



THE UNIVERSITY *of* TEXAS  

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SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
AUSTIN REGIONAL CAMPUS

# CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions

# GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

- **Is it possible to work full-time and complete the Certificate Program?**
  - Yes. In addition to ITV and the traditional format, Certificate Program courses will be available online. Some courses will occasionally be available in the early evenings as well.
- **How long does it take to complete the Certificate Program?**
  - The Certificate Program can be completed in one year. Students have up to five years to complete the program.
- **Are Certificate students eligible for UTSPH financial aid loans?**
  - No



# GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM CONTINUED

- **How many Certificate students are enrolled at ARC?**
  - As of summer 2009, there are 98 degree seeking and non-degree seeking students at ARC with a total of 68 non-degree students.
- **What is the tuition for Certificate Students?**
  - Certificate students pay the same fees as degree seeking students. Permanent residents pay \$233.80 per credit hour. Non-Residents pay \$619.80 per credit hour. Additional student services fees are included every semester that total approximately \$150 per semester.
- **Will Certificate students have access to student services at UT Austin since they are unable to access the services at UTSPH Houston?**
  - Yes. Similar to the degree seeking students, students at ARC will be able to access the UT Austin libraries, gym, shuttle, health clinic, counseling, wireless internet service, and writing lab.



# GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM CONTINUED

- **Will the Certificate make my resume/cv more competitive?**
  - It is intended to provide additional training or formal training for public health professionals or those exploring their interest in public health. Although it may not drastically make an applicant more competitive, the Certificate will provide training on many skills needed in the public health workforce.
- **Who is the Certificate Program intended for?**
  - The program is intended for public health professionals lacking formal public health training, persons interested in exploring their interest in public health, and persons wanting to strengthen their MPH application.



# GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM CONTINUED

## ○ Is health insurance mandatory?

- Yes, health insurance is required for all students enrolled in the program. You are automatically enrolled in health insurance when you register for classes. This is a fee of \$409 for the fall and spring semesters and \$302 for the summer term (a total cost of \$1119 annual cost).
- You can opt of this with proof of other insurance. You **MUST** fill out this form [http://ae.uth.tmc.edu/info/Student\\_InsForm.html](http://ae.uth.tmc.edu/info/Student_InsForm.html) by the 12th day of classes in order to have insurance waived
- For more information please visit: <http://ae.uth.tmc.edu/info/insurance.html>



# QUESTIONS ABOUT ADMISSIONS

- **How do I apply and view application requirements?**
  - Visit the following website <http://www.sph.uth.tmc.edu/cert/> and click on application/fees.
- **Where is the application submitted?**
  - The application available on the website above is sent to The University of Texas School of Public health at Houston, where all applications are processed.
- **Are there rolling admissions?**
  - No



# QUESTIONS ABOUT ADMISSIONS

## CONTINUED

- **I want to apply to the MPH program but I am concerned that my GPA and GRE scores are not competitive. Will the Certificate Program strengthen my application?**
  - Yes. If you perform well in the class(es) and get to know faculty this will increase your chances of getting accepted.
- **Are there any prior course requirements for the Certificate Program?**
  - A bachelors degree with demonstrated English and math skills.
- **Do I have to finish the Certificate Program before applying /transferring to the MPH program?**
  - No



# WHAT COURSES ARE OFFERED THROUGH THE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM?

- PH(A) 2610 Introduction to Epidemiology
  - 3 credits
  - This course introduces students to principles and concepts in epidemiology through lectures, discussion groups, assigned readings, and exercises. Students are given the opportunity to acquire an understanding of these principles and concepts, the vocabulary of epidemiology, methods of epidemiologic investigation, and the design, interpretation, and evaluation of epidemiologic research.
  - Offered online and in person



# WHAT COURSES ARE OFFERED THROUGH THE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM?

- PH(A) 1610 Introduction to Biostatistics
  - 4 credits
  - Designed for students with little or no previous coursework in mathematics or statistics. Topics include research ethics, study design, data description, elements of probability, distribution of random variables, applications of the binomial and normal distributions, estimation and confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, contingency tables, regression, and analysis of variance. Additional topics include introduction to statistical computing and data management, distribution free statistical methods, demographic measures, and life tables.
  - Offered online and in person



