HCO-Health Care Organization

HCO 600. Management and Policy in Public Health Systems and Services. 3 Hours.
This course is a departmental core course for students matriculating in HCOP. The course focuses on the policy and organizational levels related to public health and the overall improvement of population health. This course content examines models of public health policy and the political context of policy making; the organization, financing, and delivery of public health systems and programs; and planning, management, and leadership concepts needed to improve the public’s health.

HCO 601. Health Economics. 3 Hours.
Economics as systematic way of thinking about use of resources. Tools of economics applied to issues of organization, delivery, financing, and outcome of health care. Develops economic principles and describes system of health care financing and delivery in the United States, providing basis for analyzing health management and policy options. With didactic coursework provided in HCO 601, doctoral students prepare a major paper under instructor's direction.

HCO 602. MCH Evidence-Based Strategies Seminar. 1 Hour.
Building on the focus of the MPH core curriculum, this course will focus on using evidence-based and informed strategies in addressing maternal and child health issues in both domestic and global settings. Topics will include basic research principles, stages of research development, and practical issues of reviewing the literature and preparing and presenting at professional meetings. Students will use evidence to develop a policy memo around an MCH issue.

HCO 603. Public Health Policy. 3 Hours.
Theoretical framework and concepts used to understand evolution of public health policies and processes of policy formulation, implementation, and change. Significance of health policy for public health practical foundation of knowledge and skills useful in analyzing and responding to policy environment. Doctoral student will have an emphasis on independent analysis of health policy issues. Preq: HCO 601 or HCO 701 recommended.

HCO 604. Health Economics and Public Health Policy. 3 Hours.
Economics is the study of choices in a world of scarcity. This course applies basic microeconomic principles to the study of the US health care system and public health policy. The first goal of the course is to provide students with an understanding of the core economic concepts (scarcity, economic welfare and market failures) which shape health care and public health policy. Next, students will be introduced to two competing theories of government – public interest theory and the economic theory of regulation – which will serve as a foundation for thinking about the role of government in health policy. Finally, the remainder of the semester will provide students with a comprehensive overview of the US health care system including public and private health insurance, hospitals, physicians, the pharmaceutical industry and current issues in health care reform.

HCO 605. Foundations of Maternal and Child Health: Programs and Policies for Women, Children, and Families. 3 Hours.
The purpose of this course is to provide students with knowledge about current major Maternal and Child Health (MCH) issues (health, social, economic, and environmental) and programs and policies designed to address these issues among women of reproductive age, infants, and children. This course will focus primarily on public health problems and solutions of MCH populations in the United States. In addition to introductory information on specific health issues related to children and families, the evolution, status, and future performance of selected federal, state, and community programs will be analyzed. Course work also includes a review of factors that influence policy development and program implementation, including: 1) research, 2) data issues, 3) current public policy reform movements, and 4) advocacy. The course will include lectures, discussions, and other activities. Students will gain information on the history of MCH and public health, selected MCH issues for each stage of growth and development, the importance of family and communities in addressing MCH issues, and federal and state-specific programs and policies that address the needs of MCH populations.

HCO 606. Fundamentals of Maternal and Child Health Part II: Application of Essential MCH Skills. 3 Hours.
The purpose of this course is to introduce students to basic research methods used by public health practitioners, with a specific focus on their use in the MCH field and to introduce the needs assessment, program planning, and evaluation processes specifically related to public health and finally to provide practical educational experiences to develop skills in applying several research methods and the range of activities needed to conduct needs assessments and use the information gathered to plan, direct, and evaluate public health programs and impact public health policies.
Prerequisites: HCO 605 [Min Grade: C]

HCO 607. Public Health Law. 3 Hours.
An introductory course in public health law designed for graduate students in public health. There are no prerequisites for this course. The purpose of the course is to introduce non-lawyers to the United States legal system and to the basic principles of law relevant to public health practitioners. It is intended to provide students with basic legal knowledge to assist them in communicating with attorneys about potential legal issues that may arise in formulating policy and exercising managerial authority. An overarching theme of the course is the tension between community interests and individual rights.

HCO 608. Reproductive Health. 3 Hours.
This course is intended to provide students with a foundation in reproductive health. It examines reproductive health issues, problems, policies, programs and services primarily in low-to-middle income countries.

HCO 609. Public Health Program Planning, Implementation and Evaluation. 3 Hours.
The purposes of this course is (1) to introduce the needs assessment and program planning, implementation, and evaluation processes specifically related to public health; and (2) to provide practical educational experiences to develop skills in applying rigorous methods and essential skills needed to conduct needs assessments and use the information gathered to plan, direct, and evaluate public health programs and impact public health policies. This course is required for all HCOP students.
HCO 610. Global Health Law. 3 Hours.
This course will provide a systematic overview of global health law. It will focus on the diplomatic, political, social and economic factors that impact the substance of global health law. I will provide an introduction to the nature and sources of international law as well as the role of multiple international agencies that affect global health (e.g., WHO, UNAIDS, World Bank). Key themes in the course include: health equity; global solidarity; health in all policies; good governance, and the right to health care.

HCO 611. Child Health and Development: Womb to Young to Adulthood. 3 Hours.
The premise of this course is that an understanding of principles of development is critical to developing, implementing, and evaluating effective programs and services for children and women of childbearing age. Through didactic, experiential, and interactive learning activities students will explore the processes that influence children’s health and development and the supports and services that are needed to enhance those mechanisms. Issues for children and adolescents with special health care needs and well as typically developing children and youth will be included in lectures, discussions, and class projects.

