students’ academic development, by working directly with them or by encouraging them to gain experience with other faculty members (e.g., through research or teaching assistantships or grant-writing opportunities). Sometimes students work more closely with one (or more) members of their committees than with their advisors. Faculty advisors can also suggest changes in committee membership to accommodate a change in dissertation focus.

Once PhD students have begun work on their dissertation, changing advisors should be rare, and limited to circumstances of personality conflicts, major ethical problems, or substantial shifts in areas of interest. Students wishing to change graduate advisors should consult with the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS). Likewise, faculty who are considering a change in their role as an advisor should consult with the DGS. Changes in graduate advisors should be approved by the DGS and forwarded to the Division’s Program Coordinators who will file the change with the Graduate School.

### Student Guide to Mission, Definitions and Expectations of Advising

**Mission Statement**

The School of Public Health strives to provide advising that promotes collaboration among students, staff and faculty to enhance students’ academic and professional development in the field of public health. The School's
goal is educational and experiential excellence that prepares students for successful careers improving the health of populations.

**Defining Advising**
The School of Public Health is committed to creating and sustaining high quality advising in the following four areas:

1. **Administrative Advising**: advising on course planning and scheduling, policies, procedures and benchmarks of the degree program/major, SPH, and the University.

2. **Academic Advising**: general guidance on topics related to program/major including, but not limited to program focus (may include identifying appropriate course work options), project selection and career planning.

3. **Field Experience/Internship/Practicum Advising**: specific and targeted advising for field experience/internship/practicum development, placement and completion.

4. **Masters Project/Thesis/Plan A&B/Dissertation Advising**: specific and targeted direction on a master's project or a PhD dissertation including, but not limited to development, completion and in some cases publication.

**Advising Expectations for Students**
SPH students are expected to...

- Regularly read and respond to University email (ideally once per day); email is the official mode of communication at the University of Minnesota
- Review program objectives and educational documents at least once per semester, (i.e. Student Guidebook, etc.), or when directed by Program Coordinator or Program Director/DGS; students are responsible for knowing the requirements of the degree program
- Actively contribute to a welcoming and supportive SPH climate
- Initiate meetings with advisor(s) at least once per semester; regularly communicate with faculty advisor(s) and/or Program Coordinator about program progress
- Respond to inquiries from faculty or staff in a timely manner (ideally within 5 – 7 business days)
- Behave in a professional and courteous manner; fulfill educational and advising commitments, such as appointments, project deadlines, etc.

**Faculty Guide to Mission, Definitions and Expectations of Advising**

**Mission Statement**
The School of Public Health strives to provide advising that promotes collaboration among students, staff and faculty to enhance students’ academic and professional development in the field of public health. The School’s goal is educational and experiential excellence that prepares students for successful careers improving the health of populations.

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The School of Public Health is committed to creating and sustaining high quality advising in the following four areas:

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3. **Field Experience/Internship/Practicum Advising**: specific and targeted advising for field experience/internship/practicum development, placement and completion.
4. **Masters Project/Thesis/Plan A&B/Dissertation Advising**: specific and targeted direction on a master’s project or a PhD dissertation including, but not limited to development, completion and in some cases publication.

**Advising Expectations for Faculty**

Faculty advisors are expected to…

- Refer advisee to Program Coordinator for course planning/scheduling, policy and procedural information
- Review program objectives and educational documents at least on an annual basis, (i.e. Student Guidebook, etc.), or when directed by Program Coordinator or Program Director/DGS
- Actively contribute to a welcoming and supportive SPH climate
- Initiate meetings with advisee at least once per semester; regularly communicate with students on program progress
- Respond to student inquiries in a timely manner (ideally within 5 – 7 business days)
- Provide reasonable office hours and/or appointments and be generally available to student inquiries; communicate with students about extended absences or travel
- Serve as a model and example of respectful behavior
- Provide referrals to school and university resources when appropriate (e.g. Student Mental Health Services)
3. **THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

3.1 **About the School**

The mission of the School of Public Health is to preserve and enhance the health of the public through education, research, and service programs designed to discover and transmit new knowledge aimed at the prevention of disease and disability, the improvement of health, and the planning, analysis, management, evaluation, and improvement of systems for the delivery of health services.

Our school was founded in 1944, although public health courses have been offered at the University of Minnesota since its inception. We consistently rank among the top schools of public health in the country.

Through our education, research, and community outreach, we focus on improving the health of populations. We emphasize prevention of illness and injury, and we look at health through a multi-faceted prism that includes physiology, the environment, communities, economics, and public policy.

This interdisciplinary approach allows us to collaborate with many other schools throughout the University, including the College of Veterinary Medicine, the School of Dentistry, the College of Pharmacy, the Medical School, the H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs, the Carlson School of Management, College of Biological Sciences, School of Social Work, School of Nursing and Law School. By combining our expertise, we can explore innovative, far-reaching ways of maintaining and improving the health of the people in Minnesota and throughout the country and world.

**Notable accomplishments:**
- Invented K Rations.
- Improved the recovery of World War II survivors through the Minnesota Starvation Study (1944).
- Established the connection between diet and heart disease in the Seven Countries Study (1967).
- Established the first U.S. Ph.D. program in epidemiology (1958).
- Conducts one of the largest HIV/AIDS studies in the world, involving 120 countries.
- Trains the majority of the public health workforce in the Upper Midwest.
- Was the first school of public health in the country to require a course in ethics.

**Academic Health Center (AHC)**

The School of Public Health is one of the six schools and colleges that make up the Academic Health Center at the University of Minnesota. The others include the disciplines of medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy, and veterinary medicine. Strong interdisciplinary centers and programs in bioethics, cancer, genomics, infectious disease, drug design, food safety, and spirituality and healing augment the broad range of professional health education and research efforts.

3.2 **School of Public Health Office of Admissions and Student Resources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Office Hours (Fall and Spring Terms)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Fax</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM</td>
<td>612.624.4498</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Office Hours (Summer)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Email</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sph-oasr@umn.edu">sph-oasr@umn.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed every day from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Location</strong></th>
<th><strong>Mailing Address</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mayo Memorial Building, Room A395</td>
<td>Office of Admissions and Student Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>School of Public Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>612.626.3500 or 800.774.8636</td>
<td>MMC 819, Rm A395 Mayo Bldg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>420 Delaware Street SE</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Minneapolis, MN 55455-0381</td>
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Office of Admissions and Student Resources (OASR)

The Office of Admissions and Student Resources is a school-wide office that assists students with all phases of their academic journey. The OASR staff works closely with the program coordinators to create a set of school-wide and program-specific services that we hope meets your needs for high-tech and high-touch delivery. You will be interacting with us directly or indirectly throughout your education here.

We coordinate many functions including:

- Applications
- Orientation
- CoursEval
- Class Scheduling
- Student Tracking
- SPH Scholarships
- Registration
- Graduation Clearance
- Commencement

Career Services

The Career and Professional Development Center offers a variety of resources to assist you in your efforts to locate and apply for professional positions – from field experiences (internships) and residencies to fellowships to full-time career positions. Our Center believes that every individual has unique potential and should have the opportunity to pursue a meaningful and fulfilling career. Our goal is to facilitate the career development process to ensure confidence in conducting a competitive job search and helping to maximize each individual’s career potential. We do so, by directly working with employers. As a student and later as an alumnus/alumna, you are able to take advantage of the following resources to help you achieve your career goals.

Career Services Website

The Career Services Website at www.sph.umn.edu/careers has many links to help you start your new career, including:

- **Jobs / Internships**: Our online job posting system listing internships, graduate assistantships and fellowships, and full-time career opportunities (ahc.umn.edu/sphjobs/).
- **Field Experiences**: This module, which is password-protected, is where students can start a new field experience learning agreement, complete a field experience scholarship application, search the database of past field experience sites, and access additional resources (sph.umn.edu/students/current/fe/).
- **Career Resources**: General career-related links and tip sheets on a variety of job-search related topics (sph.umn.edu/careers/tipsheets/).
- **Blog**: Our Career Services Blog hosts several career-related posts for students and alumni (sph.umn.edu/category/careers/).
- **Alumni Networking Database**: A searchable Alumni Networking Directory, to help you connect with SPH alumnae all over the world (sphalumni.umn.edu).

Programming

Through collaboration with student organizations and numerous programs we provide professional and career development programming tailored to your needs. Examples may include: Job Search Strategies, Personal Branding; Interview Preparation; Leadership & Team Development; Communication Skills, and much more. In addition, we connect you to employers through programming and events. We look forward to seeing you at future events!

Appointments

You may schedule individual appointments with Vic Massaglia and Darren Kaltved to discuss any career or professional development topics, from creating a top-notch resume to ideas for field experiences, interviewing, and presentation skills. To schedule an appointment, please email sphcareers@umn.edu.
Recruitment Services

Recruitment Services seeks to make the School of Public Health a welcoming place to all prospective students and is the center for recruitment activities at the School of Public Health. Recruitment staff - which includes Maggie Aftahi, Director of Admissions and Student Leadership Development and Sherlonda Clarke, Coordinator for Diversity Initiatives and Programs - meets with prospective students to learn about their interests and goals, and discusses the School of Public Health's learning opportunities. Recruitment Services also coordinates preview days, information sessions, diversity events and other special events, as well as attends career fairs and recruitment venues to meet with prospective students.

OASR Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career Services</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vic Massaglia</td>
<td>Director of Career Services</td>
<td>612-626-5443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darren Kaltved</td>
<td>Associate Director, Career Services</td>
<td>612-626-4448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megan Lafontaine</td>
<td>Field Experience/Employer Relations</td>
<td>612-301-9502</td>
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<tr>
<th>Recruitment Services</th>
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<tr>
<td>Maggie Aftahi</td>
<td>Director of Admissions and Student Leadership Dev.</td>
<td>612-624-0601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherlonda Clarke</td>
<td>Director of Diversity and Inclusion</td>
<td>612-624-9970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guy Piotrowski</td>
<td>Coordinator for Applications and Admissions</td>
<td>612-624-1991</td>
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<tr>
<th>Student Services</th>
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<tr>
<td>Carol Francis</td>
<td>Registrar and Director of Academic and Student Affairs</td>
<td>612-624-6952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuck Oberg</td>
<td>Interim Associate Dean of Admissions and Educational Operations</td>
<td>612-626-5005</td>
</tr>
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3.3 Mentor Program

Preparing for a career in public health extends well beyond the classroom. A vital part of that preparation can be learning from the experiences of others.

The School of Public Health boasts the largest mentor program of any public health school. Each fall we match about 200 students with alumni and other professionals who share their interests.

Students learn from the professional experiences of their mentors, and mentors play a role in training future public health leaders. These matches often prove to be enriching relationships for students and professionals alike.

For more information, go to sphalumni.umn.edu/mentorprogram.

3.4 SPH Student SPHere

Make use of the SPH Student SPHere (Commons) to relax or study with your student colleagues. All students actively registered in an SPH degree program have access to the SPH Student SPHere (Mayo A150) via their U-Card. The Student Commons has the following amenities:

- Locker room – Free lockers are assigned in the Office of Admissions and Student Resources (Mayo A395). Students need to renew their locker each year and provide their own lock.
- Kitchen area with tables, chairs, microwaves, refrigerators, sink, and a telephone for free local calls.
- Lounge area with couches, chairs, and wireless internet.
- Study room with tables, chairs, computers (with internet connectivity, Microsoft Office, SAS and STATA software) and a printer.

Please work together to ensure that the SPHere is a comfortable and safe place.

- Keep all areas of the SPHere clean in consideration of others.
Please protect the security of access. Do not allow anyone to enter behind you that you do not know to be a SPH student. Never prop the door open for any reason. The student commons is for SPH students only.

- If you are aware of a breach of security or if you see something in the commons that needs repair, please report it to the OASR (A395 Mayo) as soon as possible.
- Avoid being alone in the commons during the evening or early morning.
- If you believe you are in danger or see improper activity in progress, call 9-1-1.

### Printing in the SPHere

The School of Public Health (SPH) provides $100 worth of printing (1,000 pages) for the Fall and Spring semesters on your U Card. This value can ONLY be used in the SPHere computer lab (Mayo A-151) and is not valid in any other campus computer lab, including libraries.

When you swipe your card at a print release station, UniPrint will show a balance on the screen. This balance is a combination of the print value given to you by SPH and your Gopher GOLD balance. In order to determine how much print value you have left, you need to subtract your Gopher GOLD balance from the balance shown on screen. Once the $100 SPH Print Value is exhausted, printing costs will be deducted from your Gopher GOLD account. To view your current balance and transaction history or to add value to your Gopher GOLD account online, please visit [www.gophergold.umn.edu](http://www.gophergold.umn.edu). If you experience any printing issues or need to request a refund, please contact the lab attendant or call the SPH Office of Admissions and Student Resources at (612) 626-3500.

### 3.5 Complaints and Grievances

The SPH seeks to be aware of and responsive to student issues and complaints. There are numerous ways for you to channel your academic and student life concerns:

- Provide comments on the yearly student survey (in March).
- Meet with your advisor and/or program coordinator.
- Raise the issue with your program director or director of graduate studies, either individually or in a meeting set up for this kind of feedback.

The SPH takes all student concerns seriously and we welcome your input in any of these ways. If the matter is not handled satisfactorily by any of these methods, or if the issue is particularly widespread or serious, please make an appointment with Dr. Kristin Anderson, Associate Dean for Learning Systems and Student Affairs, at ander116@umn.edu.

The University provides resources as well. Report incidents of bias, discrimination, or harassment to the University Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action at [www.eoaffact.umn.edu](http://www.eoaffact.umn.edu). For student issues that are not resolved through SPH channels or for which you seek external support, the Student Conflict Resolution Center will assist in resolving campus-based problems or concerns [www.sos.umn.edu](http://www.sos.umn.edu).

### 3.6 Field Experience Learning Agreement

All students pursuing a required field experience or summer residency must complete an online learning agreement prior to beginning the experience. The online form provides a streamlined process that is comprehensive for you, your preceptors, your faculty advisor and your program coordinator. Please refer to the current student website for this and other resources related to the field experience, [sph.umn.edu/careers/fe/](http://sph.umn.edu/careers/fe/).

