

MPH Integrative Learning Experience Guide and Instructions

Purpose

An Integrative Learning Experience (ILE) demonstrates synthesis of two foundational and two major competencies where the student produces a high-quality written product that is appropriate for their educational and professional goals. A list of [MPH foundational and MPH major-specific competencies](#) is provided at the end of this document.

MPH students can satisfy the ILE by completing one of the following three options:

- an approved [capstone course](#) for their major
- an independent ILE:
 - an [independent ILE](#) with a faculty member
 - a [traditional academic thesis](#)

ILE Options for MPH Students Listed by Major

MPH Academic Major	Capstone Course	Independent ILE	Traditional Academic Thesis
Biostatistics	<i>Not available</i>	PHM 1996	PHM 9998
Community Health Practice	PHM 3996L	PHM 9998	PHM 9998
Environmental Science	PHWM 2496	PHM 9998	PHM 9998
Epidemiology	PHWM 2996	PHM 9998	PHM 9998
Health Promotion/Health Education	PHM 1496	PHM 9998	PHM 9998
Health Promotion/Health Education, Dietetic Internship	PHM 1496 – sections 800/850	PHM 9998	PHM 9998
Health Services Organization	PHM 3996L	PHM 9998	PHM 9998
Healthcare Management	PHM 3996L	PHM 9998	PHM 9998
Customized (General Public Health and Dual-Degree Students)	PHM 5096	PHM 9998	PHM 9998

Capstone Course Option

Estimated Duration: 1 semester

Enrollment and Completion Requirements

1. Students should register for the appropriate capstone course for their major.
2. Students must have met the following general prerequisites:
 - a. Completed the MPH core courses
 - b. Completed at least 30 semester credit hours the semester before enrolling in a capstone course
 - c. Completed or concurrent enrollment in Practicum (PH 9997)
3. Students should meet all course-specific prerequisites before enrolling in a capstone course. Prerequisites for each departmental capstone course are listed in the table below.
4. Students should work with their departmental or campus coordinator to determine capstone course availability; courses may not be available each semester.

Course Number	Available to:	Course-Specific Prerequisites	Competencies
PHM 1496	MPH Health Promotion/Health Education students <i>Customized students*</i>	<i>Completion of PHM 1111L and PHM 1112L and [PHM 1113L or PHM 1120L]</i>	MPH Foundational Competencies: MPH-10, MPH-19 MPH Health Promotion/Health Education Competencies: MPH-H2, MPH-H5
PHM 1496 800/850	MPH Health Promotion/Health Education, Dietetic Internship students	<i>Must be a dietetic intern</i>	<i>Students must complete the Independent ILE Approval and Completion Forms to indicate competencies synthesized (see more information here).</i>
PHWM 2496	MPH Environmental Health students <i>Customized students*</i>	<i>Completion of or concurrent enrollment in PH 2175L and PHM 2135L</i>	MPH Foundational Competencies: MPH-1, MPH-19 MPH Environmental Health Competencies: MPH-O1, MPH-O2
PHWM 2996	MPH Epidemiology students <i>Customized students*</i>	<i>Completed: PH 2615L</i>	MPH Foundational Competencies: MPH-1, MPH-19 MPH Epidemiology Competencies: MPH-E3, MPH-E2
PHM 3996L	MPH Community Health Practice students <i>Customized students**</i>	<i>None</i>	MPH Foundational Competencies: MPH-3, MPH-4, MPH-22 MPH Community Health Practice Competencies: MPH-C1, MPH-C5
	MPH Healthcare Management students <i>Customized students**</i>	<i>None</i>	MPH Foundational Competencies: MPH-3, MPH-4, MPH-22 MPH Healthcare Management Competencies: MPH-M2, MPH-M3, MPH-M4
	MPH Health Services Organizations students <i>Customized students**</i>	<i>None</i>	MPH Foundational Competencies: MPH-3, MPH-4, MPH-22 MPH Health Services Organizations: MPH-S3, MPH-S4
PHM 5096	<i>Varies by campus and course offering</i>	<i>Varies by campus and course offering</i>	<i>Varies by course</i>

*Customized students may enroll in department-specific capstone courses if they have met the course prerequisites as listed above.

**Customized students may enroll in this department-specific capstone course if the competencies from their Advanced Public Health Coursework align with those taught in the course.