HCO 612. Strategic Management in Health Programs. 3 Hours.
Provides a framework for strategic management in health care and public health organizations and provides opportunities to develop strategic plans for health care organization. Objectives are: to relate prior knowledge and experience to specific problem-solving situations; encourage strategic thinking in decision making in health care organizations; provide opportunities to engage in and manage a group decision-making process; gain experience in analyzing the public health environment and prepare a strategic plan for that environment; and develop implementation plans to accomplish strategic plans.

HCO 613. Health Information in Technology & Policy. 3 Hours.
The overall purpose of this course is to familiarize students with current issues associated with health information technology and their impact on the U.S. healthcare system.

HCO 615. Finance for Health Professionals. 3 Hours.
The goal of this class is to teach the principles necessary for effective financial management in healthcare to individuals who are not experienced financial executives. The focus of the class is on tools and techniques that assist managers in creating information to support managerial decision making. The course uses the case method of instruction, case analysis, and lectures.

HCO 618. Management Concepts in Public Health Programs. 3 Hours.
Management Concepts in Public Health Programs is an overview of management concepts applied to public health agencies and programs. In recognition of public and private management’s responsibility for organizational success, the course approaches management by examining recurring themes in management thought. Selected readings are provided for each class session that apply the concepts examined to the health care sector. Some of the articles relate to domestic (USA) while others relate to management in the international context. Some of the articles focus on public health organizations, some on hospitals, others on nursing homes, etc.

HCO 619. Social Work in Public Health. 3 Hours.
Introduction and overview of the field of public health and the subspecialty of public health social work. Provides practical macro-level skills and explores the role and functions of social workers within major public health programs.

HCO 620. Health Insurance & Managed Care. 3 Hours.
This course provides an overview of health insurance, health insurance regulation, state healthcare reform efforts, and the Affordable Care Act. It begins with a history of the development of health insurance and its theoretical basis. It then turns to the problems of moral hazard and adverse selection. The role of managed care and employer-sponsored health insurance are discussed. Regulation of private insurance and the Medicare and Medicaid programs are also reviewed. A significant part of the course will focus on the impact of the Affordable Care Act on private health insurance markets.

Prerequisites: HCO 601 [Min Grade: C] or HCO 604 [Min Grade: C] or HA 645 [Min Grade: C] or AH 701 [Min Grade: C]

HCO 621. Clinical Decision Making and Cost-Effectiveness Analysis. 3 Hours.
Cost-effectiveness analysis applies decision analysis to circumstances where both costs and outcomes are important criteria for making choices. This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the methods and uses of decision analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis. Students are not assumed to have any prior exposure to the field of decision analysis, but should have basic familiarity with probability and statistics. The course will provide a thorough grounding in the fundamentals of decision analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis, and also will introduce several intermediate-to-advanced topics. This course is open to Master’s and Doctoral students from the School of Nursing and the School of Health Professions. The overall purpose is to train informed consumers of cost-effectiveness analyses, able to assess the quality of studies presented in the literature and determine when the results are valid and applicable to policy decisions in public health and medicine. NOTE: If course work (BST 601 or BST 611 and BST 612) are not met, then permission of instructor is required.

Prerequisites: BST 601 [Min Grade: C](Can be taken Concurrently) or BST 601Q [Min Grade: C] or BST 611 [Min Grade: C](Can be taken Concurrently) or BST 611Q [Min Grade: C] and BST 612 [Min Grade: C](Can be taken Concurrently) or BST 612Q [Min Grade: C]

HCO 622. Design and Conduct of Cost-Effectiveness Research. 3 Hours.
The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the design and implementation of cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit analysis.

Prerequisites: HCO 621 [Min Grade: C] or HCO 721 [Min Grade: C]

HCO 623. Pharmacoeconomics and Regulation. 3 Hours.
The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to pharmacoeconomics and the regulatory role of the FDA. Topics include the role of the FDA, the drug approval process, patents and market exclusivity, tort liability, advertising restrictions, the economics of drug discovery and marketing, pricing, reporting economic evaluations, health care rationing, and pharmacogenomics.

Prerequisites: (HCO 601 [Min Grade: C] or HCO 601Q [Min Grade: C]) and (HCO 621 [Min Grade: C] or HCO 621Q [Min Grade: C] or HCO 721 [Min Grade: C])
HCO 624. Healthy Lifestyles for the MCH Population: Integrating Nutrition with Physical Activity. 3 Hours.
This course will examine healthy lifestyles from the community viewpoint. Although nutrition is the primary focus of the course, it will also explore how nutrition and physical activity are integrated in programs and interventions for healthy lifestyles for the MCH population. There will be an emphasis on childhood obesity prevention and intervention. The course will integrate the Life Course model, illustrating the importance of early intervention as well as intervention at critical periods. This course will allow students to design an intervention and develop a policy paper to support MCR nutrition initiatives. Students will learn community-based strategies for promoting healthy lifestyles through improved eating and physical activity behaviors. The application of community-based planning based on “five cornerstones of a healthy lifestyle” (MCRB and ASTPHND, 2008): access, collaboration, science and research, workforce, and communication will be included.