Students exploring international field experience opportunities need to begin the process six to eight weeks before departure, and need to be aware of requirements specific to international travel.

### 3.7 Minors and Interdisciplinary Concentration Areas

#### Minors

SPH students pursuing an MHA, MPH, MS, PhD are eligible to declare a minor in other areas. For a listing of graduate level minors click on [www.catalogs.umn.edu/gradmajorsalpha.html](http://www.catalogs.umn.edu/gradmajorsalpha.html).

#### Interdisciplinary Concentration Areas
SPH Master of Public Health students have the option to add an interdisciplinary concentration area to their program of study. The concentrations are Public Health Policy (PHPIC) and Health Disparities (HDIC). For more information and link to the required forms go to www.sph.umn.edu/academics/ic/.

### 3.8 Community Engagement Agreement

Many students in the School of Public Health volunteer in the community. Liability insurance is available through the University provided that the student registers for PUBH 0020 (a zero credit class), and has the approval of their academic faculty advisor. Registration for PubH 0020 will be officially documented on the student’s transcript; however, the zero credit course has no tuition, no fees, no credits, and no grades. It is important to understand that a zero credit registration for a community engagement activity is not a substitute for a required course or field experience.

Prior to registration, students are required to provide information about the experience by completing the Community Engagement Agreement available at www.ahc.umn.edu/sphcommunity. The agreement is complete once it has been approved by the student’s advisor and the Field Experience/Employer Relations Coordinator.

To complete the Student Engagement Agreement a student must provide the following information:

- Name of the organization
- Address
- Organization phone number
- Supervisor within the organization
- Description of the activity
- Description of how this activity relates to their development as a public health professional
- Semester and date of experience
- Electronic signature of academic advisor

When the agreement is approved, the student will be contacted by email and provided with a registration permission number.

### 3.9 Online Learning and E-Learning Resources

Students can access their online courses, as well as support sites for hybrid and face-to-face courses at moodle.umn.edu. All students taking SPH courses are welcome to enroll in the SPH E-Learning Resources course site at z.umn.edu/sphelearningresources. When prompted, enter the enrollment key “sphstudent” and you will have access to a variety of resources to support you in navigating University resources, such as the Libraries and Writing Center, and refreshing the skills you need to succeed in SPH courses. You must have a university ID in order to access Moodle.

Students in online courses will receive a welcome email approximately a week before the semester begins, which will detail when you can access the course sites. If you have questions, please contact decsph@umn.edu.

### 3.10 Course Evaluations and Yearly Student Survey

**Course Evaluations**

Students provide very important input into the continued development of the School of Public Health’s teaching program. Students will be asked to complete evaluations for all SPH courses. Evaluations are done online at the end of each term.

**SPH Yearly Student Survey**

Students also are strongly encouraged to evaluate and comment on the school and its programs through our annual end of year SPH Student Survey. The survey covers many aspects of student experiences including field placements, career services, financing, and overall School service.
Career Survey
Recent graduates are encouraged to complete the Career Survey. The survey captures important employment information, compensation norms and contact information.

3.11 The Roles of Your Advising team

The School of Public Health provides advising that promotes collaboration among students, staff and faculty to enhance students’ academic and professional development in the field of public health. The School’s goal is to provide educational and experiential excellence that prepares students for successful careers improving the health of populations.

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6. Academic Advising: general guidance on topics related to program/major including, but not limited to, program focus (may include identifying appropriate course work options), project selection and career planning. Students find their faculty advisors, coordinators and career services staff helpful in answering these questions.

7. Field Experience/Internship/Practicum Advising: specific and targeted advising for field experience/internship/practicum development, placement and completion. Your faculty advisor can assist you as you select the type of field experience that would best match your goals. Career Services staff can help you to learn how to network with other students and alums to explore possible field experiences sites.

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SPH students are expected to:

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- Actively contribute to a welcoming and supportive SPH climate.
- Initiate meetings with advisor(s) at least once per semester; regularly communicate with faculty advisor(s) and/or program coordinator about program progress.
- Respond to inquiries from faculty or staff in a timely manner (ideally within 5 – 7 business days).
- Behave in a professional and courteous manner; fulfill educational and advising commitments, such as appointments, project deadlines, etc.
3.12 Commencement Eligibility

Students enrolled in MPH, MHA or MS programs are eligible to participate in the May Commencement ceremony if they are on-track to complete course credit requirements and the culminating experience by the end of the spring or summer semester, or have completed the necessary course credit requirements and culminating experience the previous summer or fall semester.

Exceptions may be granted on an individual basis per review by the program coordinator and program director. To seek an exception, contact your program coordinator.

4. The University of Minnesota

4.1 Mission

The University of Minnesota, founded in the belief that all people are enriched by understanding, is dedicated to the advancement of learning and the search for truth; to the sharing of this knowledge through education for a diverse community; and to the application of this knowledge to benefit the people of the state, the nation, and the world. The University's mission, carried out on multiple campuses and throughout the state, is threefold:

1. Research and Discovery
   Generate and preserve knowledge, understanding, and creativity by conducting high-quality research, scholarship, and artistic activity that benefit students, scholars, and communities across the state, the nation, and the world.

2. Teaching and Learning
   Share that knowledge, understanding, and creativity by providing a broad range of educational programs in a strong and diverse community of learners and teachers, and prepare graduate, professional, and undergraduate students, as well as non-degree-seeking students interested in continuing education and lifelong learning, for active roles in a multicultural and multicultural world.

3. Outreach and Public Service
   Extend, apply, and exchange knowledge between the University and society by applying scholarly expertise to community problems, by helping organizations and individuals respond to their changing environments, and by making the knowledge and resources created and preserved at the University accessible to the citizens of the state, the nation, and the world.

In all of its activities, the University strives to sustain an open exchange of ideas in an environment that embodies the values of academic freedom, responsibility, integrity, and cooperation; that provides an atmosphere of mutual respect, free from racism, sexism, and other forms of prejudice and intolerance; that assists individuals, institutions, and communities in responding to a continuously changing world; that is conscious of and responsive to the needs of the many communities it is committed to serving; that creates and supports partnerships within the University, with other educational systems and institutions, and with communities to achieve common goals; and that inspires, sets high expectations for, and empowers individuals within its community.

4.2 Twin Cities Campus

The University of Minnesota is a world-class university, known globally as a leader in teaching, research, and public service. It is both a land-grant university, with a strong tradition of education and public service, and a major research institution, with scholars of national and international reputation. UMNTC consistently ranks among the top 20 public universities in the United States. The classic Big 10 campus, located in the heart of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area, provides an exceptional setting for lifelong learning.

The University community is a broad mix of ethnic backgrounds, interests, and cultures. Students come from all 50 states and from more than 100 foreign countries. Many small communities of students, faculty, and staff help to create a welcoming atmosphere on campus.
UMNTC is also a thriving center for culture and the arts, featuring outstanding galleries, museums, concerts, theatre productions, and public lectures. For sports fans, the Golden Gophers offer all the spirit and excitement of Division I college athletics.

The campus in Minneapolis is located just a few minutes east of downtown. Nestled along the bluffs of the Mississippi River, buildings in Minneapolis range from the ultramodern Weisman Art Museum to the classic and stately Northrop Memorial Auditorium. A few miles to the east in St. Paul, rolling hills and quiet lawns create a more rural setting. The Minneapolis and St. Paul parts of the campus are connected by a convenient campus shuttle system.

UMNTC also provides a life beyond the campus like few other Big 10 universities can. The dynamic communities of Minneapolis and St. Paul offer something for everyone - a nationally recognized art and theatre community, a thriving entertainment industry, a host of Fortune 500 companies, four glorious seasons of outdoor recreation, exciting professional sports, shopping, and restaurants for every taste--all located close to campus.

### 4.3 U of M Services

#### 4.3.1 First Steps

**One Stop**

The first resource for students having a question about the University is [onestop.umn.edu](http://onestop.umn.edu). Please bookmark this site. One Stop offers links to a variety of online services and information about the University including course information, grades, registration, finances, transcripts, and general services.

**Email Accounts**

Each student attending the University of Minnesota must set-up a student internet/email account by going to [www.umn.edu/initiate](http://www.umn.edu/initiate) or by calling the Technology Help Line at 612.301.4357 (1-HELP).

**All SPH students are required to use their University of Minnesota email account.** Course lists, immunizations, billing statements, financial aid updates, and other important information will be sent via the U of M student email address. It is strongly recommended that students use their U of M email account and do not transfer it to a personal email account.

The School of Public Health relies heavily on email notices to students, staff, and faculty. To keep current on upcoming events, job announcements, new course announcements, scholarships, internships, the SPH newsletter, or good opportunities, etc., students should check their email regularly.

Students can retrieve email messages in many locations including the SPH student commons, SPH Career Resource Center, and SPH division computer facilities. Other computer facilities are located in numerous locations on campus; see [http://it.umn.edu/computer-labs-learning-spaces-testing](http://it.umn.edu/computer-labs-learning-spaces-testing) for a list.

**Note:** Students who choose to forward their University email account to another email account are still responsible for all the information, including all attachments, sent to their University email account.

The U has expanded technological capacity to allow free lifetime access to University email. This allows students to use the U of M email address for personal or professional purposes even after graduation. (Imagine never having to subscribe to an email service or memorize another address! In addition, imagine being able to stay in touch with your student colleagues wherever you and they may journey.)

The account must be accessed at least once every three months through the [Web Interface](http://Web Interface) to keep the email account active. If the account remains suspended for 90 days, it is then deleted. All data associated with the account will be deleted and cannot be recovered. If the user contacts the Service Desk [help@umn.edu](mailto:help@umn.edu) after the account is deleted, the account can be recreated without any content.

**U Card**

The U Card identifies you as a student on the Twin Cities campus. Your first U Card is free and can be obtained at the U Card Office. Bring your driver’s license, state ID, or passport and be prepared to have your picture taken.

**U Card Main Office**

G22 Coffman Memorial Union

300 Washington Avenue SE
Phone 612.626.9900
Weekdays: 8:30 to 4:00pm

The U Card is your key to all sorts of campus services and facilities. Your U Card can also be used as your ATM card through TCF Bank.

Since the U Card never expires, you should hold on to it even after you leave the University. If you ever return as a student, staff or faculty member, your card will still be valid.

Use your U Card for:
- Access to the SPHere and lockers
- Campus ID purposes
- All your checking needs
- Making Gopher GOLD purchases
- Charging textbook purchases at the U of M Bookstores to your student account
- Checking out library materials
- Entering the recreation center, golf course, computer labs, buildings, and residence hall dining rooms
- Art and athletic ticket discounts (available at place of purchase)
- Accessing art materials, student employment, business school services, and more

Report lost or stolen U Cards immediately. There is a $25.00 replacement fee for lost, stolen, or damaged U Cards. The fee can be paid by cash or check at all U Card Office locations. Debit, check or credit cards are not accepted.

LinkedIn

LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com), the world’s largest professional network on the Internet, helps you make better use of your professional network through the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and opportunities with a broader network of professionals. Your professional network of trusted contacts gives you an advantage in your career, and is one of your most valuable assets in any job search. According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers over 85% of recruiters use LinkedIn or Google to search candidates, and 46% use LinkedIn to research new hires. LinkedIn includes executives and employees from all Fortune 500 companies, all Fortune 100 companies (including 82 of the 100 who use it for hiring purposes), and over 200 million total companies.

The School of Public Health encourages ALL students to use LinkedIn as an invaluable career and networking resource. Not only will this benefit and enhance your experience now, but will serve as a lifelong resource in advancing your career. To help you get started, check out our LinkedIn Guide (http://www.sph.umn.edu/careers/tipsheets/linkedin/). To learn more about connecting with the School of Public Health through LinkedIn and social media, please visit: http://www.sph.umn.edu/socialmedia.

Parking and Transportation

The University’s Parking and Transportation website has a wealth of information concerning getting to and around campus. Parking is extremely limited on campus and we encourage students to bus, bike, or walk if possible.

Campus Shuttle Buses

Campus shuttle buses run at no charge between the East and West Bank and St. Paul campuses with varying routes and times. Current schedule information is posted on the above listed website as well as various locations throughout the Twin Cities campus.

Metro Transit and the U Pass

Take advantage of the deeply discounted Metro Transit bus pass. U-Pass is the ultimate transit pass that provides unlimited rides 24 hours a day. It is valid on all regular bus and light-rail train routes, as well as express, local, limited-stop, or Downtown Zone routes. It may not, however, be used on some special event services. Information can be found at http://www1.umn.edu/pts/bus/metropass.html.
Parking
Contract parking for students is sold through a lottery system each semester. Locations may vary but include spaces on the East Bank, West Bank, and St. Paul campuses. Hourly parking is available in several University public facilities. Parking rates vary depending on proximity to campus and the facility type. Visit the Parking and Transportation website, www1.umn.edu/pts/, or call 612.626.PARK (7275) for more information.

The Motorist Assistance Program offers free services (unlocking vehicles, jump-starts, changing flat tires, and referral to a service station) to all customers parked in U parking facilities. Hours are Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to midnight, Friday from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Service is not available on weekends or official University holidays). Call 612.626.PARK for motorist assistance or any other questions.

Disability parking is available in many parking facilities and metered areas. Use of these designated spaces requires a state-issued permit or license plate. For additional information, call the State of Minnesota at 651.296.6911 or Disability Services at 612.624.4037.

Bookstore www.bookstore.umn.edu
The University of Minnesota Bookstore, located in Coffman Union, sells texts for all Public Health courses. Course materials can also be ordered online.

Housing www.housing.umn.edu
The University’s Office of Housing & Residential Life is the best resource for finding housing on or near campus.

Maps campusmaps.umn.edu/tc/
Find the way to any University building.

Digital Signage
The School of Public Health had three different digital signs that provide information specific to the School of Public Health students. These can be found on the 3rd floor of the Mayo building – right near the Dean’s office Mayo A302, the student SPHere Mayo A150, and the 3rd floor (Lobby level) of the WBOB building.

4.3.2 Health and Well Being

Boynton Health Services www.bhs.umn.edu
Boynton Health Services offers comprehensive medical services for students, faculty, and staff.

