

Community Health Sciences Graduate Education Program (MDCH) Requirements by Specialization

POPULATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH (PPH) – MSc THESIS-BASED	
Description	<p>Population and Public Health definitions are adopted from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Institute of Population and Public Health (IPPH) accessed August 20, 2008 online at http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/12274.html.</p> <p>IPPH supports research into: (a) the complex interactions (biological, social, cultural, environmental) that determine the health of individuals, communities, and global populations, and (b) the application of that knowledge to improve the health of both populations and individuals.</p> <p>Population Health “refers to a broad transdisciplinary approach to understanding the fundamental determinants of human health, especially the interaction of physical and social environments with genetic predispositions, over the life-course, at both individual and community levels, in whole societies.” Population health is fundamentally concerned with shifting the distribution of risk conditions and reducing inequity in this distribution.</p> <p>Public Health is described as the science and art of promoting health, preventing disease, prolonging life and improving quality of life through the organized efforts of society (Last J (Ed). <i>A dictionary of epidemiology</i>: 4th edition. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2001). It primarily distinguishes itself from publicly funded health care at the clinical (one-on-one) level by focusing on the health of the population as a whole. Core public health functions include (Frank J. The future of public health in Canada: developing a Public Health System for the 21st century. CIHR: Institute of Population and Public Health, 2003 downloaded from http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/19573.html):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population health assessment • Health promotion • Disease and injury prevention • Health protection • Health surveillance, and • Emergency preparedness/ <p>Essentially, <i>the science</i> (research content and methods) of public and population health are similar, but <i>public health</i> has traditions and standards of <i>practice</i> associated with it. Many people use the terms interchangeably.</p> <p>The goal of Population and Public Health is to train transdisciplinary <i>researchers</i> who can work with policy-makers, program administrators and public health professionals to identify and study important social and physical determinants of health at the population level in Canada or globally, and who have the knowledge base and/or practical skills to design, carry out, and evaluate interventions to improve population health.</p>
Additional Admission Requirements	In addition to the Faculty of Graduate Studies’ requirements, all applicants must meet the minimum admission requirements of the home program.
MDCH Core Required Courses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) MDCH 600: Introduction to CHS 2) MDCH 610: Essentials of Biostatistics 3) MDCH 640: Fundamentals of Epidemiology 4) MDCH 681: Health Research Methods
PPH Required Courses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) MDCH 680: Foundations of Population and Public Health 2) MDCH 683: Qualitative Health Research
Recommended Electives	A minimum of TWO graduate level half course equivalents as recommended by the student’s supervisor/committee appropriate to the advancement of the thesis research topic. Other courses offered at the University of Calgary or through the Western dean’s Agreement (https://grad.ucalgary.ca/current/managing-my-program/studying-at-another-university/western-deans) may be used to fulfil elective requirements, with the approval of the student’s supervisor(s) and home department GPD.

Seminars	Students in MDCH 600 must attend all CHS-OIPH Weekly Seminars in the Fall and Winter terms, as well as the weekly Medical Education Journal Series. Additional seminars as recommended by student's supervisor/committee.
Thesis Research	All coursework must be completed prior to the Final Thesis Examination. Refer to requirements of home program regarding Thesis Monograph or Manuscript-based.
Practicum	None required, but usually arranged in conjunction with the student's supervisor(s).
PPH Competencies	

POPULATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH (PPH) – PHD THESIS-BASED		
Description	<p>Population and Public Health definitions are adopted from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Institute of Population and Public Health (IPPH) accessed August 20, 2008 online at http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/12274.html.</p> <p>IPPH supports research into: (a) the complex interactions (biological, social, cultural, environmental) that determine the health of individuals, communities, and global populations, and (b) the application of that knowledge to improve the health of both populations and individuals.</p> <p>Population Health “refers to a broad transdisciplinary approach to understanding the fundamental determinants of human health, especially the interaction of physical and social environments with genetic predispositions, over the life-course, at both individual and community levels, in whole societies.” Population health is fundamentally concerned with shifting the distribution of risk conditions and reducing inequity in this distribution.</p> <p>Public Health is described as the science and art of promoting health, preventing disease, prolonging life and improving quality of life through the organized efforts of society (Last J (Ed). <i>A dictionary of epidemiology</i>: 4th edition. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2001). It primarily distinguishes itself from publicly funded health care at the clinical (one-on-one) level by focusing on the health of the population as a whole. Core public health functions include (Frank J. The future of public health in Canada: developing a Public Health System for the 21st century. CIHR: Institute of Population and Public Health, 2003 downloaded from http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/19573.html):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population health assessment • Health promotion • Disease and injury prevention • Health protection • Health surveillance, and • Emergency preparedness/ <p>Essentially, <i>the science</i> (research content and methods) of public and population health are similar, but <i>public health</i> has traditions and standards of <i>practice</i> associated with it. Many people use the terms interchangeably.</p> <p>The goal of Population and Public Health is to train transdisciplinary <i>researchers</i> who can work with policy-makers, program administrators and public health professionals to identify and study important social and physical determinants of health at the population level in Canada or globally, and who have the knowledge base and/or practical skills to design, carry out, and evaluate interventions to improve population health.</p>	
Additional Admission Requirements	In addition to the Faculty of Graduate Studies’ requirements, all applicants must meet the minimum admission requirements of the home program.	
MDCH Core Required Courses	1) MDCH 600: Introduction to CHS	All incoming PhD students are expected to have completed the MDCH courses for Population Public Health at the Master’s Level and/or other pre-requisite courses from elective courses. If not, there are two options: (1) complete the courses, or (2) request an exemption PRIOR to start of program based on having completed equivalent courses at the Master’s level at the same or another university.
PPH Required Courses	1) MDCH 680: Foundations of Population and Public Health 2) MDCH 681: Health Research Methods <u>OR</u> ONE graduate level half course in advanced research methods as recommended by the student’s supervisor/committee appropriate to the advancement of the thesis research topic and approved by the home program GPD.	
Recommended Electives	None required, however, students may take additional graduate courses as recommended by the student’s supervisor/committee appropriate to the advancement of the thesis research topic. Other courses offered at the University of Calgary or through the Western dean’s Agreement (https://grad.ucalgary.ca/current/managing-my-program/studying-at-another-university/western-deans) may be used to fulfil elective requirements, with the approval of the student’s supervisor(s) and home department GPD.	

Seminars	Students in MDCH 600 must attend all CHS-OIPH Weekly Seminars in the Fall and Winter terms, as well as the monthly PPH Journal Series. Additional seminars as recommended by student's supervisor/committee.
Candidacy Examination	All coursework must be completed and the dissertation proposal approved and submitted to Ethics prior to the Candidacy Exam. The Candidacy Examination will consist of three written questions devised by the supervisory committee and an oral examination.
Thesis Research	All coursework must be completed prior to the Final Thesis Examination. Refer to requirements of home program regarding Thesis Monograph or Manuscript-based.
Practicum	None required, but typically, arranged in conjunction with the student's supervisor(s).
PPH Competencies	