HCO 625. Advanced Leadership and Practice in MCH Part I - Introduction to Leadership. 1 Hour.
The purpose of this course is to provide students with the leadership skills necessary to work effectively at a community, state or regional level in the capacity of designing and advocating for programs and policies necessary to promote the health of women, children and families. This course is required for MPH and DrPH students in the HCOP/Maternal and Child Health track and is open to students from other tracks and departments. It is offered as a 3, one-hour course sequence to allow sufficient time for students to develop the background and skills that build upon each other. Other faculty members and external guest presenters will be invited to address specific topics. The course will include lectures, small group discussions, exercises, individual projects and service-learning field-based activities. Student presentations are required.

HCO 626. Adv Leadership and Practice in MCH Module II - Collaborative Leadership and Advocacy. 1 Hour.
This is the second of a three course sequence designed to equip students with knowledge and skills needed to provide leadership in the development and delivery of needed programs and policies to promote the health and well being of MCH populations.
Prerequisites: HCO 625 [Min Grade: C] (can be taken Concurrently) or HCO 625Q [Min Grade: C] (can be taken Concurrently)

HCO 627. ADV Leadership and Practice in MCH Module III - Into the Streets: Lead/Field Experience. 1 Hour.
The purpose of this course sequence is to provide students with the leadership skills necessary to work effectively at a community, state or regional level in the capacity of designing and advocating for programs and policies necessary to promote the health of women, children and families.
Prerequisites: HCO 625 [Min Grade: C]

HCO 628. Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research in Public Health. 3 Hours.
The class is designed to be interactive with practice sessions in class for the various skills of qualitative research: observation, writing, coding, analysis, individual interviewing, and focus group discussions. There will be three activities that will give the students a taste for being “in the field”: non-participant observation, a mock focus group, and in-depth interviews. Students will experience writing field notes, memo writing, coding, and abstracting from data via these three activities. Because many students will be applying qualitative methods in evaluation and needs assessment projects in the field of public health, we will also focus on these aspects in class.

HCO 629. Immigrant Health. 3 Hours.
The purpose of this course is to provide an overview of key public health issues facing immigrant populations in the US, including the interrelationship between migration processes and health behaviors and outcomes, health and disease burdens for immigrant subgroups (e.g., Latinos, children), health care access and use, and health promotion/disease prevention.

HCO 630. Health and Development: Life Course Approach. 2 Hours.
In developing, implementing, and evaluating effective maternal and child health programs and policies, it is critical to incorporate principles of development. Also critical is an understanding of how health trajectories of populations are influenced by broad social, economic, and environmental factors, a conceptual framework known as the life course perspective. This course covers 1) fundamental principles of human development; 2) how the central components of the life course perspective influence health and development; 3) how these stages of development are examined with research methodologies, using noted examples of data bases and studies; and 4) how these concepts can be incorporated into MCH programs and policies.

HCO 631. Public Health Demography. 3 Hours.
Demography (the study of population) has become more important across a range of academic disciplines. There is a growing call on demographers outside academia, such as for policy-making, health care planning and analysis, or business administration. Demographic changes play a critical, though often poorly understood role in influencing the social, economic, and health fabric of our lives. This course introduces the core concepts and methods used in demographic analysis. It also provides a basic understanding of population dynamics and its health and socio-economic implications. Students will gain a firm foundation in how to measure fertility, mortality and migration; how to analyze population change and project population growth; and how to interpret demographic trends, their determinants and consequences.

HCO 632. Readings in Maternal Child Health. 1-3 Hour.
Critical analysis of literature in single area of maternal and child health under supervision of faculty member.

HCO 633. Research Design and Analysis. 2 Hours.
The Research Design and Analysis course is designed to provide graduate students with an introduction to fundamental tools needed to propose, conduct, and assess outcomes of their research. The course will take them from the basics of developing hypotheses, conducting literature reviews (including an introduction to legal research) and critically analyzing literature reviewed, formalizing constructs to be addressed and developing valid, accurate and reliable tools/techniques to measure those constructs, and finally, will address how to analyze and interpret results.

HCO 634. Health Care Innovation. 3 Hours.
This course focuses on sustainable and socially responsible health care innovations. Students will be introduced to the realities of problem identification and will provide a how-to framework and case studies of healthcare ventures.
HCO 635. Writing Grants and Programming Awards in Public Health. 3 Hours.
Whether your public health career path leads you to a position in a public, non-profit, private, or academic setting, you will very likely be involved in some capacity with either writing or managing a grant. This course on grant-writing will provide you with in-demand skills necessary to possess when seeking a job in the field of public health. You will learn how to: 1) communicate your ideas effectively and persuasively, 2) write clearly and succinctly, 3) prepare a coherent, logical research plan, and 4) develop an organizational and management plan for carrying out your work. At the completion of this course, students will have written a grant proposal that is suitable for submission to an extramural funding agency.

HCO 636. Public Health and Healthcare Delivery Systems. 1 Hour.
The public health system is comprised of federal, state, and local organizations and agencies. These organizations work with other entities, public and private, such as health care systems, non-profits, and pharmaceutical companies to address and combat public health issues. In this course, students will examine the functions of governmental public health, systems collaboration between public health and health care delivery, and the role of government in public health. Students will apply previous knowledge of systems thinking to examine the contributions and challenges of the public health and health care delivery related to past and current public health events. By the end of this course, students will gain skills in distinguishing organizations and components of public health and health care delivery systems.