Clinics
- Dental Clinic
- Eye Clinic
- Int'l Travel Clinic
- Mental Health Clinic
- Sports Medicine Clinic
- Women's Clinic

Services
- Contraceptive Services
- Immunization Services
- Massage Therapy Services
- Nutrition Services
  - Pediatric Services
  - Immunizations
  - Nursing Mothers Room

Testing Services
- HIV Testing and Counseling
- Pregnancy Testing
- STI Testing

General Care
- Pharmacy
- Physical Exams
- Primary Care/Urgent Care
Boynton also offers a variety of programs and classes including:

- Alcohol & Other Drugs Presentations
- Birth Control Classes
- CPR/First Aid Classes
- Eating-Disorders Program
- HIV Testing and Counseling
- Smoking Cessation
- Stress Management

Mental Health Resources
Financial challenges, isolation, cultural changes, academic stress, and other pressures on graduate students can create health issues. Please seek assistance before you feel overwhelmed. Resources include:

- Boynton Health Service Mental Health Clinic, [www.bhs.umn.edu/services/mentalhealth.htm](http://www.bhs.umn.edu/services/mentalhealth.htm).
- International Student and Scholar Services counseling. [www.isss.umn.edu/office/advising/personal.html](http://www.isss.umn.edu/office/advising/personal.html)
- Your advisor or program coordinator can also help lead you to appropriate resources.

Smoke-free University
The University of Minnesota, Crookston, Duluth, Rochester, and Twin Cities are smoke- and tobacco-free campuses. All students, staff, faculty, and visitors are prohibited from smoking and using, selling, free distributing, and advertising tobacco products and electronic cigarettes in all facilities and on all University property.

The success of this policy will depend upon the thoughtfulness, consideration, and cooperation of everyone on campus, including tobacco-users and non-users. All members of the University community are responsible for enforcing this policy. Students, faculty, staff, and visitors who violate this policy should be reminded of the policy and asked to comply. Repeated violation of this policy may be cause for disciplinary action in accordance with applicable student or employee codes of conduct. Visitors who refuse to comply with this policy may be asked to vacate campus property.

The Aurora Center
[www.umn.edu/aurora](http://www.umn.edu/aurora)
The Aurora Center for Advocacy and Education provides crisis intervention and advocacy services to victim/survivors of sexual and relationship violence, harassment and stalking. The staff and volunteers are also available to provide prevention training and education on a variety of issues.

Nursing Mothers' Room
Spaces are available on campus offering private and comfortable rooms that are designed specifically for nursing mothers to be able pump and store breast milk. This service, offered through Boynton Health Services, requires a brief orientation for users to familiarize themselves with the rooms. For additional information or questions please email Dennis Lui at dlui@bhs.umn.edu

Recreation & Wellness Center
[recwell.umn.edu/](http://recwell.umn.edu/)
The University Recreation and Wellness Center opened its doors in 1993, and is commonly referred to by students as the Rec Center. An expansion to the original building opened in 2013. Located on the University of Minnesota’s East Bank Campus, the facility serves between 3,000 and 5,000 patrons on an average weekday during the academic year. The Department of Recreational Sports also offers opportunities for the following:
Dining

University Dining Services offers a wide variety of dining experiences throughout the Twin Cities campus. The East Bank Campus offers several University Dining Service locations.

4.3.3 Diversity

Diversity and Inclusiveness

The University of Minnesota (University) is committed to the principles to achieve excellence through equity and diversity. It is believed that a diverse student body enhances the academic and social environment for all students and prepares students to thrive in an increasingly diverse workforce and society. Equal education access is critical to preparing students for the responsibilities of citizenship and civic leadership in a heterogeneous society. The University will provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. The University will also establish and nurture an environment for faculty, staff, students, and visitors that actively acknowledges and values equity and diversity and is free from racism, sexism, ageism, homophobia, and other forms of prejudice, intolerance, or harassment.

The global, population-based nature of public health demands that the School of Public Health (SPH) seek and train students of all racial, ethnic, economic and educational backgrounds. We believe such diversity enriches the learning experience and helps build excellence in public health leadership. The SPH is dedicated to providing our students with a supportive and welcoming academic experience in and out of the classroom. Our Diversity Matters series and Taste Diversity programs are designed to highlight diverse issues that impact public health professionals.

We also strive to create a community that is actively engaging in the areas of diversity and inclusiveness of its students, faculty, staff and programs to create an excellent educational environment. The SPH defines inclusiveness as all-embracing of the fullness of humanity. Our goal is to celebrate the differences and to help foster unity within the SPH community. This sense of inclusiveness recognizes that diversity is not limited to a select number of categorical elements of a person but encompasses all attributes.

The U of MN SPH Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Sherlonda Clarke, works with students, staff, faculty, and community members to enhance diversity within the SPH. Her office is located in A395-3 Mayo Memorial Building or you can contact her at sdclarke@umn.edu or at 612-624-9970.

For more information please visit:

- University policy library - regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Equity_Diversity_EO_AA.pdf
- Office for Equity and Diversity - diversity.umn.edu/eoaa/home
- SPH website on Diversity in Minnesota - www.sph.umn.edu/prospective/diversity/

In addition, the University has several offices across campus whose purpose is to support underrepresented students and promote diversity. The following is a list of some of those offices.

Disability Resource Center

Location: 108 McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street SE (East Bank)
Phone: (612) 626-1333 (Voice/TTY)

Disability Resource Center promotes access and equity for students with disabilities (e.g., physical, learning, psychiatric, sensory or systemic) and assists the University in achieving its mission to provide optimal educational opportunities for all students as well as obligations under federal and state statutes. Students are responsible for contacting Disability Services for more information or to arrange accommodations.
Diversity in Graduate Education
Location: 333 Johnston Hall, 101 Pleasant Street SE (East Bank)
Phone: (612) 625-6858

diversity.umn.edu/gradeducation/

The Office for Diversity in Graduate Education (ODGE) coordinates and leads the University’s initiatives in the recruitment, funding, retention and graduation of a diverse graduate and professional student body. Additionally, ODGE works closely with The Graduate School and other units connected to diversity and multiculturalism.

GLBTA Programs Office
Location: 46 Appleby Hall, 128 Pleasant Street SE (East Bank)
Phone: (612) 625-0537

diversity.umn.edu/glbta/

Through its various services, the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Ally (GLBTA) Programs Office is dedicated to improving campus climate for all University constituents by developing and supporting more inclusive understandings of gender and sexuality. GLBTA Programs Office seeks to build and bridge communities that welcome and affirm people to be their whole selves, honoring their multiple identities and life experiences.

International Student and Scholar Services
Location: 109 Hubert H. Humphrey School, 301 19th Avenue S (West Bank)
Phone: (612) 626-7100

www.isss.umn.edu/

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) is the office dedicated to serving the University international community. Its primary mission is to assist international students and scholars in successfully accomplishing the goals that brought them to the University, by using all available resources. Services include:

- Counseling and advising
- Immigration and visa regulation advising
- Newsletters
- Career services
- Academic opportunities for university students
- Tax return information

Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence
Location: 140 Appleby Hall, 128 Pleasant Street SE (East Bank)
Phone: (612) 624-6386

diversity.umn.edu/multicultural/

The Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence (MCAE) is a campus-wide resource that promotes an inclusive atmosphere to foster and enrich multicultural understanding among all members of the University community. MCAE’s commitment to creating such a climate is driven by a student-first culture in which students are the highest priority.

Office of Equity and Diversity
Location: 432 Morrill Hall, 100 Church Street SE (East Bank)
Phone: (612) 624-0594

diversity.umn.edu/

The mission of the Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) is to leverage the transformative power of equity and diversity to advance excellence in teaching, research and community engagement at the University of Minnesota. OED envisions a University where equity and diversity are:

1. Integrated into the work and lives of every student, faculty and staff member.
2. Recognized as core institutional values, and will inform thinking, policies and practices throughout the University.
3. Inherently intertwined with academic excellence and the development of leaders for a globally inclusive society.
Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action
diversity.umn.edu/eoaa
Location: 274 McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street SE (East Bank)
Phone: (612) 624-9547

The Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action (EOAA) was founded in 1972 to ensure that all University community members uphold federal and state civil rights laws and regulations, as well as University equal opportunity policies. The EOAA Office envisions a University community that is equitable—one that values the diversity of its workforce and student body and is free from discrimination and harassment.

Student Conflict Resolution Center
http://www.sos.umn.edu/
Location: 254 Appleby Hall, 128 Pleasant St. SE (East Bank)
Phone: (612) 624-7272

The Student Conflict Resolution Center (SCRC) offers informal and formal conflict resolution services to resolve students’ University-based problems and concerns. An ombudsman provides confidential, neutral and informal options. An advocate is available to assist students in formal grievance or disciplinary proceedings.

Women’s Center
diversity.umn.edu/women/
Location: 64 Appleby Hall, 128 Pleasant Street SE (East Bank)
Phone: (612) 625-9837

The Women’s Center advances equity for women students, staff, faculty and alumnae across identities. The Women’s Center increases connections for women’s success, cultivates socially responsible leaders and advocates for organizational culture change toward excellence for all.

4.3.4 Academic

University Libraries
hsl.lib.umn.edu/biomed
The Bio-Medical Library, located in Diehl Hall, contains materials in the areas of allied health, medicine, mortuary science, nursing, pharmacy, public health, and the basic life sciences. In addition the library provides numerous resources and services such as library instructional classes, research workshops, reference consultations, library mediated searches, and citation clarification. The Mathematics library (https://www.lib.umn.edu/math), located in Vincent Hall, contains materials in the area of mathematics and statistics.

Information on other University libraries and collections can be found at www.lib.umn.edu.

The Subject Librarian for the School of Public Health is Del Reed. Please email him or call to set up an appointment: reedx@umn.edu or 612-624-3128.

Center for Educational Innovation
cei.umn.edu/about/about-cei
The Center for Educational Innovation (CEI) was created in 2014 by Provost Karen Hanson to strengthen instructional and academic technology collaboration and support across the University. By combining the Center for Teaching and Learning and the Office of eLearning, the CEI provides expertise that supports curricular and pedagogical innovation in campus classrooms and in online courses and programs.

Center for Writing
writing.umn.edu/
The Center for Writing provides free writing instruction for all University of Minnesota students at all stages of the writing process. In collaborative consultations, we help students develop productive writing habits and revision strategies. This may be through appointments or online.

The Online Writing Center offers online tutoring to students taking Writing-Intensive courses at the University of Minnesota. Online tutoring is conducted via the Web, and consists of comments and feedback offered by our experienced writing tutors.

Tutors are trained in fields such as composition, speech communication, scientific and technical communication, and rhetoric, and many of them are instructors at the university. Tutors review the writing
you submit by offering comments and suggestions for improvement; however, they will comment mainly on the areas students specify.

Computing Services

The University's Academic and Distributed Computing Services (ADCS) website provides a wealth of information and services available to students including:

- Computer Lab Locations
- Computer Rental
- Internet Services and Email Accounts
- Computers and Software for Purchase
- Training
- Support and Help Services
- Resources and Useful Links
- Security

myU Portal

The myU web portal permits you to:

- Sign-in once to access all major applications.
- Receive personalized information.
- Register for classes
- See Student Account information including finances and grades

University Counseling and Consulting Services

Provides the following services to the University community:

- Career Development Center
- Consultation, Outreach, and Diversity Program
- Counseling Program
- Groups and Workshops
- Learning and Academic Skills Center
- Academic Support Group

4.3.5 Campus Safety

Police

The University of Minnesota has a full service police department in the event of an emergency dial 911.

Security Monitor Program

The Security Monitor Program offers a walking/biking escort service to and from campus locations and nearby adjacent neighborhoods. This service is available at no charge to students, staff, faculty, and visitors to the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities campus. To request an escort by a trained student security monitor, please call 612.624.WALK (9255) shortly before the desired departure time and walk safe.

TXT-U Emergency Notification

TXT-U is the University of Minnesota’s emergency notification text messaging system. Students, faculty, and staff can stay informed about critical campus safety information by registering to receive TXT-U messages.

TXT-U will be used infrequently and specifically for real emergency situations.

Campus Wide Emergency Alert System

The Campus Wide Emergency Alert System includes 21 outdoor loudspeakers mounted on poles and rooftops on the West Bank and East Bank and in St. Paul. The system will allow for an alert tone and vocal instructions in the event of a campus emergency.
4.3.6 Social

**Student Unions and Activities Office**

The Student Unions and Activities Office is the University of Minnesota’s center for campus-wide programs and activities, leadership opportunities, skill development, and student organization training, advising and registration.

More than 400 student groups on campus are registered with the Student Unions and Activities Office, including academic societies, cultural centers, sports clubs, political action groups and fraternities and sororities. These organizations provide students with endless involvement opportunities and the chance to interact with others who share a similar interest.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus Events</th>
<th><a href="https://events.umn.edu/Online/default.asp">https://events.umn.edu/Online/default.asp</a></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Website for events hosted by the University of Minnesota.</td>
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<tr>
<th>School of Public Health Events</th>
<th><a href="http://www.sph.umn.edu/news/">www.sph.umn.edu/news/</a></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Website for events specific to the School of Public Health.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Academic Health Center Events</th>
<th>hub.ahc.umn.edu/news-capsules</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>News and events specific to the Academic Health Center.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

4.3.6 Additional Resources

**Post Office**

A full-service U.S. Post Office is located on the ground floor of Coffman Union.

**Copies/Fax Machines**

A University Copy Center is located in Mayo D104 as well as other locations throughout the University.

**Student Conflict Resolution Center**

The Student Conflict Resolution Center assists students in resolving campus-based problems and concerns through coaching, intervention and mediation by Ombudsman and Advocacy staff.

**Student Legal Service**

University Student Legal Service (USLS) functions to provide legal representation and legal advice to eligible students on the Twin Cities campus.

5. **REGISTRATION**

5.1 **Full-Time Status**

All SPH students need to register for at least six (6) credits in fall and spring semester to be considered full-time. In summer MHA and MPH students must be registered for 6 credits to be considered fulltime and 3 credits to be considered halftime.

