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**The MEDiterranean Public HEALTH Alliance – MED-HEALTH”**



**Mutah University- Faculty of Medicine**

**Master Program in Public Health Management  
MSc (PHM)**

**Suggestive Study Plan**

**September 2016**

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## **Overview**

The Public Health Management (PHM) is a master degree for those students who wish to specialize in public health management. This multidisciplinary program provides firm grounding in the range of skills and disciplines essential to public health management. This program will allow you to combine the benefits of completing master degree with the specialism of public health management and evidence-based healthcare. Public Health management is a rapidly expanding area, and employment prospects are excellent.

## **Course details**

This program equips professionals with a range of skills and abilities to be able to critically appraise and use healthcare evidence to improve health service policy.

This program is for anyone who wishes to develop their career by acquiring skills in using public health management and making evidence-based policy within the healthcare field. It is particularly suitable for professionals who wish to develop their skills in evidence-based healthcare. This includes those working in public health, health services research, university, government (e.g. ministry of health) or health care industry (e.g. pharmaceutical companies).

## **Entry requirements**

Having a Bachelor's degree in a discipline related to clinical medicine and public health (medicine, nursing, and pharmacy), a life science or another relevant subject; an interest in public health or epidemiology; experience of working in public health or a related field would be an advantage.

### **English language requirements**

National English language exam (75%).

### **Course duration 2 years**

### **Future career prospects**

- **Academic sector:** the program may serve as excellent preparation for students wishing to pursue a PhD
- **Universities, health research centers:** epidemiologist, biostatistician, researcher in health services and policies
- **Community and hospital medicine:** public health physician, district officer
- **National and international health agencies:** program or project officer/manager, public health surveillance specialist
- **Non-governmental organizations:** medical coordinator, project manager
- **Health Ministries:** regional program coordinator, consultant/officer in national health policy and planning

### **Learning and teaching**

The program will be taught through a variety of teaching methods such as lectures, small group tutorials, presentations, peer group learning, field visits (hospitals), and self-study etc.

### **Assessment methods**

Assessment is via a combination of examination and assignment.

## **GENERAL PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

In order to complete the program, all students must fulfill the following requirements regardless of their track:

1. Finishing the pre-requisite courses determined by the department.
2. 33 credits hour's minimum distributed as core and elective courses (see tables below).
3. Successfully complete all courses required by the selected track including thesis oral defense (check the Academic Rules and Regulations for Graduate Students).
4. Cumulative grade point average of at least (75%) with not less than 70% in any individual course.

## **PROGRAM CURRICULUM**

### *a. Thesis Track:*

#### *List of courses' names*

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The course structure for the MSc program would follow the guidelines and requirements set by the University for Master Degree with both thesis and non-thesis tracks according to the following study plans:

#### **A. General Rules and Conditions:**

This plan conforms to the valid regulations of programs of graduate studies at Mutah University.

**B. Special Conditions:** consent to the committee of the master program and regulations of the faculty of graduate studies, each student's application will be evaluated separately and based on his/her bachelor course, s/he might be asked to enroll and pass in some prerequisite courses offered in the undergraduate level.

**C. This Study Plan consists of 33 credit hours as follows:**

1. Core Courses (15 credit hours)

Course No.	Course Title	Credit Hours	Pre-req.
	Essential Issues in Public Health Policy	3	
	Strategic Management and Commissioning	3	
	Health Services Management	3	
	Health, Culture and Society	3	
	Health information systems	3	

2. Elective Courses (Students choose 9 credit hrs.)

Course No.	Course Title	Credit Hours	Pre-req.
	Public Health and epidemiology	3	
	Biostatistics for public health	3	
	Fieldwork training	3	
	Communication skills in public health	3	
	Environmental and occupational health	3	
	Ethics in public health management	3	
	Hospital management	3	
	Health system in Jordan	3	
	Global health	3	

3. Thesis (9 Credit hours): A graduate student must submit a thesis and pass an oral defense related to his/her thesis.

*b. Comprehensive Examination Track:*

**A. General Rules and Conditions:**

This plan conforms to the valid regulations of programs of graduate studies at Mutah University.

**B. Special Conditions:** consent to the committee of the master program and regulations of the faculty of graduate studies, each student's application will be evaluated separately and based on his/her bachelor course, s/he might be asked to enroll and pass in some prerequisite courses offered in the undergraduate level.