HCO 637. Design and Management of Complex Public Health Systems. 1 Hour.
Designing solutions or responses to complex public health issues require management and leadership skills to navigate within and across multiple sectors. The purpose of this course is to equip students with management and leadership techniques to engage appropriate partners in the design of a solution to a public health issue. Building on work in HCO 636, students will engage in case studies that provide insight into how public health leaders historically approached complex, multifactorial issues that required a collaborative and coordinated response across multiple sectors. The culminating project will be developing a plan to address a public health issue that incorporates multiple agencies. Students also will identify associated leadership and management skills needed for this response.

HCO 638. Current Issues in Public Health Policy. 1 Hour.
With global public health events such as the Ebola outbreak and more recent COVID-19 pandemic, public health students’ benefit from understanding how social and health policy influence health; physical, mental, and social well-being. As the political landscape changes, domestically and globally, public health students should critically analyze the effect of policy on determinants that impact health outcomes among populations. Policy decisions, both locally and nationally, can shape public health practice and organization dynamics, progress the achievement of health equity, increase or decrease health disparities, and more. This course will allow students to consider current public health issues and evaluate how policies or the lack thereof influence population health. This course is an in-depth opportunity for students to explore controversial public health topics and assess the effectiveness of policy implementation. By the end of this course, students will have developed the skills of analyzing and evaluating public health policy.

HCO 640. Disaster and Emergency Management. 3 Hours.
The course will provide a concerted look into the realm of disaster and emergency management. Discussions in this course will concentrate on how disaster and emergency management has changed since 9/11 including new legislation and governmental structures. The course will culminate with a look at the roles and responsibilities of the public health system in preparing for and responding to both natural and man-initiated disasters. This course is intended for advanced MPH or doctoral students with an interest in preparedness policy, emergency management, or public health preparedness.

HCO 641. Health Preparedness and Response Policy. 3 Hours.
Preparedness policy can be defined as the sum of national and subnational governmental activities with the intent to protect the public’s health and security. Discussions in this course will focus on policy and policy making in the U.S. and more particularly on preparedness policy and its evolution since 9/11. The purpose of this course will be to develop a skill set that will allow students to frame issues into social, cultural, regional and ethical norms, consider historical and political influence policy choices. Courses is for advanced MPH or doctoral students with an interest in preparedness policy, emergency management, or public health preparedness.

HCO 642. Preparedness and Agriculture. 3 Hours.
This course presents the potential effects of an animal disease outbreak, whether natural, accidental or deliberate, on the affected communities. Topics covering the prevention and diagnosis of and the response to an animal disease outbreak will be presented. Examples of the interaction of public health with other disciplines will be provided. This course is designed for MPH students with an interest in preparedness policy, emergency management, or public health preparedness. NOTE: It is preferred that this course be completed during the final year of enrollment; however, any MPH candidate who has completed the entire core curriculum is eligible to enroll in the course.

HCO 643. Emergency Preparedness Exercise, Evaluation & Communication. 3 Hours.
This course will provide participants with an understanding of the psychological processes that occur during crises, how those processes impact human functioning, and how communication plays a critical role in the psychological outcomes of crisis situations.

To introduce the needs assessment, program planning and evaluation processes specifically related to public health and to provide practical experiences to develop skills in the range of activities needed to conduct needs assessments and use the information gathered to plan, direct, and evaluate public health programs and impact public health policies.

HCO 645. Comparative Health Systems and Policy. 3 Hours.
This course provides a comprehensive survey of a number of healthcare systems from low-, middle-, and high-income countries, situating the U.S. and other national experiences in a comparative cross-national frame. The course provides frameworks for students to analyze in diverse settings the different ways that health policy is developed and implemented, given the resources, capacities, and systems of each country. The course will also examine the ways in which health care is organized and delivered, along with underlying global public health principles and impacts. By comparing health systems and policies, globally, students will reflect on how a country’s social-historical context and values, geography, policy and economy influence the way that health care is provided and its relationship with population health, as well as how health policies influence the quality of life.
HCO 670. Social and Ethical Issues in Public Health. 3 Hours.
This class examines ethical issues related to public health research and practice, and explores the social issues that complicate ethical decision-making. There are no pre-requisites. This class is open to all students with graduate standing. It is a required course for the MPH in Health Policy, the MPH in Public Health Preparedness, the MSPH in Outcomes Research and the DrPH in Public Health Management.

HCO 672. Perinatal Health: Issues, Data & Policies. 3 Hours.
The purpose of this course is to provide students with knowledge related to perinatal health issues and policies. In addition, the course will allow students to gain basic skills in analysis of population-based data sets using SAS. This course at the 600-level is an elective for students seeking the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree and the Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) in the Department of Health Care Organization and Policy’s MCH Leadership and Policy Track. It is offered at the 700-level for doctoral students. Other students interested in this area are encouraged to register. An introductory SAS course is recommended but not required.

HCO 673. Applied Health Policy: Global Child Health Issues. 3 Hours.
The focus of the course will be on four current and complex policy issues (2 domestic; 2 international): refugee health; immunization activities and the link to autism; obesity in children and physical inactivity; and child labor. Pertinent background information related to international, federal, state and local policies and systems will be studied. Students should gain both technical capacity for analysis and an understanding of the health policy process. This course is intended for advanced MPH or doctoral students with an interest in health policy, international health, or maternal and child health.