**Note:** The Office of Financial Aid or external agencies may require students to be registered for more than three or six credits to be considered full-time; check with these agencies to verify their requirements.
5.2 Registration Process

Step One
Select courses for the term with your advisor before registering (make an appointment at the earliest convenient time). To view available courses:
1. Log into MyU.
2. Select the My Academics tab, then the My Classes sub-tab.
3. Click on Class Search (in Enrollment Tools section).
4. Determine search criteria; you must select your campus (Institution), term, and at least two additional criteria. Students in the School of Public Health will find the majority of their courses listed under the subject "PUBH".

Note: 5000 through 8000-level courses are considered graduate-level. 1000 and 3000-level courses are for undergraduates and will not receive approval for graduate credit. Under some circumstances – with approval of the student’s major field – 4000-level courses may also be applied toward a MPH degree as long as they are taught by a member of the graduate faculty.

5. View your search results. To see only classes that are open, select Show Open Classes Only.
6. To continue searching, click New Search or Modify Search. If you hit the back button, you will lose your search results. Click the class number to see more details. You can search for a subject by entering subject code or clicking Select Subject. For more search options, expand Additional Search Criteria. When you are satisfied with your criteria, click Search.

Step Two
After selecting your courses, run through the checklist below before registering. Frustrating delays can be avoided by following these hints:

- If instructor consent is necessary for any of your selected course(s), get a permission number from the course instructor or his/her designee before registering. This number permits registration for the course through the second week of the semester; after the second week, it expires. Note that the number is specific to the student it is given to and the course requiring instructor consent. Once a number is used to register, it becomes invalid and cannot be used for another course or by another student.
- You will not be able to register if you have any holds on your University record. Notice of any hold, including the name of the department or office where it may be cleared, is available at myu.umn.edu.
- You can find your registration queue date and time on the web at myu.umn.edu.
- You will need your x.500 login and password to register. If you have forgotten your password, call 612.301.4357 to have your password reset. You can also call this number if you have problems logging in to register.

Step Three
Register via the web at myu.umn.edu or go to the University’s One Stop Student Services Center in 333 Robert H. Bruininks Hall on the East Bank Campus to register in person. Students having difficulty with self-registration should contact the registration help-line at 612.624.1111 (M-F 8:00-4:00) or email helpingu@umn.edu. You may also contact your Program Coordinator or the School of Public Health Office of Admissions and Student Resources at 612.626.3500. Please note the following when registering:

- Most courses give the option of either an A/F or S/N (pass/fail) grading option. Be sure to select the grade option desired for the course. Note that there may be a limit to the number of credits a student can take S/N (pass/fail); see the major section of this guidebook for more information. Stricter policies may be enforced by individual majors/programs. There is a strict and early deadline for when grading options can be changed.
Some courses have variable credits. Before selecting the number of credits, students should make sure they are in agreement with the instructor as to the number of credits appropriate for the work proposed.

### 5.3 Grade Option Changes, Course Additions, Withdrawal and Evaluations

#### Change of Grade Option
For full-semester courses, students may change their grade option, if applicable, through the second week of the semester. After that, grading options cannot be changed. Grade option change deadlines for other terms (i.e. summer and half-semester) can be found at [onestop.umn.edu](http://onestop.umn.edu). For more information about grading policies, see section 5.4 University Senate Uniform Grading and Transcript Policy.

#### Adding a Course
No approval is required to add a course during the first week of classes. Instructor approval is required during week two. After the second week of classes, instructor and college scholastic committee approval is required. Deadlines for adding a course for other terms (i.e. summer and half-semester) can be found at [onestop.umn.edu](http://onestop.umn.edu).

#### Registration Exception Form
Students must consult with their program coordinator prior to submitting any paper or electronic forms. After this consultation, students must complete a formal request to change their registration (e.g., add, drop, change your grade basis) after a deadline or to register for more than 18 credits. Please ask your program coordinator for the appropriate form. Approval is not automatic.

#### Course Cancellation and Withdrawal
Students should refer to the Refund and Drop/Add Deadlines for the particular term at [onestop.umn.edu](http://onestop.umn.edu) for information and deadlines for withdrawing from a course. As a courtesy, students should notify their instructor and, if applicable, advisor of their intent to withdraw.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course after the noted final deadline for a particular term must contact the School of Public Health Office of Admissions and Student Resources at sph-oasr@umn.edu for further information.

#### Repeat and Bracket Course Policy
An officially admitted SPH student (MHA, MPH, MS, PhD, and Certificate Programs) may repeat a public health course only once.

MHA, MPH, and Certificate students have the option to bracket a particular course (with the same course number) one time. Bracketing is a practice where one grade is omitted from GPA calculations, while continuing to appear on the transcript.

Only courses with the same catalog number may be bracketed.

A University of Minnesota course may not be bracketed with a course taken at another institution. How bracketing works: When an SPH student repeats an SPH course, both grades for the course will appear on the official transcript and will be counted towards the GPA calculation. The student is responsible for submitting a written request that a repeated course be "bracketed" (only once per course). If a student registers for a course a third or greater number of times (either in violation of this policy or by approved exception), all non-bracketed grades will be factored into GPA calculations. It is important to note that student school loans may not cover the tuition cost of repeating a course.

Exceptions: Exceptions to this policy must be submitted to the student's academic advising team and discussed with the course instructor. Example: Requesting to repeat a course (more than two times) is at the discretion of the academic advising team and may be approved due to extraordinary circumstances such as documented illness or hospitalization, death in family, etc.
Higher standards of achievement and stricter repeat policies may be enforced by individual majors/programs. This may include restrictions on repeating core courses that are also core to a major, and/or requiring that students earn better than a B- in particular courses in order to meet major/program requirements. Documentation of such policies can be found in the program portion of student guidebooks.

*Students can consult with their advising team for alternative core course options.*

### Other Transcript symbols

#### Incomplete [I]
There shall be a temporary symbol I, *incomplete*, awarded to indicate that the work of the course has not been completed. The I shall be assigned at the discretion of the instructor when, due to extraordinary circumstances, the student was prevented from completing the work of the course on time. The assignment of an I requires a written contract between the instructor and student specifying the time and manner in which the student will complete the course requirements. In no event may any such written agreement allow a period of longer than one year to complete the course requirements. The Incomplete contract can be found at [http://secure.ahc.umn.edu/publichealth/sphgrades/](http://secure.ahc.umn.edu/publichealth/sphgrades/)

For graduate/professional students, an I is to remain on the transcript until changed by the instructor or department. When an I is changed to another symbol, the I is removed from the record.

A student does not need to be registered at the University in order to complete the work necessary to convert an I to a grade with credit in the time and manner previously agreed upon between the student and the instructor. The instructor is expected to turn in the new grade within four weeks of the date the work was submitted by the student.

#### Interpretation of Policy on Incompletes for Students Called to Active Military Duty
When appropriate, instructors may prefer to arrange for the student to take an incomplete. Senate policy requires that an incomplete be made up within one calendar year of the end of the term in which the incomplete is given. When students are called to active military duty, and reach agreement with their instructor(s) to take an incomplete, they will have up to one calendar year following their discharge from active duty to complete their incomplete(s). Complete policies and procedures are available in the SPH Office of Admissions and Student Resources.

#### Transfer [T]
There shall be a symbol T, *transfer*, posted as a prefix to the original grade, to indicate credits transferred from another institution or from one college or campus to another within the University when reevaluation is required.

#### Withdrawal [W]
If a student officially withdraws from a course during the first two weeks of classes, there shall be no record of that course registration entered on the student's transcript. There shall be a symbol W, *withdrawal*, entered upon a student's record when the student officially withdraws from a course in accordance with procedures established by the student's college or campus*. The W will be entered on the transcript irrespective of the student's academic standing in that course if the student withdraws from the course during the third through eighth week of class (second or third weeks of summer sessions). Withdrawal in the ninth or later week of classes (fourth or later in summer sessions) shall require approval of the college and may not be granted solely because a student is failing the course; there must be extenuating non-academic circumstances justifying late withdrawal.

*See section 3.3 for the School of Public Health withdrawal process.

#### Continuation [X]
There shall be a symbol X, indicating a student may continue in a continuation course in which a grade cannot be determined until the full sequence of courses is completed. The instructor shall submit a grade for each X when the student has completed the sequence.
In Progress [K]
There shall be a symbol K, assigned by an instructor to indicate the course is still in progress and that a grade cannot be assigned at the present time.

Other Provisions

Course Credit Transfer Policy
A student may seek transfer of no more than 40% of their total graduate or professional program credits taken at the University of Minnesota or at another college or university prior to the SPH program matriculation. Course credits may be used to satisfy public health core or other program requirements as jointly approved by the Program Director and the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. No course credits older than 5 years from the date of the student’s matriculation will be accepted for transfer. A grade of “B-” or better is required for each course requested for transfer credit.

SPH students who have completed graduate-level coursework at the University of Minnesota or another college or university may petition to transfer those courses toward their SPH degree. To be considered for transfer, graduate level coursework must have been taken at an accredited graduate institution.

Higher standards of achievement and stricter policies may be enforced by individual majors/programs.

Students must:
1. Meet with their academic advisor to discuss the petitioning process. If the petition is acceptable to the advisor, the student will complete and sign the Academic Policy Petition form, and attach an official transcript on which the final grade has been posted.
2. Submit the Academic Policy Petition form to the Program Coordinator for processing. The Academic Policy Petition form can be found at http://www.sph.umn.edu/current/resources/. The Program Coordinator will forward the petition to the Program Director for approval and signature and then to the Office of Admissions and Student Resources for the Associate Dean for Learning Systems and Student Affairs for final evaluation and/or approval.

The Academic Policy Petition forms may be used for other academic reasons. Students are encouraged to discuss petition issues with their academic advisor or Program Coordinator to determine the appropriate process and procedure.

Equivalency Exams
Equivalency examinations are given at least twice each year (January and August). Students have the option of taking the equivalency exams in any of the following core areas; however, students can only take the exam one time in each core area. Students who pass the exam(s) are waived from taking the required course and must make up the credits per their area of study and degree requirements. A notation on the student’s transcript will be documented if the student passes an equivalency exam. Students who do not pass the exam(s) are required to take the appropriate core course area to satisfy the competency requirements. Equivalency exams satisfy competency requirements for the following core courses only:

PubH 6020 Fundamentals of Social and Behavioral Science

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PubH 6020 Fundamentals of Social and Behavioral Science</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of questions on exam</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of questions</td>
<td>Essay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open or closed book</td>
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</table>

PubH 6751 Principles of Management in Health Services Organizations
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Description</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Number of questions on exam</th>
<th>Type of questions</th>
<th>Open or closed book</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6102 Issues in Environmental and Occupational Health</td>
<td>Jim Begun</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>25 multiple choice, 3 essay, 1 case analysis with 4 questions</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6320 Fundamentals of Epidemiology</td>
<td>Bill Toscano</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Multiple choice</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6450 Biostatistics I</td>
<td>Rachel Widom</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Multiple choice, show-your-work problems</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6741 Ethics in Public Health: Professional Practice and Policy</td>
<td>Sarah Gollust</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Short answer</td>
<td>Open (no internet access)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact: Jim Begun begun001@umn.edu

Contact: Bill Toscano tosca001@umn.edu

Contact: Rachel Widom widom001@umn.edu

Contact: Sally Olander brown198@umn.edu

Contact: Sarah Gollust sgollust@umn.edu
Course Prerequisites
Any college or campus may set special scholastic or other standards for registration in a particular course, for scholastic probation, admission, honors, continued residence, degrees, and other purposes they deem appropriate.

Grade Submission
All grades for all courses each term shall be submitted to the Office of the Registrar no later than 72 hours after the last final examination for that term. Students can view their grades online at myu.umn.edu 24 hours after they are posted by the course instructor.

Course Evaluations
Student feedback on course content and faculty teaching skills are an important means for improving our work. Please take the time to complete a course evaluation for each of the courses for which you are registered. The SPH collects student course evaluations electronically using a software system called CoursEval: http://sph.umn.edu/students/current/course-eval-grades/. The system will send email notifications to students when they can access and complete their course evaluations. Students who complete their course evaluations promptly will be able to access their final grade as soon as the faculty member renders the grade in SPHGrades: secure.ahc.umn.edu/publichealth/sphgrades/. All students will have access to their final grades through OneStop two weeks after the last day of the semester regardless of whether they completed their course evaluation or not.

Note: Responses will remain anonymous and will not be released to the course instructor until after final grades have been submitted. This is School of Public Health procedure - not a University-wide policy - and therefore applies to Public Health courses only.

6. TUITION, FEES, BILLING, AND FINANCES

6.1 Tuition and Fees
Please go to http://onestop.umn.edu/ for complete tuition and fee information.

6.2 Billing
Students will receive a billing statement approximately 4 weeks after a semester begins (May/Summer Session billing statements are sent mid-June. Students may view their fee statement online at myu.umn.edu).

Students will receive electronic bills and have the option of paying their bill online with an electronic check from their checking or savings account. Students can also allow access to authorized users, such as parents, to view and pay tuition bills on their behalf. For more information on electronic billing and payment, visit myu.umn.edu. Questions on billing and fee statements can be referred to helpingu@umn.edu.

Third Party Billing
onestop.umn.edu/finances/pay/third_party_billing/index.html

When an organization, not owned by you or a family member, makes a commitment to pay your educational expenses, they are considered a third party sponsor by the University of Minnesota. When payment is due on your student account, the sponsor is billed by the University. This payment process is termed "third party billing."

Sponsor's payments are subject to the same federal reporting requirements as other financial aid. Some sponsorships don't require a billing invoice and are administered by the University through One Stop Student Services.
Whether you are a student or a sponsor, you will find answers in the frequently asked questions (FAQ) about how the third party billing processes these payments at the links on the left. In addition, you can view current tuition and fee information.

If you have more questions or need further information, please contact the third party billing office at tpbill@umn.edu or 612-625-8559.

### 6.3 Financial Aid and Scholarships

A variety of resources to assist students in financing their education can be found at sph.umn.edu/admissions/paying/. Information specific to SPH Divisions and/or Programs may be found in the Division and/or degree program sections of this guidebook.

Information on financial aid can be found at onestop.umn.edu or by -mailing helpingu@umn.edu.