**C. This Study Plan consists of 33 credit hours as follows:**

1. Core Courses (18 credit hours)

Course No.	Course Title	Credit Hours	Pre-req.
	Essential Issues in Public Health Policy	3	
	Strategic Management and Commissioning	3	
	Health Services Management	3	
	Health, Culture and Society	3	
	Health information systems	3	
	Epidemiological research methods	3	

2. Elective Courses (Students choose 15 credit hrs.)

Course No.	Course Title	Credit Hours	Pre-req.
	Public Health and epidemiology	3	
	Biostatistics for public health	3	
	Fieldwork training	3	
	Communication skills in public health	3	
	Environmental and occupational health	3	
	Ethics in public health management	3	
	Hospital management	3	
	Health system in Jordan	3	
	Global health	3	

3. Comprehensive Examination: A graduate student must pass a qualifying examination (See Academic Rules and Regulations for Graduate Students)

### *Course Description*

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<b>Essential Issues in Public Health Policy</b>	This course will focus on a critical understanding of public health including historical and theoretical perspectives to examine major public health issues and policy developments. Emphasis will be placed on collaborative working in evaluating current policies and practices, as well as in generating new ideas. Social inequalities, particularly the widening health gap, are a key theme in developing and developed nations. Application of a generalized knowledge to specific areas of public health policy and practice, and the critical reflection on the implications of policy interventions across disciplines and agencies will also be discussed.
<b>Strategic Management and Commissioning</b>	The course aims to familiarize the students with the planning and types of various community assessment methods that inform priority-setting and equitable service provision. The module will introduce the principles and methods of partnership working,

leadership and change management. It'll offer the opportunity to develop leadership skills within an inter-professional context in order to achieve public health improvement. It's aimed at developing skills in carrying out population needs-assessments and setting local priorities and commissioning in health, local government and third-sector services. These skills can be extrapolated to the European Union and other countries including the Middle East countries. This module is multidisciplinary in content, drawing on sociological, behavioral, psychological and contemporary public health perspectives with students from various disciplines sharing practical applied experience.

**Health Services Management**

This course aims at providing students with the theoretical framework and background to analyze the environment in which health care organization operate and to determine how organizations in the health care sector develop and implement strategies to achieve short term and long term goals. Strategic management theory will be used to integrate knowledge across functional areas of management. This course will introduce the student to the basis of health management. The concepts of efficient and cost effective health management and its impact on daily work and during crisis are to be emphasized. Components and characteristics of local health management together with the importance of its impact on the local community will be highlighted.

This course is designed to focus on managerial positions within the health services organizations. The course combines insights to both public and private health care services with contemporary management theory.

**Health, Culture and Society**

This course provides an overview of the health care system and the way in which health priorities are identified and addressed. Models of health and illness are presented together with social and cultural perspectives on the experience of health and illness. The way in which individuals and communities experience and adapt to health transitions is explored with an emphasis on opportunities for health professionals to contribute positively to health and wellbeing throughout the lifespan. As an underpinning,

theoretical perspectives on lifespan development will also be explored.

**Health information systems**

Focus will be on contextual factors (internal and external), situations, and circumstances that can influence the healthcare program including technology and informatics. Also this course will focus on Introduction to the concepts of computer technology related to health care and the tools and techniques for collecting, storing, and retrieving health care data. Introduction to computerized medical billing and office management; retrieval, security arrangement, presentation, and verification; introduction to the components and requirements of the electronic health record.

**Public Health and epidemiology**

This course provides an introduction to the basic methods and principles of epidemiology. It gives the student an understanding of disease present in the community in the past and present, it will allow the student to conceptualize, analyze, and evaluate an epidemiological study relevant to the community. Topics include: measures of disease frequency and associations, study designs used in epidemiological research, concepts of confounding and bias, screening and diagnostic tests, causation concepts and basics of scientific research in infectious and chronic diseases.