HCO 675. Improving Health Care Quality and Outcomes. 3 Hours.
Examination of current issues in quality of care and outcomes management. The course includes a review of past and current efforts, tools, and theories of quality assessment, assurance, utilization management, and measuring and improving outcomes.

HCO 677. Patient-Based Outcomes Measurement. 3 Hours.
This course will provide an in-depth overview of the concepts, methods, and instruments used to evaluate health from the perspective of the individual. The overall objective of this course is to provide a detailed examination of patient-based/centered outcomes measurement in the context of health care delivery systems and health care policy.

HCO 680. Aging Policy. 3 Hours.
Providing for the physical and economic well-being of the aging population is a continual challenge facing society. The objectives of this course are to develop an understanding of the influence of demographic changes, economic factors, and public policy on the health status and health care of the aging population; investigate the work, retirement, savings, and health insurance decisions facing the elderly; describe the system of health care financing and delivery arrangements for the elderly in the United States and other developing countries. NOTE: Basic biostatistics or equivalent required.

HCO 686. Integrative Health Policy Analysis. 3 Hours.
The aim of this interdisciplinary course is to engage students in critical thinking about the goals, paradigms, effectiveness and implementation of health care policy in the United States. The course will incorporate several concepts from public policy analysis, public policymaking, health politics, public opinion research, media research, and technical-writing communication. NOTE: There are no prerequisite course requirements; however, students are expected to be familiar with the basics of the U.S. health care system and prior experience in health policy will be useful.

HCO 687. Empirical Methods for Health Research. 3 Hours.
The course aims to provide a thorough treatment of simple and multivariate regression models, simple binary dependent variable models, simple panel data models, and instrumental variables methods. Particular emphasis is placed on methods used to address omitted variable bias, such as difference-in-difference. The course is structured to provide students with ample opportunity to acquire hands-on experience in working with data by performing empirical analysis using the statistical software STATA.

HCO 690. Integrative Experience. 3 Hours.
This course has been designed "to synthesize and integrate knowledge acquired in course work and other learning experiences and to apply theory and principles in a situation that approximates some aspect of professional practice" through the analysis of actual cases from the annals of public health practice, participation in a strategic planning exercise, and the development of a new case from current and emerging areas of critical interest to public health. Students working in multi-disciplinary groups will demonstrate their ability to apply the general and specific public health knowledge they have acquired through their courses of study and effectively apply that knowledge across disciplines to the effective resolution of public health problems.

HCO 691. Policy Analysis: Modeling & Simulation. 3 Hours.
This course shows how models are built and used for public policy making and clinical decision analysis. The goal is for you to develop basic skills with building various types of models. Models include spreadsheets with various types of randomness, bootstrapping historical data to estimate how much a model’s results may vary, discrete event modeling, queuing, Markov models, System Dynamics models and Agent Based models. If time permits, we will also look at Linear Programming.

HCO 692. Adv Top Hlth Disparities Rsch. 3 Hours.
The primary aim of this course is to engage students in critical thinking about the current paradigms for health care disparities research in the US. As a part of this process, students will be challenged to think about the social, political, and economic determinants of health disparities for diverse health care consumers, to identify substantive trends and gaps in the health disparities literature, and to develop an innovative research or policy-oriented strategy for reducing health disparities. A secondary aim is to provide students with a broad overview of health and health care disparities according to race/ethnicity, gender, and health status. The three specific racial/ethnic groups are: African Americans, Hispanic/Latinos, and Asian/Pacific Islanders. The gender classifications include men and women. The health status groupings include persons with chronic health problems (such as diabetes or mental health condition, e.g. schizophrenia).
HCO 694. Special Problems in Policy Analysis. 3 Hours.  
Continuation of HCO 693 - Policy Analysis: Modeling and Simulation.  
Prerequisites: HCO 693 [Min Grade: C]  

HCO 695. Seminar in Health Care Organization. 1-3 Hour.  
Factors currently influencing finance and administration of public and private health programs; availability, accessibility, and utilization by selected population groups.  

HCO 696. Selected Topics in Public Health Finance. 3 Hours.  
Financing of public health programs; sources of revenue (grants and contracts, tax revenues, and service fees), capital financing, and management of cash flows. Techniques of maximizing revenues in public health programs.  
Prerequisites: HCO 601 [Min Grade: C]  

HCO 697. Internship. 3 Hours.  
The internship provides an opportunity for each student to work in a public health setting in a position that carries responsibility and is of particular interest. HCO 697 is a 3-credit hour course requirement of all MPH-seeking students. In order to register for the internship course, students must have completed all public health core coursework. Usually, this means that students must wait until their 3rd semester to complete the internship. Students must complete a minimum of 180 contact hours with the organization during the semester in which they register for the internship.  
Prerequisites: (BST 601 [Min Grade: C] or BST 601Q [Min Grade: C] or PB 601 [Min Grade: C] and ENH 600 [Min Grade: C] or ENH 600Q [Min Grade: C] or PB 602 [Min Grade: C] and EPI 600 [Min Grade: C] or EPI 600Q [Min Grade: C] or PB 603 [Min Grade: C] or HB 600 [Min Grade: C] or HB 600Q [Min Grade: C] or PB 604 [Min Grade: C] and (HCO 600 [Min Grade: C] or PB 605 [Min Grade: C] and PB 606 [Min Grade: C] or HCO 600Q [Min Grade: C])  

Independent study with guidance of appropriate faculty.  