Students having questions about the status of their financial aid should refer to the appropriate contact below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aid Type</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Email address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Division/Major Specific Awards and Traineeships, the Dean’s Scholarship</td>
<td>Your Program Coordinator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medica Scholarships, and scholarships that support specific US minority groups</td>
<td>SPH Student Services</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sph-oasr@umn.edu">sph-oasr@umn.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Loans, Financial Aid Package</td>
<td>Liz Holm</td>
<td><a href="mailto:holmx029@umn.edu">holmx029@umn.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Loan Deferment**

A temporary postponement of loan payments available only under certain conditions; some loans do not accrue interest in deferment, such as subsidized loans policy.umn.edu/forms/fa/fa830.pdf.

Students requesting a loan deferment can get their form signed by One Stop Student Services onestop.umn.edu.

**Financial Aid Exit Counseling**

Exit counseling sessions are required of all borrowers of federal and University-administered student loan programs. Exit counseling provides you information regarding the rights and responsibilities of a borrower and a lender/servicer. You learn about repayment, deferment, and cancellation of your loan. These sessions prepare you to be responsible and effective in repayment of your educational loans.

**You are required to complete exit counseling when you:**

- are about to graduate.
- leave the University (even if it is just temporary).
- drop your registration below half-time enrollment.
- transfer to another school.
- leave for a National Student Exchange (NSE) experience.

Once you have been selected for the exit process, you will receive an email with instructions to complete your exit counseling online. Make sure you respond by completing your exit counseling in a timely manner! A hold will remain on your student record until your exit counseling is complete, delaying your diploma, preventing registration, and preventing access to your transcripts.

For more information about student loan exit counseling, contact Student Account Assistance: onestop.umn.edu
6.4 Graduate Assistantships

Many SPH students use graduate assistantships to help finance their education. These are campus working/learning positions that take the form of research, teaching, or administrative appointments. Degree-seeking students in the SPH registered for six or more credits, including international students, are eligible to apply for any assistantship on campus. Because many assistantships are funded by grants, the vigorous research activity of SPH faculty makes available numerous opportunities in the school.

Graduate assistantships include an hourly wage, tuition benefits, subsidized insurance coverage, and may include resident tuition rates for student and dependents.

For graduate assistant policies and benefits, go to www1.umn.edu/ohr/gae.

The tuition benefits are particularly attractive to students. Graduate assistants who work at least 25% time from the beginning to the end of the official semester appointment dates are eligible to receive tuition benefits (tuition remission and resident rates) during that semester.

7. UNIVERSITY GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

7.1 Student Responsibility and Conduct

Students are ultimately responsible for the level of success that they achieve in their program of study and for the time it takes to complete that program. Students should:

- Attend fall orientation and understand the information distributed.
- Understand and follow University, School of Public Health, Division, and Program rules and procedures for completion of degree requirements.
- Read email messages frequently for announcements from the Program Coordinators, Program Directors and Director of Graduate Studies, Office of Admissions and Student Resources, and Career Center. These announcements may involve changes in the University, School or Division rules and procedures for completion of degree requirements; students are responsible for reading and understanding these announcements.
- Check their student mailbox often for printed informational materials.
- Contact a Program Coordinator, Program Directors or Director of Graduate Studies if they are not getting reasonable assistance from their academic and/or master’s project/thesis advisor.
- Initiate and maintain contact each semester with their academic advisor to review progress toward the completion of their degree.
- Complete the degree in a timely fashion.

The School of Public Health emphasizes three principles of student conduct in all of its degree programs:

1. **Respect others**
   Students are expected to behave in a respectful and professional manner with other students, faculty, and staff in the classroom and on campus.

2. **Honor privacy**
   Every student’s course grades are private and are not to be shown to anyone else. This also applies to the grades of students in courses for which you are a Teaching Assistant.

3. **Present your work honestly**
   Plagiarism is defined as the presentation of another’s writing or ideas as your own. For a helpful discussion of preventing plagiarism, please consult University policies and procedures regarding academic integrity: http://writing.umn.edu/tww/preventing/definitions.html. Students should be careful to properly attribute and cite others’ work in their writing. For guidelines for correctly citing sources, go to tutorial.lib.umn.edu.
The Associate Dean for Learning Systems and Student Affairs is responsible for managing all School of Public Health issues and investigations of academic misconduct.

7.2 University of Minnesota Board of Regents' Policies

The policies of the Board of Regents are umbrella policies that provide the framework under which the administration is responsible for implementation of and compliance with the intent of the board policy. Students are responsible for abiding by the Board of Regents policies. The Board of Regents policies can be found at www.umn.edu/regents/policies.html.

We encourage students to read the policies and ask that they particularly become aware of the following policies reprinted here in a slightly different format:

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University of Minnesota Board of Regents Policy
Student Conduct Code
Adopted: July 10, 1970
Amended: December 13, 1974; March 11, 1994; June 13, 2003; December 8, 2006; October 11, 2012
Supersedes: (see end of policy)

SECTION I. GUIDING PRINCIPLES.
(a) The University seeks an environment that promotes academic achievement and integrity, that is protective of free inquiry, and that serves the educational mission of the University.

(b) The University seeks a community that is free from violence, threats, and intimidation; that is respectful of the rights, opportunities, and welfare of students, faculty, staff, and guests of the University; and that does not threaten the physical or mental health or safety of members of the University community.

(c) The University is dedicated to responsible stewardship of its resources and to protecting its property and resources from theft, damage, destruction, or misuse.

(d) The University supports and is guided by state and federal law while also setting its own standards of conduct for its academic community.

(e) The University is dedicated to the rational and orderly resolution of conflict.

SECTION II. SCOPE.
This policy applies to all students and student organizations at the University of Minnesota (University), whether or not the University is in session.

SECTION III. DEFINITIONS.
Subd. 1. Academic Environment. Academic environment shall mean any setting where a student is engaged in work toward academic credit, satisfaction of program-based requirements, or related activities including but not limited to on line courses, learning abroad, and field trips.

Subd. 2. Campus. Campus shall mean all University premises, including all land, buildings, facilities, and other property owned, possessed, leased, used, or controlled by the University, and adjacent streets and sidewalks.

Subd. 3. Plagiarism. Plagiarism shall mean representing the words, creative work, or ideas of another person as one's own without providing proper documentation of source. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Copying information word for word from a source without using quotation marks and giving proper acknowledgement by way of footnote, endnote, or in-text citation;
• Representing the words, ideas, or data of another person as one’s own without providing proper attribution to the author through quotation, reference, in-text citation, or footnote;

• Producing, without proper attribution, any form of work originated by another person such as a musical phrase, a proof, a speech, an image, experimental data, laboratory report, graphic design, or computer code;

• Paraphrasing, without sufficient acknowledgment, ideas taken from another person that the reader might reasonably mistake as the author’s; and

• Borrowing various words, ideas, phrases, or data from original sources and blending them with one’s own without acknowledging the sources.

It is the responsibility of all students to understand the standards and methods of proper attribution and to clarify with each instructor the standards, expectations, and reference techniques appropriate to the subject area and class requirements, including group work and internet use. Students are encouraged to seek out information about these methods from instructors and other resources and to apply this information in all submissions of academic work.

Subd. 4. Student. Student shall mean any person taking courses at the University or enrolled in a University program; any person participating as a student in University activities prior to the start of classes; any student who is not enrolled or registered for a particular term but has a continuing relationship with the University; any student who withdraws, transfers, or graduates after an alleged violation of the Student Conduct Code; and any already graduated student when the conduct at issue implicates the student’s University degree.

Subd. 5. Student Organization. Student organization shall mean any organization of students that is or has been registered as a University student organization under applicable University policies or procedures.

Subd. 6. University-Sponsored Activities. University-sponsored activities shall mean any program or event sponsored by the University, including but not limited to those sponsored by student organizations, or athletics.

SECTION IV. JURISDICTION.

Subd. 1. The Student Conduct Code shall apply to student conduct that occurs on campus or at University-sponsored activities.

Subd. 2. The Student Conduct Code shall apply to student conduct that directly relates to the University’s education, services, programs, or rules, including but not limited to scholastic dishonesty, hazing, violation of University rules, and falsification, whether the conduct occurs on campus or off campus.

Subd. 3. At the discretion of the president or delegate, the Student Conduct Code also shall apply to off-campus student conduct when the conduct, as alleged, adversely affects a substantial University interest and either:

(a) constitutes a criminal offense as defined by local, state, or federal law or ordinance, regardless of the existence or outcome of any criminal proceeding; or

(b) indicates that the student may present a danger or threat to the health or safety of the student or others.

SECTION V. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DUAL MEMBERSHIP.

Students are both members of the University community and of the state. Students are responsible to the community of which they are a part, and they are responsible to the academic community of the University. By enforcing its Code, the University neither substitutes for nor interferes with other civil or criminal legal processes. When a student is charged in both jurisdictions, the University will decide on the basis of its interests, the interests of affected students, and the interests of the community whether to proceed with its disciplinary process or to defer action. Determinations made or sanctions imposed under the Code will not be subject to change because criminal charges arising out of the same facts were dismissed, reduced, or resolved in favor of the criminal law defendant.

SECTION VI. DISCIPLINARY OFFENSES.
Any student or student organization found to have committed, attempted to commit, assisted or abetted another person or group to commit the following misconduct is subject to appropriate disciplinary action under this policy:

**Subd. 1. Scholastic Dishonesty.** Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarism; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering, forging, misrepresenting, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

**Subd. 2. Disruption of the Academic Environment.** Disruption of the academic environment means engaging in behavior that substantially or repeatedly interrupts either the instructor's ability to teach and/or a student's ability to learn.

**Subd. 3. Falsification.** Falsification means willfully providing University offices or officials with false, misleading, or incomplete information; forging or altering without proper authorization official University records or documents or conspiring with or inducing others to forge or alter without proper authorization University records or documents; misusing, altering, forging, falsifying, or transferring to another person University-issued identification; or intentionally making a false report of a bomb, fire, natural disaster, or other emergency to a University official or an emergency service agency.

**Subd. 4. Refusal to Identify and Comply.** Refusal to identify and comply means willfully refusing to or falsely identifying one's self or willfully failing to comply with a proper order or summons when requested by an authorized University official, by law enforcement personnel, or by emergency medical staff responding to an emergency.

**Subd. 5. Attempt to Injure or Defraud.** Attempt to injure or defraud means making, forging, printing, reproducing, copying, or altering any record, document, writing, or identification used or maintained by the University when done with intent to injure, defraud, or misinform.

**Subd. 6. Harm to Person.** Harm to person means engaging in conduct that endangers or threatens to endanger the physical and/or mental health, safety, or welfare of another person, including, but not limited to, threatening, stalking, harassing, intimidating, or assaulting behavior.

**Subd. 7. Bullying.** Bullying means aggressive behavior directed at another person, either in person or through electronic means, that causes stress or harm and that is repeated over time, including but not limited to assaulting, defaming, terrorizing, making obscene gestures, or invading privacy.

**Subd. 8. Sexual Assault.** Sexual assault means actual, attempted or threatened sexual contact with another person without that person's consent. Sexual assault is a criminal act that can be prosecuted under Minnesota state law, as well as under the Student Conduct Code and employee discipline procedures.

**Subd. 9. Disorderly Conduct.** Disorderly conduct means engaging in conduct that incites or threatens to incite an assault or breach of the peace; breaching the peace; obstructing or disrupting teaching, research, administrative, or public service functions; or obstructing or disrupting disciplinary procedures or authorized University activities.

**Subd. 10. Illegal or Unauthorized Possession or Use of Weapons.** Illegal or unauthorized possession or use of weapons means possessing or using weapons or articles or substances usable as weapons, including, but not limited to, firearms, incendiary devices, explosives, and dangerous biological or chemical agents, except in those instances when authorized by law and, where applicable, by proper University authority.

**Subd. 11. Illegal or Unauthorized Possession or Use of Drugs or Alcohol.** Illegal or unauthorized possession or use of drugs or alcohol means possessing or using drugs or alcohol illegally or, where applicable, without proper University authorization.

**Subd. 12. Providing Alcohol to Minors.** Providing alcohol to minors means directly or indirectly providing alcohol to anyone under the legal drinking age.

**Subd. 13. Unauthorized Use of University Facilities or Services.** Unauthorized use of University facilities or services means wrongfully using University properties or facilities; misusing, altering, or damaging fire-
fighting equipment, safety devices, or other emergency equipment or interfering with the performance of those specifically charged to carry out emergency services; or acting to obtain fraudulently—through deceit, unauthorized procedures, bad checks, or misrepresentation—goods, quarters, services, or funds from University departments or student organizations or individuals acting on their behalf.

Subd. 14. Theft, Property Damage, or Vandalism. Theft, property damage, or vandalism means theft or embezzlement of, damage to, destruction of, unauthorized possession of, or wrongful sale or gift of property.

Subd. 15. Unauthorized Access. Unauthorized access means accessing without authorization University property, facilities, services, or information systems, or obtaining or providing to another person the means of such unauthorized access, including, but not limited to, using or providing without authorization keys, access cards, or access codes.

Subd. 16. Disruptive Behavior. Disruptive behavior means willfully disrupting University events; participating in a campus demonstration that disrupts the normal operations of the University and infringes on the rights of other individuals; leading or inciting others to disrupt scheduled or normal activities of the University; engaging in intentional obstruction that interferes with freedom of movement, either pedestrian or vehicular, on campus; using sound amplification equipment on campus without authorization; or making or causing noise, regardless of the means, that disturbs authorized University activities or functions.

Subd. 17. Hazing. Hazing means any act taken on University property or in connection with any University-related group or activity that endangers the physical and/or mental health or safety of an individual (including, without limitation, an act intended to cause personal degradation or humiliation), or that destroys or removes public or private property, for the purpose of initiation in, admission to, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a group or organization.

Subd. 18. Rioting. Rioting means engaging in, or inciting others to engage in, harmful or destructive behavior in the context of an assembly of persons disturbing the peace on campus, in areas proximate to campus, or in any location when the riot occurs in connection with, or in response to, a University-sponsored event. Rioting includes, but is not limited to, such conduct as using or threatening violence to others, damaging or destroying property, impeding or impairing fire or other emergency services, or refusing the direction of an authorized person.

Subd. 19. Violation of University Rules. Violation of University rules means engaging in conduct that violates University, collegiate, or departmental regulations that have been posted or publicized, including provisions contained in University contracts with students.