Independent ILE Option

Estimated Duration: 1 semester; students should begin planning the semester before they enroll

Enrollment and Completion Requirements

1. Students must have meet the following general prerequisites:
 - a. Completed the MPH core courses
 - b. Completed at least 30 semester credit hours the semester before enrolling in an independent ILE
 - c. Completed or concurrent enrollment in Practicum (PH 9997)
2. Students will identify a faculty member to collaborate with; this is commonly a faculty advisor. Students will enroll for the faculty member's section of the course and the faculty will provide a permission number to the student for enrollment.
3. Students should register for the appropriate ILE course for their major.
4. Students should register for 3 credit hours as required by the MPH degree. Any credit hours over the maximum 3 credit hours will not be applied to a MPH degree, even in the form of elective credits.
5. Students need to complete the [MPH Independent Integrative Learning Experience Approval Form](#) with their faculty member and submit it to the Office of Academic Affairs and Student Services before the first day of classes for the semester they plan to enroll. This form identifies the MPH competencies that will be met, the type of written product that will be produced and the student's synthesis statement. Additional information about written products can be found below. *MPH Biostatistics students will select MS Biostatistics competencies when completing an independent ILE.*
6. Students will submit the [MPH Independent Integrative Learning Experience Statement of Completion Form](#) with a copy of their written product to the Office of Academic Affairs and Student Services before the last day of classes.

Note: Students are encouraged to complete their ILE in one semester, therefore it is **strongly recommended** to begin discussions with their advisor or identified faculty the semester prior to enrollment. If students enroll in PHM 9998 over multiple semesters and switch their faculty mentor will be required to complete a new [MPH Independent Integrative Learning Experience Approval Form](#).

The first and last day of classes is included on the [Registrar's Academic Calendar](#).

MPH Independent ILE Approval Form Components:

MPH Competencies:

Students will select four competencies that will be synthesized through their ILE experience. Students are required to select two competencies from the list of MPH Foundational Competencies and two competencies from their major. A full list of competencies can be found on the [CEPH Competencies](#) webpage.

Written Products

Students and faculty will collaborate on a mutually agreed upon written product that meets two [MPH foundational competencies](#) and two [major competencies](#). This may include extending an assignment from an existing elective course or independent study, or complete a practice-based project or report with a community organization. A written product can be, but is not limited to, the list below:

- Apply evidence-based management practices to make recommendations to an organization facing a healthcare problem
- Case study analysis
- Community health improvement project proposal
- Design a communication strategy for a specific approach (intervention)
- Detailed design document for an intervention product, including plan for pilot testing and implementation
- Evaluation of a program

- Grant proposal
- Legislative testimony with accompanying and supporting research
- Literature review (e.g., annotated bibliography)
- Manual of procedures for implementing an evaluation plan (including survey instruments, flow chart of data collection activities, etc.).
- Needs assessment
- Policy brief with supporting documentation
- Poster presentation
- Statistical analysis of primary or secondary data with write-up with methods or results
- Systematic review
- Training manual

Synthesis Statement:

MPH students must submit a synthesis statement as part of their MPH Independent ILE Approval Form. Synthesis strategically fuses multiple competencies into something new and impactful. Synthesis is not a summary. It takes A + B + C, and then derives D, where D encompasses the essence of A, B, and C but also adds something new that produces an impact. An example of a competency synthesis statement is:

“By analyzing qualitative and quantitative data provided by the Texas Birth Defects Registry, the student will investigate the prevalence of selected birth defects among non-Hispanic Asians and non-Hispanic American Indians/Alaskan Natives in Texas (MPH-3). Using SAS statistical software, an analysis of the data will be performed to interpret and calculate crude and adjusted prevalence ratios (MPH-E3). The results of this analysis will inform public health practice with regard to etiological research and recommendations for screening programs (MPH-4), (MPH-E2).”

Traditional Academic Thesis Option

Estimated Duration: 2-3 semesters; students should submit their proposal the semester before they enroll in thesis

Enrollment and Completion Requirements

1. Students will identify a faculty member to collaborate with; this is commonly a faculty advisor. Students will enroll for the faculty member's section of PHM 9998 and the faculty will provide a permission number to the student for enrollment.
2. Students need to complete the [MPH Independent Integrative Learning Experience Approval Form](#) with their faculty member and submit it to the Office of Academic Affairs and Student Services before the first day of classes for the semester they plan to enroll. This form identifies the MPH competencies that will be met and the type of written product that will be produced. *MPH Biostatistics students will select MS Biostatistics competencies when completing an independent ILE.*
 - a. Students should indicate 'thesis' as their planned final product on the MPH Independent Integrative Learning Experience Approval Form.
 - b. Students are not required to submit a new MPH Independent Integrative Learning Experience Approval Form after the initial semester they enroll in PHM 9998.
3. Students completing a traditional academic thesis must also adhere to all [Student Research Requirements](#).
4. Students will submit the [MPH Independent Integrative Learning Experience Statement of Completion Form](#) with a copy of their final written thesis to the Office of Academic Affairs and Student Services by April 15th for a spring enrollment, August 1st for a summer enrollment, or December 1st for a fall enrollment.

Note: Students complete a thesis over multiple semesters; students must register for PHM 9998 each semester they are actively working on their thesis. However, a maximum of 3 credit hours can be applied to an MPH degree. Any credits over the maximum will not be applied to their degree, even in the form of elective credits.

The first day of classes is included on the [Registrar's Academic Calendar](#).