Research for project under direction of appropriate faculty and/or research project committee.  
Prerequisites: GAC M  

HCO 701. Health Economics. 3 Hours.  
Economics as systematic way of thinking about use of resources. Tools of economics applied to issues of organization, delivery, financing, and outcome of health care. Develops economic principles and describes systems of health care financing and delivery in the United States, providing basis for analyzing health management and policy options. With didactic coursework provided in HCO 601, doctoral students prepare a major paper under instructor's direction.  
Prerequisites: BST 611 [Min Grade: C]  

HCO 703. Public Health Policy - Doctoral Level. 3 Hours.  
Theoretical framework and concepts used to understand evolution of public health policies and processes of policy formulation, implementation, and change. Significance of health policy for public health practical foundation of knowledge and skills useful in analyzing and responding to policy environment. Doctoral students will have an emphasis on independent analysis of health policy issues.  
Prerequisites: HCO 601 [Min Grade: C] or HCO 701 [Min Grade: C]  

HCO 704. Health Economics and Public Health Policy. 3 Hours.  
This course applies basic microeconomic principles to the study of the US health care system and public health policy. The first goal of the course is to provide students with an understanding of the core economic concepts (scarcity, economic welfare and market failures) which shape health care and public health policy. Next, students will be introduced to two competing theories of government – public interest theory and the economic theory of regulation – which will serve as a foundation for thinking about the role of government in health policy. Finally, the remainder of the semester will provide students with a comprehensive overview of the US health care system including public and private health insurance, hospitals, physicians, the pharmaceutical industry and current issues in health care reform. Ideally, students will come away from the course with a better understanding of the role of economics in the US health care system, and an improved ability to analyze the motivations and consequences of government intervention in markets.  

HCO 706. Strategic Mgmt Theory/Research. 3 Hours.  
AH 706: Strategic Management Theory and Research is to provide a forum for the introduction of the concepts and issues of strategic management in order to facilitate their understanding and communications. The mission of the strategic management track is to develop highly qualified strategic management scholars and teachers who are contributing to the field. We accomplish this mission through: Our strategic management courses, Faculty/student interaction, Publishing and presenting our work, and Teaching others.  

HCO 711. Child Health and Development: Womb to Young to Adulthood. 3 Hours.  
The premise of this course is that an understanding of principles of development is critical to developing, implementing, and evaluating effective programs and services for children and women of childbearing age. Through didactic, experiential, and interactive learning activities students will explore the processes that influence children’s health and development and the supports and services that are needed to enhance those mechanisms. Issues for children and adolescents with special health care needs and well as typically developing children and youth will be included in lectures, discussions, and class projects.  

HCO 713. Health Information Technology and Policy. 3 Hours.  
Expands on content of introductory course in health policy. Insights into system’s attributes; characteristics dictating its structure and function.  

HCO 714. Life Course Seminar. 3 Hours.  
The purpose of this course is to expand knowledge and research skills around MCH life course issues. As guided by faculty, students will review and critique the literature in given areas around life course science and specific life span issues. Students will work with the library liaison to conduct extensive literature reviews and move toward writing a manuscript for submission to a peer-reviewed journal. It will serve as a foundation for skills needed in other courses as well as foundational knowledge related to maternal and child health science. The course is required for all HCO-MCH doctoral students. Other doctoral or higher level Masters’ students interested in a research path may register with the approval of the instructor. Prerequisites: Ideally, students will have taken all course work prior to taking this course. However, the DrPH director and course instructors may make exceptions.
HCO 715. Finance for Health Professionals. 3 Hours.
Financial management of public health care organizations. Emphasis on time value on money, capital raising methods, cost of capital, capital budgeting methods and working capital policy. Problem-solving orientation with applications to public health issues.

HCO 716. Advanced Leadership and Practice Seminar. 3 Hours.
The goal of the DrPH program in the Department of Health Care Organization and Policy is to prepare students to serve and succeed as leaders in public health practice, in public health research settings, or in both. Therefore, the aims of this seminar are multifaceted. Part I of the course will explore and discuss the nature and processes of doctoral education and academic teaching, scholarship, service, and other duties related to a traditional academic research or scholarly practice setting. Part II of the course allows doctoral students to enhance their leadership skills, through personal development activities as well as through interaction with public health leaders. In Part I, students will gain a deeper understanding of how research is applied in public health practice through the completion of an interdisciplinary project that draws upon management and organizational skills. The course will be co-led by faculty members across the department. Prerequisites: Ideally, students will have taken all course work prior to taking this course. However, the DrPH director and course instructors may make exceptions.

HCO 717. Seminar in Public Health Policy. 3 Hours.
The purpose of this course is to enhance doctoral students’ understanding of policy and their ability to integrate policy into research and practice. The course will engage students in discussion and reflection about the intersection between policy and public health practice, with an emphasis on tools and skills needed for policy development. Prerequisites: Ideally, students will have taken all course work prior to taking this course. However, the DrPH director and course instructors may make exceptions.

HCO 718. Mgt Concepts in Pub Hlth Progs. 3 Hours.
Organization structure, management, finance and budgeting, human resources, contracts, negotiation, and operations research in public health settings. Presentation of general principles combined with study of actual cases from practice.