Subd. 20. Violation of Local, State, or Federal Laws or Ordinances. Violation of local, state, or federal laws or ordinances means engaging in conduct that violates a local, state, or federal law, or ordinance, including, but not limited to, laws governing alcoholic beverages, drugs, gambling, sex offenses, indecent conduct, or arson.

Subd. 21. Persistent Violations. Persistent violations means engaging in repeated conduct or action in violation of this Code.

SECTION VII. SANCTIONS.

Student and student organizations found responsible for disciplinary offenses under the Student Conduct Code are subject to sanctions. Factors to consider in determining appropriate sanctions include: the nature of the offense, the severity of the offense, the culpability of the student or student organization, the impact on other students or members of the University community, and the opportunity for student development. Separation from the University through suspension or expulsion is a serious sanction that may be appropriate for: repeated violations of the Code, for serious scholastic dishonesty, and for misconduct that constitutes a threat to community safety or well-being (including, but not limited to harm to person and sexual assault), or significantly disrupts the rights of others or the operations of the University. The following sanctions may be imposed upon students or student organizations found to have violated the Code:

Subd. 1. Academic Sanction. An academic sanction means a sanction affecting the course or academic work of the student for violation of Section VI, Disciplinary Offenses, Subdivision 1, Scholastic Dishonesty.

Subd. 2. Warning. A warning means the issuance of an oral or written warning or reprimand.
Subd. 3. Probation. Probation means special status with conditions imposed for a defined period of time and includes the probability of more severe disciplinary sanctions if the student is found to violate any institutional regulation during the probationary period.

Subd. 4. Required Compliance. Required compliance means satisfying University requirements, work assignments, community service, or other discretionary assignments.

Subd. 5. Confiscation. Confiscation means confiscation of goods used or possessed in violation of University regulations or confiscation of falsified identification or identification wrongly used.

Subd. 6. Restitution. Restitution means making compensation for loss, injury, or damage.

Subd. 7. Restriction of Privileges. Restriction of privileges means the denial or restriction of specified privileges, including, but not limited to, access to an official transcript for a defined period of time.

Subd. 8. University Housing Suspension. University housing suspension means separation of the student from University Housing for a defined period of time.

Subd. 9. University Housing Expulsion. University housing expulsion means permanent separation of the student from University Housing.

Subd. 10. Suspension. Suspension means separation of the student from the University for a defined period of time, after which the student is eligible to return to the University. Suspension may include conditions for readmission.

Subd. 11. Expulsion. Expulsion means the permanent separation of the student from the University.

Subd. 12. Withholding of Diploma or Degree. Withholding of diploma or degree means the withholding of diploma or degree otherwise earned for a defined period of time or until the completion of assigned sanctions.

Subd. 13. Revocation of Admission or Degree. Revocation of admission or degree means revoking a student's admission to the University or revoking a degree already awarded by the University.

SECTION VIII. INTERIM SUSPENSION.
The president or delegate may impose an immediate suspension on a student or student organization pending a hearing before the appropriate disciplinary committee (1) to ensure the safety and well-being of members of the University community or to preserve University property, (2) to ensure the student's own physical or emotional safety and well-being, or (3) if the student or student organization poses an ongoing threat of disrupting or interfering with the operations of the University. During the interim suspension, the student or student organization may be denied access to all University activities or privileges for which the student or student organization might otherwise be eligible, including access to University housing or property. The student or student organization has a right to a prompt hearing before the president or delegate on the questions of identification and whether the interim suspension should remain in effect until the full hearing is completed.

SECTION IX. HEARING AND APPEALS OF STUDENT DISCIPLINE.
Any student or student organization charged with violation of the Code shall have the opportunity to receive a fair hearing and access to a campus-wide appeal. To safeguard the rights of students and student organizations, the president or delegate shall ensure that each campus has an appeals procedure to govern alleged violations of this policy. The appeals procedure shall provide both substantive and procedural fairness for the student or student organization alleged to have violated the Code and shall provide for resolution of cases within a reasonable period of time.

The appeals procedure must describe:
(a) grounds for an appeal;
(b) procedures for filing an appeal; and
(c) the nature of an appellate review.

SECTION X. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.
The president or delegate shall implement this policy, including publishing and distributing the Code and the procedures governing the student disciplinary process at the University.

1 Portions used with permission from New York Institute of Technology and University of Texas, San Antonio.

Supersedes: Existing disciplinary appeals policies in contradiction and specifically repeals the appeals policies dated February 9, 1979.

University of Minnesota Board of Regents Policy
Sexual Harassment
Adopted: May 11, 2012
Supersedes: (see end of policy)

SECTION I. SCOPE.
This policy governs the commitment to the prevention and awareness of and response to sexual harassment at the University of Minnesota (University).

SECTION II. DEFINITIONS.
(a) Sexual Harassment. Sexual harassment shall mean unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and/or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

(1) Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or academic advancement in any University activity or program;

(2) Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis of employment or academic decisions affecting this individual in any University activity or program; or

(3) Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or academic environment in any University activity or program.

(b) Retaliation. Retaliation shall mean any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment against an individual because the individual has made a report of sexual harassment or has participated in an investigation of sexual harassment by or of a University community member including:

(1) Firing, refusing to hire, or refusing to promote the individual;

(2) Departing from any customary employment or academic practice regarding the individual;

3) Transferring or assigning the individual to a lesser position in terms of wages, hours, job classification, job security, employment or academic status; (4) Informing another student, staff or faculty member who does not have a need to know that the individual has made a complaint or participated in an investigation of a complaint of sexual harassment;

(5) Impeding the individual's academic advancement in any University activity or program.

(c) Member of the University Community. Member of the University community shall mean any University faculty member, student, staff member, visitor or other individual engaged in any University activity or program.

SECTION III. GUIDING PRINCIPLES.
The following principles shall guide the commitment of the University for the prevention and awareness of and response to sexual harassment:

(a) Consistent with its academic mission and standards, the University is committed to achieving excellence by working to create an educational, employment and residential living environment that are free from sexual harassment.
(b) The University is committed to preventing and eliminating sexual harassment of faculty, staff and students through education and by encouraging all members of the University community to report any concerns or complaints about sexual harassment.

(c) As a community of faculty, staff and students engaged in research, scholarship, artistic activity, teaching and learning or activities that support them the University seeks to foster an environment that is equitable, humane and responsible and where all members are treated with dignity and respect.

SECTION IV. IMPLEMENTATION.

The University shall:

(a) Prohibit sexual harassment or retaliation.

(b) Ensure that department heads, deans, provosts, chancellors, vice presidents, and other supervisors and managers take timely and appropriate action when they know or should know of the existence of sexual harassment. Other persons who suspect sexual harassment should report it to an appropriate person in their unit or to the University equal opportunity officer.

(c) Adopt procedures on each campus for investigating and resolving complaints of sexual harassment in coordination with the director of equal opportunity and affirmative action.

(d) Address violations of this policy through disciplinary or other corrective action up to and including termination of employment or academic dismissal.

SECTION V. MONITORING.

The president or delegate shall address complaints of sexual harassment consistent with this policy and law and remedy any discriminatory or harassing practice that deviate from this policy.

SUPERSEDES: SEXUAL HARASSMENT DATED SEPTEMBER 11, 1998

7.3 Scholastic Dishonesty and Plagiarism

Students are responsible for maintaining scholastic honesty in their work at all times. Students engaged in scholastic dishonesty will be penalized, and offenses will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (OSCAI, www1.umn.edu/oscai/).

The University’s Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as “Plagiarism shall mean representing the words, creative work, or ideas of another person as one’s own without providing proper documentation of source. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Copying information word for word from a source without using quotation marks and giving proper acknowledgement by way of footnote, endnote, or in-text citation;
- Representing the words, ideas, or data of another person as one’s own without providing proper attribution to the author through quotation, reference, in-text citation, or footnote;
- Producing, without proper attribution, any form of work originated by another person such as a musical phrase, a proof, a speech, an image, experimental data, laboratory report, graphic design, or computer code;
- Paraphrasing, without sufficient acknowledgment, ideas taken from another person that the reader might reasonably mistake as the author’s; and
- Borrowing various words, ideas, phrases, or data from original sources and blending them with one’s own without acknowledging the sources.

It is the responsibility of all students to understand the standards and methods of proper attribution and to clarify with each instructor the standards, expectations, and reference techniques appropriate to the subject area and class requirements, including group work and internet use. Students are encouraged to seek out information about these methods from instructors and other resources and to apply this information in all submissions of academic work."
Serious, intentional plagiarism will result in a grade of "F" or "N" for the entire course. For more information on this policy and for a helpful discussion of preventing plagiarism, please consult University policies and procedures regarding academic integrity: http://www.oscai.umn.edu/

Students are urged to be careful that they properly attribute and cite others' work in their own writing. For guidelines for correctly citing sources, go to www.lib.umn.edu/instruction/tutorials and click on "Organizing and Citing Research."

In addition, original work is expected in all coursework. It is unacceptable for students to hand in assignments for any course for which they received credit in another course unless by prior agreement with the instructor. Building on a line of work begun in another course or leading to a thesis, dissertation, or final project is acceptable.

All issues relating to academic misconduct are referred to the Associate Dean for Learning Systems and Student Affairs.

7.4 University Senate Uniform Grading & Transcript Policy

A. Establishment and Use of University Grading Systems

1. There are two distinct grading systems on each campus of the University, A-B-C-D-F (with pluses and minuses as permitted by this policy) and S-N. The S-N system is a self-contained alternative to the A-F system and the two may not be combined for a particular student in a particular course. Students may receive grades or symbols only from the grading system under which they have registered for a course. This policy does not require any instructor to use pluses and minuses.
2. There are, in addition, registration symbols identified and described in this policy that carry neither grade nor credit.
3. No campus, college, or program is required to offer a course on the S-N grading system.
4. Any unit may choose to limit grades in a particular course to the A-F or the S-N system.
5. When both grading systems are available to a student, he or she must declare a choice of system as part of the initial registration for the course. The choice may not be changed after the end of the second week of classes (the first week in summer sessions).
6. Except as provided in this policy in Sections A (7) and F (12), no college may use any grading systems other than the ones established by this policy.
7. The Law School and the Medical School are exempt from the provisions of this policy, but will report their grading systems, and any changes therein, to the Faculty Senate. Any other units that believe that the national norms of their profession require a different grading system may make application to the Senate Committee on Educational Policy for an exemption from this policy. The Faculty Senate must approve all such exemptions.
8. The No Grade (NG) grading basis is used for certain graduate-level registrations as determined by the Graduate School.

B. Permanent Grades for Academic Work for Credit

1. The list below identifies the possible permanent grades that can be given for any course for which credit is to be awarded. These grades will be entered on a student's official transcript and, for an A, B, C, or D with permitted pluses and minuses, carry the indicated grade points. (Except for the Law School, the University does not award A+ grades, nor are D- grades permitted). The S grade will not carry grade points but the credits will count toward the student's degree program if allowed by the college, campus, or program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.000</td>
<td>Represents achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### A. Grade Definitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.667</td>
<td>Represents achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.333</td>
<td>Represents achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.000</td>
<td>Represents achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.667</td>
<td>Represents achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.333</td>
<td>Represents achievement that is satisfactory, which is equivalent to a C- or better.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.000</td>
<td>Represents achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.667</td>
<td>Represents achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.333</td>
<td>Represents achievement that is satisfactory, which is equivalent to a C- or better.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>Represents achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
<td>Represents achievement that is satisfactory, which is equivalent to a C- or better.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. These definitions apply to grades awarded to students who are not enrolled in graduate, post-baccalaureate, and professional programs, but the grade points are the same no matter the level or course of enrollment.

3. Instructors are permitted to hold graduate and undergraduate students who are in the same class to different standards of academic performance and accomplishment. The syllabus must make clear what the different standards will be for the different groups of students who may be enrolled in the class.

4. These are the general University standards. In connection with all symbols of achievement instructors will define for a class, at one of its earliest meetings and as explicitly as possible, the performance that will be necessary to earn each.

### C. Permanent Grades for Academic Work for which No Credit is Given

1. There are two permanent grades given for a course for which no credit is to be awarded. These grades will be entered on a student's official transcript.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&quot;0&quot; Represents failure and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I (see Section D). The F carries 0 grade points and the credits for the course do not count toward any academic degree program. The credit hours for the course will count in the grade point average.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>Represents no credit and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I (see Section C). The N carries no grade points and the credits for the course do not count toward any academic degree program. The credit hours for the course do not count in the grade point average.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. **Scholastic dishonesty**. Scholastic dishonesty in any portion of the academic work for a course will be grounds for awarding a grade of F or N for the entire course, at the discretion of the instructor. This provision allows instructors to award an F or an N to a student when
scholastic dishonesty is discovered; it does not require an instructor to do so. Students who
enroll for a course on the A-F grading system will receive an F if such grade is warranted;
students who enroll for a course on the S-N system will receive an N if such grade is
warranted. (See Board of Regents Policy: Student Conduct Code for a definition of scholastic
dishonesty.)

b. If the instructor determines that a grade of F or N for the course should be awarded to a
student because of scholastic dishonesty, the student cannot withdraw to avoid the F or N. If
the student withdrew from the course before the scholastic dishonesty was discovered or
before the instructor concluded that there was scholastic dishonesty, and the instructor (or
the appropriate hearing body if the student requests a hearing) determines that the student
should receive the F or the N, the student will be re-registered for the course and the F and N
grade will be entered on the transcripts.

D. Incompletes

1. There will be a symbol I (incomplete) awarded to indicate that the work of the course has not been
completed. The I will be assigned at the discretion of the instructor when, due to extraordinary
circumstances (as determined by the instructor), the student who has successfully completed a
substantial portion of the course’s work with a passing grade was prevented from completing the work
of the course on time.

2. The assignment of an I requires a written agreement between the instructor and student specifying
the time and manner in which the student will complete the course requirements. In no event may any
such written agreement allow a period of longer than one year to complete the course requirements
(except as provided in section D (8).

3. Work to make up an I must be submitted within one year of the last day of final examinations of the
term in which the I was given for all students except graduate and professional students. If not
submitted by that time, the I will automatically change to an F (if the student was registered on the A-
F system) or an N (if the student was registered on the S-N system) for the course. If an I changes
automatically to an F or an N, the instructor has the discretion to reinstate the I for one additional year
only.