# WHAT COURSES ARE OFFERED THROUGH THE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM?

- PH(W) 2120 Man's Impact on the Environment
  - 3 credits
  - This course is designed as an introductory course for students undertaking a graduate program in public health. The major course goals are to develop a general awareness of how the man-made and natural ecosystem interact to affect health and the quality of life, review relevant principles from the natural sciences, and discuss issues influencing the solutions to environmental health problems. This will be accomplished through lectures, videos, class discussions, group activities, written assignments, and examinations.
  - Offered online



# WHAT COURSES ARE OFFERED THROUGH THE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM?

- PH(W) 3715 Introduction to Management and Policy Sciences
  - 3 credits
  - This course surveys theory and practice in the management and policy sciences applied to the field of public health. Topics include: public health in the US health system/ legal bases of public health; public policy institutions and decision-making processes; methods of policy analysis, public sector institutions, management and decision-making; and private sector health care institutions, management and decision making.
  - Offered online



# WHAT COURSES ARE OFFERED THROUGH THE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM?

- PH(A) 1110 Social and Behavioral Aspects of Community Health
  - 3 credits
  - This course focuses on health problems and health issues having a major social or behavioral component and is intended for the student with little or no background in the behavioral sciences. The problems considered in this course will vary from year to year, but include topics such as the misuse of alcohol and other drugs, accidental and intentional injuries, and barriers to the utilization and availability of medical care because these are particularly related to attitudes, behavior and life styles. The implications of the various conceptual approaches for policy formulation, measurement, monitoring, and control strategies are explored.
  - Offered online and in person



# QUESTIONS ABOUT COURSES

- **Can I take a class that is not listed as a Certificate Program class?**
  - No. You may only take the courses outlined in the Certificate Program curriculum (above). If you want to take other courses, you can switch to the general non-degree program by emailing Dr. Mary Ann Smith [Mary.A.Smith@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Mary.A.Smith@uth.tmc.edu) and requesting this change. The general non-degree program allows you to take 9-16 credit hours of your choosing.
- **If all of the Certificate Program classes are full, are there any course substitutions I may take?**
  - Yes. You may take PHA 1111 Health Promotion and Theory Methods I in lieu of PHA 1110 Social and Behavioral Aspects of Community Health. It is important to know that this can only be done if PHA or PHW 1110 is full, if it is not you'll be required to drop PHA/W 1111.



# QUESTIONS ABOUT COURSES CONTINUED

- **I am unable to register for Certificate Program classes, may I defer to start another semester?**
  - Yes. Please email Dr. Mary Ann Smith to request change. [Mary.A.Smith@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Mary.A.Smith@uth.tmc.edu). You will not need to re-apply.
- **Do I take classes with other degree seeking students?**
  - Yes. You will take classes with non-degree and degree seeking students.
- **Where are classes located?**
  - Currently, classes are held at the Trinity office in the conference and board rooms: 313 E 12<sup>th</sup> St. Suites 220 and 260 Austin, TX 78701. There is parking across the street in the Capital visitor's parking garage. First 2 hours are free. \$.75 for each additional ½ hour.



# QUESTIONS ABOUT COURSES CONTINUED

- **What percentage of courses are taught via ITV, online, and in the traditional formats?**
  - In spring 2009, 29% were online, 25% ITV local instructor, 38% ITV no local instructor, 8% in person no ITV.
- **How many courses should a Certificate Student take every semester?**
  - UTSPH recommends that Certificate students take no more than two classes a semester.
- **Are the Certificate Program courses transferable to the MPH?**
  - Yes, depending on satisfactory completion of the course(s). (An A or B letter grade or pass)



# QUESTIONS ABOUT REGISTRATION

- **How do I get an approval code to register for a course?**
  - Email the professor and request an approval code. Access the professor's email address through the UTHSCH- People Directory available on UTSPH Quicklinks.
- **How do I get an SPH email address?**
  - Once you register for classes you will be issued an SPH email address, username, and password. If you have problems please contact Ryan Chism: [john.r.chism@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:john.r.chism@uth.tmc.edu) It is important to make sure your email address is activated as this is the main form of communication for the school.



# OTHER COMMON QUESTIONS

## ○ What is blackboard?

- Blackboard is a website used in the majority of classes. Once you have your SPH username and password, you'll have access to blackboard.
- Blackboard will list your courses and have supporting documents such as syllabi, assignments, etc.
- You can access [blackboard](#) through the quicklinks on the SPH website.