**Biostatistics for public health**

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to methods and concepts of statistical analysis. It focuses also on Sampling situations, with special attention to those occurring in biological sciences. Topics include distributions, tests of hypotheses, estimation, types of error, significance and confidence levels, sample size. Statistical software mainly SPSS will be used to supplement hand calculations. This course focuses also on Test hypotheses for one group or more, equip students with statistical analysis programs and tests such as SPSS, ANOVA, T-Tests, applied regression analysis, nonparametric statistical measures. Students have to be acquainted with Application of Statistical analysis programs using real projects to perform during the course. Topics presented include measures of disease effect: cross sectional analysis, cohort analysis; case-

	<p>control studies, diagnostic testing and evaluation, bias, interaction and adjustment. Therefore, course application will include major types of applied epidemiological studies.</p>
<p><b>Epidemiological research methods</b></p>	<p>This course concentrates on practical issues in the conduction of epidemiological, and health services research studies with an emphasis on survey research methods. Both quantitative and qualitative methods of research will be covered. Topics will cover the whole research process including research ethics, formulating studies, aims, objectives, hypothesis formulation and testing, quantitative and qualitative sampling strategies, quantitative and qualitative research designs, validity and reliability, measurement types, data collection methods and criteria, the analysis and interpretation phase of the research process and dissemination, proposal development phases.</p>
<p><b>Fieldwork training</b></p>	<p>In this course, students will carry out a written project of public health importance and present it to the students and department members. Students will have to spend a full-time working day per week during the academic semester (14 working days) at the institution chosen to do their project. The student is expected to find and/or directed to find a position in a health care or public health institution such as a hospital, a PHC, a government or non-governmental agency, or any other health care institution. This field project course requires students to apply and test the theories, skills and knowledge acquired in the academic setting. Practical application of skills and knowledge is an essential part of professional degree programs, offering learning opportunities not available in classrooms. The field project is coordinated with the target institutions and mentors within the institutions will guide the students. However, the students will be supervised and monitored by the course instructor at the department of Public Health.</p>
<p><b>Communication skills in public health</b></p>	<p>This is course designed to provide students with a critical understanding of the effects of the media—</p>

mass, social, and participatory—in promoting and impeding the achievement of public health goals. Students will develop the skills necessary to use media strategically to advance public health policies and social change. The course covers the design, implementation and evaluation of media campaigns to promote public health goals, examines theories and research on media influences with respect to its potential harmful effects on wellbeing, and students design a digital media-based health communication campaign.

**Environmental and occupational health**

This course affords Students the opportunity to study the general principles and strategies concerning dealing with environment and methods to control pollution. Study diseases resulted from environment and ways to prevent and control those diseases. It is also intended to introduce students to the basic core concepts of occupational health. Work-related health disorders and diseases that arise due to the interaction of employees and self-employed persons with their working environment will be presented. Modern approaches in occupational health aiming to improve workers' health and well-being, as well as productivity will be discussed. Students will be introduced to major occupational health related diseases including those of the musculoskeletal system, the lungs, and the skin, as well as accidents. Overall, this course is intended to allow students to understand the interaction of the workplace and environment on the health and well-being of the workforce.

**Ethics in public health management**

The course focuses on ethical theory and ethical issues in health care, policy and management as well as the regulatory framework concerning health and health care in the country. Topics will include patient informed consent, privacy, medical malpractice, resources allocation (equity) and control of health hazards. The course will also examine legal environment concerning the establishment and control over health care facilities, licensure of health professionals, drug production and administration.

**Hospital management**

The course aims at examining the organization, the operations and administration structure of hospitals. Different organizational models, roles and

responsibilities of the hospital governance, committees and medical staff are examined. Moreover, operations management and evaluation of the performance hospitals and their units, process and capacity analyses are examined. Risk management, malpractice as well as strategic development of hospitals are discussed. Different Palestinian hospitals (public, private, NGO) will be studied and ways of development with regard to the topics will be discussed at class.

**Health system in Jordan**

This course aims at introducing students to major contemporary health policy issues facing the health care system in Jordan. The course will focus on issues concerning provision of health care. Financing, insurance, user charges and role of private and public sector will be tackled. Some sessions can also be devoted to issues such as medical malpractice, policy issues related to pharmaceuticals sector, health personnel payments and human resources production, health technology, and quality health care.

**Global health**

The course will provide a wide overview of global public health issues. It is couched in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and other international health policies. It provides an insight into ethical and economic issues within which health care is delivered in resource poor settings.