4. For graduate and professional students, an I remains on the transcript until changed by the instructor
or department.

5. When an I is changed to another symbol, the I is removed from the record. Once an I has become an
F or an N, under the provisions of the preceding paragraph, it may subsequently be converted to any
other grade, upon petition by the instructor (or the department if the instructor is unavailable) to the
college.

6. A student does not need to be registered at the University in order to complete the work necessary to
convert an I to a grade with credit in the time and manner previously agreed upon between the
student and the instructor. The instructor is expected to turn in the new grade within four weeks of the
date the work was submitted by the student. (Depending on the timing of when the work is turned in
and the ability of the instructor to award a grade, an F or an N may appear temporarily on the
transcript.) Students who have received an I in a course are not allowed to sit in on the class again
(that is, without registering for it) to complete the grade.

7. If a student graduates with an I on the transcript, the I will remain permanently an I. A student may
petition his or her college, within a year of graduation, to complete the work in the course and receive
a grade. The degree GPA is frozen upon graduation but the cumulative GPA will reflect the change in
GPA if a student chooses to complete the work and change the I to a grade within a year of
graduation.

8. When students are called to active military duty, and reach agreement with their instructor(s) to take
an incomplete, they will have up to one calendar year following their discharge from active duty to
complete their incomplete(s).

9. Receipt of an I in a course does not create an entitlement for a student to take the course a second
time.
E. Other Transcript Symbols

1. Auditing a course.
   a. There will be a symbol V, visitor, indicating registration as an auditor or visitor, which will carry no credit and no grade.
   b. Students auditing a course are required to pay full tuition but do not take exams and are not required to do homework. An auditor is entered on the class roster (grade report), is counted as filling a seat in a controlled entry course, and is counted in an instructor's student contact hours.
   c. Students may not sit in on a course without registering for it.
   d. A student will be allowed to take a previously audited class for a grade.

2. Withdrawing from a course.
   a. There will be a symbol W, withdrawal, entered upon a student's record when the student officially withdraws from a course in accordance with procedures established by the student's college or campus. The W will be entered on the transcript irrespective of the student's academic standing in that course if the student withdraws from the course during the third through eighth week of class (Twin Cities) or the third through ninth week of class (Morris) or during the second or third weeks of summer sessions.
   b. If a student officially withdraws from a course during the first two weeks of classes, there will be no record of that course registration entered on the student's transcript.
   c. One-time late withdrawal: Each student may, once during his or her undergraduate enrollment, withdraw from a course without college approval, and receive the transcript symbol W, after the deadline for withdrawal and at any time up to and including the last day of instruction for that course. A student may not withdraw after completing the final examination or equivalent for a course.
   d. Except as provided in the preceding section, withdrawal after the deadlines will require approval of the college and may not be granted solely because a student is failing the course; there must be extenuating non-academic circumstances justifying late withdrawal.

3. Continuation course. There will be a symbol X, indicating a student may continue in a continuation course in which a grade cannot be determined until the full sequence of courses is completed. The instructor will submit a grade for each X when the student has completed the sequence.

4. Course in progress. There will be a symbol K, assigned by an instructor to indicate the course is still in progress and that a grade cannot be assigned at the present time.

F. Other Provisions

1. Zero-credit courses. Courses that carry zero credits do not count in either term or cumulative grade point averages. Such courses carry normal tuition and fee charges.

2. All grades for academic work are based on the quality of the work submitted, not on hours of effort. Instructors have the responsibility and authority to determine how final grades are assigned, including, in classes where they use numeric scores, the method that will be used to translate numeric scores into letter grades. (Examples: the instructor may decide that 90% equals an A, 80% a B, and so on, or the instructor may decide that the top 10% of the scores will receive an A, the next 20% a B, and so on.)

3. Counting credits toward a University degree.
   a. A course that carries University credit toward a degree in one department or college must carry University credit in all other departments and colleges (except insofar as those credits exceed the limit on skills credits established in the policy Credit Requirements for an Undergraduate (baccalaureate) Degree).
   b. A department or college has discretion to decide whether a course completed in another unit will count towards the specific college or department/program/major requirements.

4. When a student graduates, no further changes to his or her transcript will be made (to that portion of the transcript related to the program from which the student graduated) except as expressly allowed under the provisions of this policy.
5. **Releasing transcripts.** The University's official transcript, the chronological record of the student's enrollment and academic performance, will be released by the University only at the request of the student or in accord with state or federal statutes.

6. **Repeating courses.**
   a. An undergraduate student may repeat a course only once (except as noted in section 6(c)). The college offering the course may grant an exception to this provision. [Morris only] Students who receive a grade of S or C or higher may repeat a course only if space permits.
   b. When a student repeats a course before receiving his/her degree, (a) both grades for the course will appear on the official transcript, (b) the course credits may not be counted more than once toward degree and program requirements, and (c) only the last enrollment for the course will count in the student's grade point average.
   c. Provisions 6 (a) and (b) of this policy will not apply to courses (1) using the same number but where students study different content each term of enrollment and (2) to courses designated as "repetition allowed."
   d. If an undergraduate student repeats a course after his/her degree has been awarded, the original course grade will not be excluded from the degree GPA nor will the new grade be included in the degree GPA.
   e. Bracketing is the practice of not including a course in the calculation of a student's GPA and not counting the course as satisfying any degree requirements, including electives, because a student has repeated a course. When a student repeats a course, all prior attempts are bracketed and only the most recent attempt counts (except as provided in 6 (c)). No department or college may bracket the courses of another department or college for any reason other than course repetition. An F may not be bracketed with an N. A University course may not be bracketed with a course taken at another institution. The Graduate School does not bracket courses.
   f. When a student enrolled in the Graduate School repeats a course, provisions 6(a) and (b) apply, but all grades for the course will be counted in the student's grade point average.

7. **Grade point average.** Every student will have calculated, both at the end of each grading period (quarter or semester) and cumulatively, a grade point average, which will be the ratio of grade points earned divided by the number of credits attempted with grades of A-F (including pluses and minuses). Both the term and cumulative grade point average will appear on each student's record.

8. **Final grade due date.** Final grades will be submitted to the Registrar no later than three business days after the last day of the final examination period.

9. This policy may be modified from time to time but existing transcripts will not be modified when there are changes in policy. Changes to the grading and transcript policy will be reflected on the legend on the back of the official transcript.

10. **Compiling and reporting grading data.**
    a. Data on the mean grade point average by designator and course level, on the percentage of A's awarded by course level, and on overall collegiate grade point averages will be prepared for grades awarded each Fall Semester. Data should be reported for all undergraduate students. Cells in the tables with fewer than 10 grades should be suppressed, in order to protect the privacy of students, but the numbers should be included in the totals.
    b. The Office of Institutional Research will produce the required tables and provide them to the chair of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy and to the Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.
    c. The data tables and graphs required in 10 (a) and (b) will be reported annually to the Faculty Senate. These data should also be provided to all deans and department heads and made available to faculty and students.

11. All undergraduate colleges and campuses will publish each term a dean's list, consisting of students who achieved a 3.666 GPA or higher and who completed a minimum of 12 credits on the A-F grading system. There will be a transcript notation for each term that a student achieves the dean's list. Students who have chosen to suppress all their public information (which includes academic awards and honors) will not be included on the published dean's list.

12. **Alternative grading systems.**
    a. Only the Senate Committee on Educational Policy will have the authority to grant to individual colleges or campuses permission to use alternative grading methods outside the provisions
of this official University system, for a specified period (but no longer than five years), and only for the purpose of experimenting with a new grading system for possible system-wide adoption. Such permission may be granted if the proposal does not interfere significantly with the registration options of students from other colleges, campuses, and programs. Such alternative systems will be reported for information to the University Senate as soon as permitted and, after the specified period, will be re-evaluated, either to be discontinued, or with University Senate approval on recommendation from the Senate Committee on Educational policy, made part of the system-wide policy. Except for the provisions of this section 6, no college or program may use any grading system except for the one contained in this policy.

b. Because alternative grading systems, once used, must be maintained by the University forever afterward (to preserve the integrity of the transcripts), the Senate Committee on Educational Policy will rarely grant permission for alternative grading systems. It will consider doing so only when (1) those who propose it can make a persuasive case that the alternative is a more accurate and effective way to measure and record student academic performance, and (2) there is strong reason to believe that the proposal will be useful to all colleges and campuses of the University (except the Law School and Medical School).

7.5 Health Insurance

The University requires all students to have health care coverage to ensure they have access to medical care and can maintain good health, which is essential for academic success.

The Office of Student Health Benefits (OSHB), a unit of the Office for Student Affairs, administers health, dental and other benefits and enrollment for all eligible University students, residents, fellows, and interns. Please understand that this requirement is University-wide and not specific to the School of Public Health.

All students who are 1) admitted to a degree program*, and 2) registered for six or more credits per semester (or three or more credits during summer term) that count towards the automatic assessment of the Student Services Fee, are required by the University of Minnesota to have health plan coverage. Students who meet both of these criteria are automatically enrolled in the University-sponsored Student Health Benefit Plan. Students may choose to waive the University-sponsored Student Health Benefit Plan by providing proof of enrollment in an alternative Eligible Health Plan.

*Non-degree seeking, certificate-seeking, and distance learning students are not eligible to enroll in the University-sponsored Student Health Benefit Plan. Please contact the Office of Student Health Benefits to determine exact eligibility status.

The University also requires all international students and their dependents to purchase the University-sponsored Student Health Benefit Plan unless they are eligible for a waiver. International scholars visiting the University for more than 31 days are also required to enroll in the University-sponsored Student Health Benefit Plan. Scholars who will be at the University for 31 days or less may choose not to enroll in the University-sponsored Student Health Benefit Plan, but are required to carry their own health plan coverage for the duration of their visit to the University (must meet J-1 U.S. Federal regulation requirements).

Benefits

The Student Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) is a cost-effective, comprehensive health plan designed to meet the unique needs of students.

Key features of the SHBP include:
• No deductible;
• 100% coverage for routine preventive care like annual checkups and eye exams;
• Minimal out-of-pocket costs;
• Unlimited lifetime benefits; and
• Emergency travel assistance through FrontierMEDEX.

Many students find the University-sponsored plan to be a better value than alternative plans under parents, spouses, and employers, or individual health plan options.

The Office of Student Health Benefits negotiated with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota to create the most robust student health plan possible. And because the Office of Student Health Benefits receives these features at cost—meaning with no inflated prices—the SHBP is an extremely cost-effective health plan for students. Plan details can be found online at www.shb.umn.edu/index.htm

**Long Term Care Disability Insurance Fee**

www.shb.umn.edu/twincities/ahc-students/disability-insurance-plan.htm

Academic Health Center students (which includes the School of Public Health), enrolled in a qualifying AHC program, will be automatically covered under a group Long Term Disability plan while a student. **This coverage is not optional.** They will see a charge of $42.50—an average cost of $7.08 per month—for this coverage on their student account once at the beginning of each fall and spring semester. Payment of this fee for two consecutive semesters provides year around coverage until graduation from their program.

**Waiver**

Eligible students are automatically enrolled in the University-sponsored Student Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) unless they waive the coverage. A charge for coverage on the SHBP will appear on your student account. The coverage and charge may be waived for Fall 2015 if you complete the waiver process per established guidelines by **September 15, 2015**. Approved waivers are valid for one year. You are eligible to waive enrollment on this plan if you have health plan coverage for the entirety of each semester. If you do not appropriately waive the SHBP by **September 15, 2015**, you will be enrolled and billed for the entire semester. Additional information and deadlines for other terms can be found on the website for the Office of Student Health Benefits.

**To waive enrollment in the SHBP** please submit details of your active health plan coverage when you register for classes, by providing the following:

1. the name of your insurance company,
2. your member ID number,
3. your group number, and
4. your payer ID number.

This information can be entered provided online through the deadline in the [MyU Student Center](http://www.shb.umn.edu/twincities/ahc-students/disability-insurance-plan.htm).

**Questions and More Information**

Office of Student Health Benefits
University of Minnesota
410 Church Street S.E., N323
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Phone: 612-624-0627 or 1-800-232-9017
### 7.6 Leave of Absence

**Leave of Absence**

Graduate students who experience circumstances that prevent them from maintaining active status through continuous registration (excluding summer term), and who, through consultation with their Director of Graduate Studies (DGS), Program Director, advisor(s), and relevant offices determine that a leave of absence (LOA) is appropriate, must request a LOA from their college office using this form. Graduate students must receive approval for an official Leave of Absence.

Forms must be submitted to the School of Public Health Office of Admissions and Student Resources, A395 Mayo Memorial Building, MMC 819, 420 Delaware Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

### 7.7 Privacy

The School of Public Health is committed to protecting the privacy of students, staff, and research participants. Students have privacy rights that assure confidentiality of their student records. Research Participants have many rights that guarantee their safety and their privacy.

Often School of Public Health students work as Teaching Assistants and Research Assistants [that may require exposure] to private information. Please be [aware] of privacy laws, complete required privacy trainings, and act with the highest honor towards all private information.

For further information, go to [privacy.ahc.umn.edu](http://privacy.ahc.umn.edu).

**FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act): Student records**

FERPA grants four specific rights to a post-secondary student:

1. To see the information that the institution is keeping on the student.
2. To seek amendment to those records and in certain cases append a statement to the record.
3. To consent to disclosure of his/her records.
4. To file a complaint with the FERPA Office in Washington.

In addition:

- U of MN Faculty and Staff have a legal responsibility, under FERPA, to protect the confidentiality of your student educational records.
- Student educational records are considered confidential and may not be released without written consent of the student.
- Student information stored in electronic format must be secure and available only to those entitled to access that information.

**HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act)**

HIPAA is a federal law related to the privacy of an individual’s health care information.

All students in the Academic Health Center (AHC), including School of Public Health students, must complete the University’s online HIPAA Privacy training.

Login to [www.ahc.umn.edu/privacy/training/home.html](http://www.ahc.umn.edu/privacy/training/home.html). Assigned courses are available for completion through ULearn. See the Training Instructions page for step-by-step instructions.
7.8 Immunizations

According to OSHA regulations, CDC guidelines, and University of Minnesota policy, Academic Health Center (AHC) students are required to have a health clearance as a condition of enrollment.