HCO 720. Health Insurance and Managed Care. 3 Hours.
This course provides an overview of health insurance, health insurance regulation, state healthcare reform efforts, and the Affordable Care Act. It begins with a history of the development of health insurance and its theoretical basis. It then turns to the problems of moral hazard and adverse selection. The role of managed care and employer sponsored health insurance are discussed. Regulation of private insurance and the Medicare and Medicaid programs are also reviewed. A significant part of the course will focus on the impact of the Affordable Care Act on private health insurance markets.
Prerequisites: HCO 604 [Min Grade: C](Can be taken Concurrently) or HA 645 [Min Grade: C](Can be taken Concurrently) or AH 701 [Min Grade: C](Can be taken Concurrently)

HCO 721. Clinical Decision Making and Cost Effectiveness Analysis. 3 Hours.
The objectives of this course are to acquaint public health and other professionals with techniques of decision making under conditions of uncertainty and the basics of cost-effectiveness analysis. Topics include decision analysis, Markov processes, Monte Carlo simulation, valuing diagnostic tests, and measuring the costs and outcomes of health service programs. Students who successfully complete the course will be able to understand the strengths and limitations of these types of analysis and determine the relevance of research findings to their own areas of expertise. NOTE: If course work (BST 601 or BST 611 and BST 612) are not met, then permission of instructor is required.
Prerequisites: BST 601 [Min Grade: C] or BST 611 [Min Grade: C] and BST 612 [Min Grade: C]

HCO 722. Cost-Effectiveness Research Methods. 3 Hours.
The objective of this course is to familiarize students with the design and implementation of cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit analysis. Specific topics include cost estimation, effectiveness measurement, time preference, uncertainty, ethical issues, valuing health outcomes, and ethical issues in cost-effectiveness research. At the end of the course students will develop and present analysis plans related to their particular fields of practice. Preq: HCO 721 or permission of instructor.
Prerequisites: HCO 721 [Min Grade: C]

HCO 723. Management of Complex Health Organizations. 3 Hours.
Complexity as related to management of health organizations. Academic health centers as models of complex organization. Incentive systems, organizational politics, and ownership and control within context of high complex health organizations.

HCO 728. Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research in Public Health. 3 Hours.
The class is designed to be interactive with practice sessions in class for the various skills of qualitative research: observation, writing, coding, analysis, individual interviewing, and focus group discussions. There will be three activities that will give the students a taste for being “in the field”: non-participant observation, a mock focus group, and in-depth interviews. Students will experience writing field notes, memo writing, coding, and abstracting from data via these three activities. Because many students will be applying qualitative methods in evaluation and needs assessment projects in the field of public health, we will also focus on these aspects in class.

HCO 729. Immigrant Health. 3 Hours.
The purpose of this course is to provide an overview of key public health issues facing immigrant populations in the US, including the interrelationship between migration processes and health behaviors and outcomes, health and disease burdens for immigrant subgroups (e.g., Latinos, children), health care access and use, and health promotion/disease prevention. This course is designed to be taken by doctoral students in either a DrPH program or a health related PhD program at UAB. Knowledge of quantitative or qualitative methods and experience with data analysis will be helpful for completion of the final research project.
HCO 730. Health and Development: Life Course Approach. 2 Hours.
In developing, implementing, and evaluating effective maternal and child health programs and policies, it is critical to incorporate principles of development. Also critical is an understanding of how health trajectories of populations are influenced by broad social, economic, and environmental factors, a conceptual framework known as the life course perspective. This course covers 1) fundamental principles of human development; 2) how the central components of the life course perspective influence health and development; 3) how these stages of development are examined with research methodologies, using noted examples of data bases and studies; and 4) how these concepts can be incorporated into MCH programs and policies.

HCO 735. Writing Grants and Programming Awards in Public Health. 3 Hours.
Whether your public health career path leads you to a position in a public, non-profit, private, or academic setting, you will very likely be involved in some capacity with either writing or managing a research/evaluation grant. This doctoral-level course on research grant-writing will provide you with in-demand skills necessary to possess when seeking a research or evaluation job in the field of public health. You will learn how to: 1) communicate your ideas effectively and persuasively, 2) write clearly and succinctly, 3) prepare a coherent, logical research plan, and 4) develop an organizational and management plan for carrying out your work.

Students will learn how to find the right grant mechanism, plan and write a successful grant proposal, put together a good research team, as well as create budgets and other administrative sections of grants. In addition, students will gain understanding of the grant peer review process, how to handle resubmissions, and post-award management. At the completion of this course, students will have written a research grant proposal (such as an NIH R03 grant) that is suitable for submission to an extramural funding agency.

HCO 740. Disaster and Emergency Management. 3 Hours.
The course will provide a concerted look into the realm of disaster and emergency management. Discussions in this course will concentrate on how disaster and emergency management has changed since 9/11 including new legislation and governmental structures. The course will culminate with a look at the roles and responsibilities of the public health system in preparing for and responding to both natural and man-initiated disasters. This course is intended for advanced MPH or doctoral students with an interest in preparedness policy, emergency management, or public health preparedness.

HCO 741. Health Preparedness and Response Policy. 3 Hours.
Preparedness policy can be defined as the sum of national and subnational governmental activities with the intent to protect the public's health and security. Discussion in this course will focus on policy and making in the U.S. and more particularly on preparedness policy and its evolution since 9/11. The purpose of this course will be develop a skill set that will allow student to frame issues into social, cultural, regional, and ethical norms, consider historical and political influence policy choices. Course is form advanced MPH or doctoral students with an interest in preparedness policy, emergency management, or public health preparedness.

