

BSHE MPH FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

Can students take classes in other departments?

All students are required to take certain classes in other Departments -- these are core requirements for BSHE students (Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Environmental and Occupational Health, Health Policy and Management). Students in the department must take 30 hours of BSHE credits; this is usually about 5 credit hours BSHE elective courses. In addition, BSHE students can take any number of elective hours selected from any department in the School of Public Health providing they satisfy prerequisites and class space allows. These elective credits may also be taken in any other graduate school at Emory, pending that school's approval and space availability.

What is the difference between the Behavioral Sciences and Health Education tracks? What is the balance of students in each track?

A generalization is that the Behavioral Sciences students tend to be more research-oriented, while Health Education students prefer more hands-on fieldwork experience. Each track requires 2 courses. BS students are required to take an advanced theory course and a Survey Methods course, while HE students take a Curriculum & Instruction course and Community Needs Assessment. Many students decide to complete both tracks.

All BSHE students get a firm grounding in applied behavioral research methods, evaluation, and other skills that can be used in any public health environment. Students are also free to take electives and work with faculty who might identify themselves as either Health Education, Behavioral Sciences, or in another way. Track choices are entirely up to the student, but typically about half of the class chooses Behavioral Sciences and the other half chooses Health Education.

How long does it take to complete the degree?

The MPH degree in Behavioral Sciences or Health Education requires 42 credit hours, and a thesis or a capstone course. Full-time students generally take 12-14 credit hours per semester. It takes four semesters (two full academic years) for students to complete all coursework and the thesis. A full-time student starting in Fall of 2010 will graduate in Spring of 2012.

Part-time students' schedules vary more, with students taking anywhere from 2-10 credit hours per semester. The time it takes to complete the degree will depend on the number of courses taken per semester however, according to school policy all students must complete their MPH degree within 5 years of matriculating.

Does the program accommodate part-time and working students?

Traditional MPH students work about 20 hours per week in addition to their coursework. These opportunities are obtained after admission to the program and are Public Health related. Although the majority of new students are full-time, it is possible to complete the degree part-time. Although some courses are offered in the evening, due to faculty scheduling conflicts, room assignments, and other unforeseen circumstances, students should be aware that required courses may not be available after the close of a typical business day.

[Click here to see past semesters' course listings.](#)

Will I receive an assistantship or internship?

There is no formal, structured assistantship or internship placement program in BSHE or at RSPH. You will not be assigned to or placed in a work experience. However, due to the abundance of public health agencies and sites in the Atlanta area, the opportunities outnumber the students looking for opportunities.

In order to find a work experience, students conduct a mini-job search by networking with faculty and staff, and using the [Career Services Office](#), and the Career Action Center's Public Health Employment Connection.

All RSPH students are required to complete a [practicum experience](#) of at least 200 hours. Many BSHE students get closer to 1000 hours in a variety of experiences, often working on more than one internship at a time. As long as your assistantship or internship is a relevant public health experience, it may be applied to this practicum requirement.