More details and the downloadable Student Immunization Record form are available from Boynton Health Service at http://www.bhs.umn.edu/index.htm and click on immunizations.

7.9 Criminal Background Checks

Students should be aware that certain facilities are required by Minnesota law to submit paperwork for a criminal background check for all personnel with direct, unsupervised client contact. Students placed in such facilities may be asked by the institution to submit paperwork, or the institution may require that they have this check facilitated by the School of Public Health or Division. The School is prepared to assist students with this process. Facilities that are covered by this law are hospitals, boarding care homes, outpatient surgical centers, nursing homes, home care agencies, residential care homes, and board/lodging establishments providing health supervision services. Client contact must be direct and unsupervised (outside the hearing or vision of a supervisor at the facility). In the unlikely event that this situation arises, students should call the School of Public Health Office of Admissions and Student Resources at 612.626.3500 or go to A395 Mayo for assistance.

7.10 Use of Human Subjects in Research

Any research you conduct while a student at the University of Minnesota may be subject to review and approval by the University’s Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the protection of human research subjects. This applies to projects conducted inside or outside the University. For research conducted outside of the University, students may still need IRB approval from the University even if approval has been obtained from an external agency.

The IRB is a committee of faculty, students, and community members that follows federal regulations and ethical principles in order to protect human research subjects. Learn more about the IRB here: http://www.research.umn.edu/irb.

The committee is most concerned with the researcher’s interface with subjects rather than the background rationale for the project. Specifically, this refers to the recruitment process, the interviewer’s experience and expertise, how subjects are informed about the study and expectations for their participation, and how subjects are debriefed after their participation so that subjects can make an informed decision about participation.

If your proposed research project is subject to IRB review, you must submit an application to the IRB before you begin. You cannot begin any regulated research until you have IRB approval. This includes sending out recruitment flyers or emails, accessing private data, or doing any aspect of your research. You may not be permitted to use any data that was collected without prior IRB approval. The IRB does not have the authority to approve a study after it has begun.

The IRB approval process may take as little as one week, but can take up to 2 months or longer. “Last minute” approvals are not possible, so it is important to plan ahead. Applications for international research, research with children, research about illegal or stigmatizing behavior, research with vulnerable populations, or research that incorporates deception often require more review time.

What research must be reviewed by the IRB?

If you and/or your faculty advisor are even a little uncertain about whether your project needs IRB approval, email or call the IRB. IRB staff members are trained to help you and your advisor determine if you must submit an IRB application. Contact your faculty advisor or the Executive Director of the IRB at 612-626-4851 if you do not receive a helpful response. Again, you may not be able to use any data collected if you conduct research that should have been reviewed by the IRB.
Any research involving human subjects must be reviewed by the IRB. This means that if you are conducting research (which is a systematic investigation designed to contribute to generalizable knowledge) with human subjects (which are living individuals about whom you collect information) your research is subject to IRB approval. In short, if your research project involves living people, you should at least contact the IRB or submit an application.

Projects that are not subject to IRB review include studies that rely on existing publicly available data, such as US Census data. If you are only doing an analysis of publicly available data (i.e., data you can download from a public website) you do not need IRB approval to use it. Technically, such work is research but does not involve living individuals from whom you collect information. On the other hand, an oral history study may not require IRB because it is not a systematic investigation designed to contribute to generalizable knowledge. However, there are many grey areas, so students proposing such work are strongly encouraged to contact the IRB to determine whether their project requires approval.

Additional guidelines for students involved in international fieldwork

If you plan to use data collected as part of your international field experience for your master’s project, you are strongly encouraged to contact the IRB before your field experience begins to ensure that your project is approved in a timely manner. You will not be allowed to take data out of the host country without IRB approval.

How do I apply for IRB approval?

If, after contacting the IRB or speaking with your faculty advisor, your project needs to be reviewed, the next step is to browse and study the IRB website.

Before submitting your application, you must complete online training in the protection of human research subjects. To do this, follow the TRAINING tab on the IRB website to the CITI training. For most public health students, the CITI social science module is suggested. There is no charge for the training but it takes up to four hours to complete. You will need your UMN X.500 username and password.

Your research may be exempt from IRB review. However, only the IRB can determine this, so you must submit an Exempt Research Application to the IRB to have your exemption approved. There are four categories of research that are exempt from IRB review. Exempt public health research typically involves exemption #2 (e.g., low risk anonymous surveys or observation of public behavior when no personal identifiers are recorded) or #4 (e.g., use of existing anonymous data from a professor's study). For more information on these categories and copies of the appropriate Exempt Research Applications, click the IRB REVIEW PROCESS tab on the IRB website and then click on EXEMPT CATEGORIES.

If your research is subject to IRB review and is not exempt, you must fill out a regular IRB application form, which can be found on the IRB website under the FORMS tab. Most public health studies should fill out the Social Science form. The Medical form is typically for experimental drug studies or similar types of research. Call or write the IRB if you are unsure of which form to fill out. Also, there are several appendices on the IRB website that you may be required to include with your application. One appendix is surely needed: Appendix J, which is for student research. Your advisor will help you fill this out.

The IRB forms may be submitted by email to the IRB (see Contact Information, above). Be sure to "cc" your advisor if she/he did not actually sign the documents: the IRB accepts the "cc" as a digital signature.

What does the IRB look for?

When reviewing your application, the IRB will look for the following things:

1. You have completed (CITI) training
2. Your advisor has completed Appendix J and is "cc'd" on the submission email or has signed the
3. Risks to subjects are minimized
4. Risks to subjects are reasonable in relation to anticipated benefits
5. Selection of subjects is equitable and fair
6. Informed consent is sought from each prospective participant
7. Adequate preparation is taken to protect the privacy and confidentiality of subjects
8. Adequate provisions are made for the ongoing monitoring of the subjects’ welfare

Some tips

- **Call or email the IRB if you have any questions.** They are paid to help you and have seen thousands of studies, many just like yours!
- Students should work closely with their faculty advisors when completing IRB forms.
- If you are collecting primary data, you will need a copy of the questions you intend to ask subjects, a protocol for collecting data, a consent form with all the elements (see website), and a plan to encrypt identifiable data. If you will be using participant recruitment materials (letters, advertisements, etc.), you must also include them along with your application.
- The IRB looks very closely at research involving children, prisoners, incapacitated persons, the elderly, deception, and higher risk interventions.
- If you’re hoping to work with children, plan on getting informed consent from parents.
- All research entails some risk to subjects, even if merely boredom. It is best to overestimate the risks your study poses to subjects and to underestimate its benefits.
- Write short, pithy answers to each question on the IRB form.
- The length of time it takes for the IRB to review and approve your application is highly correlated with the completeness and quality of your application. Incomplete or vague answers often result in “deferrals” which can greatly lengthen the time to approval.

### 7.11 International Student Requirements

**Note:** International student requirements may change over time. For up-to-date information go to [www.isss.umn.edu](http://www.isss.umn.edu).

**Global Gopher Online Orientation**

The Global Gopher Online Orientation is a tool to help new international students prepare for their arrival at the University by learning about certain expectations and requirements. Students are required to complete the Global Gopher Online Orientation at least one week before their Immigration Check-in (information below).

**Immigration Check-in**

All new international students must visit the University of Minnesota International Student & Scholar Services office (ISSS) shortly after arrival in Minnesota. See [www.isss.umn.edu](http://www.isss.umn.edu) for directions, office hours, and services. ISSS will review immigration documents, register new students for the International Student Orientation Program, and provide information on how to release registration holds. These processes are mandated by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS); formerly known as Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

International students are allowed to enter the U.S. only within 30 days of their program start date. Regulations and SEVIS requirements provide strict guidelines regarding this date, to coincide with the term of admission.
Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)
SEVIS is an electronic reporting system that provides the Department of Homeland Security with information on international students and scholars in the United States who hold F, J, and M visas. This internet-based record-keeping system maintains electronic data on all international students. The system tracks entries into and departures from the U.S.

In addition to the information routinely reported on I-20 and DS-2019 forms, other information is reported, including but not limited to: academic status, employment, and residential address.

For more information on SEVIS requirements, including those listed below, go to www.isss.umn.edu.

Academic Status
International students must maintain full-time status. MPH students must register for at least 6 credits each semester. Under special conditions, students may apply for an exemption from the full-time status rule at the ISSS office. Students must apply for the exemption before registering for less than a full course of study.

Address Change
International students MUST update their address within 10 days of a change of address to maintain their legal immigration status. For more information go to www.isss.umn.edu/INSGen/address.html

8. GROUPS, ASSOCIATIONS AND SOCIETIES

8.1 Student Groups

School of Public Health Student Senate
The Student Senate is comprised of graduate students of the University of Minnesota, School of Public Health. The Senate serves two main functions:

- The Student Senate is an official organization of the University of Minnesota, School of Public Health, representing the SPH graduate students in several university committees.
- The Student Senate also acts as the public health student association of the University of Minnesota, organizing activities and events among the graduate students in the school. They participate in volunteer activities around the Twin Cities, organize social events, and address student needs and concerns to the School and the divisions.

The SPH Student Senate welcomes input from all students from the school and invite you to join the Senate and help us serve the needs of the SPH students. Contact us at sphss@umn.edu.

The student senate officers for the 2015-2016 academic year are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Javi Monardez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VP of Communications</td>
<td>Maria Bitanga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VP of Operations</td>
<td>Daniel (Danny) Ackert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VP of Student Advancement</td>
<td>Kristen Werner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VP of Finance</td>
<td>Rebecca (Becky) Horton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student Senate 2015-2016 Leadership Team:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Events Committee Lead(s)</td>
<td>Amanda Pederson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ellen Howard (Pamoja)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA)  
www.umnpsg.org/  
The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly serves many functions on this campus, chief among them ensuring that the University, in all of its offices, programs, schools and departments, works in the interests of excellence in the graduate and professional experience. GAPSA and its coordinate councils advocate on your behalf to make the University of Minnesota the premier institution for graduate and professional education in the nation, and try to make sure students have a smooth, supported, even fun time getting their degree.

Council of Graduate Students (COGS)  
www.cogs.umn.edu  
The Council of Graduate Students (COGS) is the official student governing board of the Graduate School, representing all Graduate Students at the U of M. The U administration looks to COGS for consultation and direction on all matters pertaining to the Graduate School experience, including Graduate Assistant issues.

Center for Health Interdisciplinary Programs (CHIP)  
www.chip.umn.edu  
The Center for Health Interdisciplinary Programs or CHIP is a department of the Office of Education in the Academic Health Center Senior Vice President’s Office. The CHIP Student Center serves AHC students in the schools of dentistry, dental hygiene, health care administration, medical technology, medicine, mortuary science, nursing, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physical therapy, public health, and veterinary medicine.

CHIP exists to foster interdisciplinary relationships and teamwork between Academic Health Center students. CHIP provides educational, leadership, and service opportunities for students.

Minnesota International Student Association (MISA)  
http://www.misa-umntc.com/  
The Minnesota International Student Association (MISA) is a non-profit organization that aims at working in the interest of international students at the University of Minnesota. MISA represents the international community of the University of Minnesota Campus. There are about 3000 international students on this campus, whose length of stay varies from 3 months to several years. MISA plays a vibrant role in students’ social lives, by being the forum for international students on the U of M campus and by organizing events throughout the year.

Other Groups  
www.sua.umn.edu/groups/  
More than 400 student groups on campus are registered with the University’s Student Unions and Activities Office, including academic societies, cultural centers, sports clubs, political action groups and fraternities and sororities. These organizations provide students with endless involvement opportunities and the chance to interact with others who share a similar interest.

8.2 Public Health Related Associations and Agencies

Minnesota Public Health Association  
www.mpha.net/  
Founded in 1907, the Minnesota Public Health Association (MPHA) is a statewide professional organization actively serving Minnesotans, our members, and the public health profession through its efforts and activities. MPHA is an affiliate of the American Public Health Association.

American Public Health Association  
www.apha.org  
The American Public Health Association (APHA) is the oldest and largest organization of public health professionals in the world, representing more than 50,000 members from over 50 occupations of public health.
**Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health**  
www.aspph.org/  
The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) is the only national organization representing the deans, faculty, and students of the accredited member schools of public health and other programs seeking accreditation as schools of public health.

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
www.cdc.gov  
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is recognized as the lead federal agency for protecting the health and safety of people - at home and abroad, providing credible information to enhance health decisions, and promoting health through strong partnerships. CDC serves as the national focus for developing and applying disease prevention and control, environmental health, and health promotion and education activities designed to improve the health of the people of the United States.

**National Institutes of Health**  
www.nih.gov  
Begun as a one-room Laboratory of Hygiene in 1887, the National Institutes of Health today is one of the world's foremost medical research centers, and the Federal focal point for medical research in the U.S.

**American College of Healthcare Executives**  
www.ache.org  
The American College of Healthcare Executives is an international professional society of more than 30,000 healthcare executives who lead hospitals, healthcare systems and other healthcare organizations.

### 8.3 Alumni Societies

**School of Public Health Alumni Society**  
www.minnesotaalumni.org  
sphalumni.umn.edu  
The University of Minnesota School of Public Health Alumni Community is represented around the world. Consisting of 10,000+ alumni, the SPH Alumni Community plays a key role in the School and public health community as they continue to shape public health policy, conduct ground-breaking research, lead innovative public health solutions and contribute to the future of public health.

Since its inception in 1982, the School of Public Health Alumni Society has worked to serve alumni and students, promote excellence in programs and serve the needs of the School. As an extension of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association, the SPH Alumni Society currently has more than 1,400 members. Membership is open to all graduates, former students who have completed a minimum of 12-18 credits, faculty and administrators of the school.

The SPH Alumni Society is committed to building relationships with students through various activities, including the SPH Mentor Program, partnering with SPH Student Senate, and bringing alumni to students to bridge professional opportunities.

**MHA Alumni Association**  
mhaalumni.umn.edu/  
The Minnesota MHA Alumni Association was established in 1948 to facilitate ongoing support of the Healthcare Administration program and to continue fellowship among alumni. With 2200+ active alumni, the Association supports MHA students through scholarships and by providing learning opportunities, and strives to provides its alumni with education, engagement and philanthropy.