HCO 742. Preparedness and Agriculture. 3 Hours.
This course presents the potential effects of an animal disease outbreak, whether natural, accidental or deliberate, on the affected communities. Topics covering the prevention and diagnosis of and the response to an animal disease outbreak will be presented. Examples of the interaction of public health with other disciplines will be provided. This course is designed for MPH students with an interest in preparedness policy, emergency management, or public health preparedness. NOTE: It is preferred that this course is completed during the final year of enrollment; however, any MPH candidate who has completed the entire core curriculum is eligible to enroll in the course.

HCO 743. Emergency Preparedness Exercise, Evaluation & Communication. 3 Hours.
This course will provide participants with an understanding of the psychological processes that occur during crises, how those processes impact human functioning, and how communication plays a critical role in the psychological outcomes of crisis situations.

HCO 772. Perinatal Hlth Issues. 3 Hours.
The purpose of this course is to provide students with knowledge related to perinatal health issues and policies. In addition, the course will allow students to gain basic skills in analysis of population-based data sets using SAS. This course at the 600-level is an elective for students seeking the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree and the Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) in the Department of Health Care Organization and Policy's MCH Leadership and Policy Track. It is offered at the 700-level for doctoral students. Other students interested in this area are encouraged to register. An introductory SAS course is recommended but not required.

HCO 773. Applied Health Policy:Global/Child Health Issues. 3 Hours.
The focus of the course will be on four current and complex policy issues (2 domestic; 2 international): refugee health; immunization activities and the link to autism; obesity in children and physical inactivity; and child labor. Pertinent background information related to international federal, state and local policies and systems will be studied. Students should gain both technical capacity for analysis and an understanding of the health policy process. This course is intended for advanced MPH or doctoral students with an interest in health policy, international health, or maternal and child health.

HCO 777. Patient-Based Outcomes Measures. 3 Hours.
This course will provide a detailed examination of patient based outcomes measurement in the context of health care delivery systems and health care policy.

HCO 781. Research Methods ans Study Design. 3 Hours.
This course examines empirical methods utilized in health policy and management research.

HCO 782. Advanced Casual Inference. 3 Hours.
Casual inference involves the methods and thinking one uses to move from associations to cause-and-effect relationships. This course provides an intermediate treatment of econometric and biostatistical methods for the casual inference in public health.
HCO 786. Integrative Health Policy Analysis. 3 Hours.
The aim of this interdisciplinary course is to engage students in critical thinking about the goals, paradigms, effectiveness and implementation of health care policy in the United States. The course will incorporate several concepts from public policy analysis, public policymaking, health politics, public opinion research, media research, and technical-writing communication. NOTE: There are no prerequisite course requirements; however, students are expected to be familiar with the basics of the U.S. health care system and prior experience in health policy will be useful.

HCO 787. Empirical Methods for Health Research. 3 Hours.
The objectives of the course are to provide thorough treatment of simple and multivariate regression models, simple binary dependent variable models, instrumental variables estimators, sample selection and two-part models, and simple panel data models. Course provides students with an opportunity to acquire hands-on software. This course is designed for students who have had limited experience with regression analysis but a working knowledge of simple statistics, probability distributions, and basic calculus. Students must have upper level undergraduate or graduate coursework in statistics and probability; basic calculus.

Prerequisites: BST 601 [Min Grade: C]

HCO 788. Longitudinal Meth Hlth Ser Res. 3 Hours.
This course provides an intermediate treatment of econometric and biostatistical methods for longitudinal analyses of data in public health.

Prerequisites: HCO 787 [Min Grade: B]

HCO 791. Policy Analysis:Modeling & Simulation. 3 Hours.
Training in basic skills necessary to design, test, implement, manage, present, and critique policy analysis in health care sector. Fundamentals of policy research design, and linkage between theory and operation. Various research techniques examined case studies and analyses of secondary data. Emphasis on choosing appropriate analytical strategies for particular policy issues. Data analysis using computers and critical evaluation of technical policy literature. Special topics in econometrics also addressed. Original policy analytic paper required at end of sequence. Preq: BST 600 or higher.

Prerequisites: BST 600 [Min Grade: C]

HCO 792. Advanced Topic in Health Disparities Research. 3 Hours.
This primary aim of this course is to engage students in critical thinking about the current paradigms for health care disparities research in the U.S.

HCO 793. DrPH Practicum. 3-6 Hours.
Doctoral students are required to complete a 6 hour practicum working in a public health agency or organization.

HCO 795. Directed Readings. 1-5 Hour.
The purpose of this course is to assist students in preparing literature reviews, manuscripts, or to complete other activities as deemed appropriate by the faculty member. Final objectives will be based upon the work between the student and advisor.

HCO 796. Doctoral Seminar. 1 Hour.
Doctoral students will be introduced to advanced topics in public health policy and practice, health services research methods and management research. In addition, topics directly related to doctoral studies (article critiques, literature reviews, manuscript preparation, dissertation protocol development, etc.) will be discussed.

HCO 797. Directed Readings. 3-9 Hours.
The primary aims of this seminar are to engage students in critical thinking about current issues in management research, public health policy and public health practice and to expose students to state-of-the-art methodological issues in health services research.