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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MPH Academic Major</th>
<th>Capstone Course</th>
<th>Independent ILE</th>
<th>Traditional Academic Thesis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biostatistics</td>
<td><em>Not available</em></td>
<td>PHM 1996</td>
<td>PHM 9998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Health Practice</td>
<td>PHM 3996L</td>
<td>PHM 9998</td>
<td>PHM 9998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Science</td>
<td>PHWM 2496</td>
<td>PHM 9998</td>
<td>PHM 9998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
<td>PHWM 2996</td>
<td>PHM 9998</td>
<td>PHM 9998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Promotion/Health Education</td>
<td>PHM 1496 (pending)</td>
<td>PHM 9998</td>
<td>PHM 9998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Services Organization</td>
<td>PHM 3996L</td>
<td>PHM 9998</td>
<td>PHM 9998</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthcare Management</td>
<td>PHM 3996L</td>
<td>PHM 9998</td>
<td>PHM 9998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customized or Dual Degree</td>
<td>PHM 5096</td>
<td>PHM 9998</td>
<td>PHM 9998</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 should meet all prerequisites before enrolling in a capstone course. Prerequisites for each departmental capstone course are listed in the table below.
3. Students should work with their departmental or campus coordinator to determine capstone course availability; courses may not be available each semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capstone Course</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For all capstone courses</td>
<td>• Completed the MPH core;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Completed at least 30 semester credit hours the semester before enrolling in capstone;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Completed or concurrent enrollment in Practicum, PH 9997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHM 1496 (pending)</td>
<td>Completed: PHM 1111L &amp; PHM 1112L &amp; [PHM 1113L or PHM 1120L]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHWM 2496</td>
<td>Completed: PH 2175L &amp; PHM 2135L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHWM 2996</td>
<td>Completed: PH 2615L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHM 3996L</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHM 5096</td>
<td>Varies by campus and course offering</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Independent ILE Option

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

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 the course and the faculty will provide a permission number to the student for enrollment.
2. Students should register for the appropriate ILE course for their major.
3. 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.
4. 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. Additional information about written products can be found below.
5. 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: Ideally, 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.

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:

- Analysis of secondary data within a specific scope
- 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.).
- Policy brief with supporting documentation
- Poster presentation
- Statistical analysis
- Systematic review
- Training manual
- Take home comprehensive exam

*Written products cannot be a rewrite of an assignment that has been previously completed for a course.
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.
   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: Typically, a thesis is completed over multiple semesters and students will 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.