

PHD IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Specialties:

Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Leadership in Global Health

Health Promotion and Education

Environment and Health

Health Management and Policies

Campus Where the Program Is Offered: CSM

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the program are the following:

- Respond to Lebanon and the EMRO region's needs for qualified health professionals, capable of assuming an effective leadership role at organizational, national, regional, and global levels.
- Produce transformative academic and practice leaders with advanced research expertise to perform and evaluate evidence-based public health practice.
- Equip graduates with governance and communication skills to interact with major stakeholders in the health and social sectors, and convene diverse partners, to build consensus and achieve public health goals.
- Develop leaders in the field of public health who advance good governance practices and evidence informed policies using critical analysis, advocacy, communication, people centeredness and professional ethics.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (COMPETENCIES)

- Produce and analyze data, synthesize, and translate findings; and generate practice-based evidence that advances programs, policies, services, and systems addressing population health.
- Influence policy formulation and implementation to improve public health using scientific knowledge, analysis, communication, and consensus-building.
- Assess and use communication strategies across diverse audiences that inform and influence individual, organization, community, and policy actions, to enhance public health services and outcomes.
- Promote a whole of society and assist the health authority, different partners, and the community to prepare for and respond to climate change and health emergencies.
- Capacitate institutions and empower people working in both the public and private sectors to design and implement efficient and equitable interventions to contribute to achieving health-related sustainable development goals.
- Identify, analyze, and solve ethical issues, and act on the values of social justice and human rights in public health research and practice.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Candidates are selected following the study of their file. The conditions for admission are:

- A master's degree or equivalent in a health discipline, that is based on a bachelor's degree in one of the following disciplines: public health or biological, biochemical, medical, pharmaceutical, agricultural sciences, or nutrition and dietetics
- At least 2 years of experience in a full-time leadership position or 4 years of experience in a full-time position in public health and/or service experience in a relevant field
- Previous training in public health methodologies and specialized technical fields of public health is also beneficial
- The submission of a 1,000-word research concept note and a suggestion for practicum site, followed by a submission of a 3,000-word research project upon shortlisting.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

180 credits: Required courses (180 credits)

Governance and Health Leadership (3 Cr.), Study Design and Research Methods (6 Cr.), Applied Health Policy



(3 Cr.), Global Governance and Health Diplomacy (3 Cr.), Organizational Development with Emphasis on Human Resources Management (3 Cr.), Comparative Health Systems (3 Cr.), Information Systems and E-Health (3 Cr.), Research Proposal Writing (2 Cr.), Value-Based Healthcare (1 Cr.), Human Rights and Ethics (2 Cr.), Health Technology Assessment (1 Cr.), Effective Communication for Leaders (2 Cr.), Program Design and Evaluation (1 Cr.), Advocacy and Community Mobilization (2 Cr.), Emergency Preparedness and Response (1 Cr.), Evidence Synthesis and Dissemination (2 Cr.), Leadership and Management (2 Cr.), Dissertation 1 (15 Cr.), Dissertation 2 (10 Cr.), Dissertation 3 (10 Cr.), Dissertation 4 (25 Cr.), Dissertation 5 (30 Cr.), Dissertation 6 (30 Cr.) Practicum 1 (10 Cr.), Practicum 2 (10 Cr.).

SUGGESTED STUDY PLAN

Semester 1

| Code | Course Name | Credits |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| 496GHLDD1 | Governance and Health Leadership | 3 |
| 496SDRMD1 | Study Design and Research Methods | 6 |
| 496HREED1 | Human Rights and Ethics | 2 |
| 496ECFLD1 | Effective Communication for Leaders | 2 |
| 496THEAD1 | Dissertation 1 | 15 |
| | Total | 28 |

Semester 2

| Code | Course Name | Credits |
|-----------|--|-----------|
| 496AHPPD2 | Applied Health Policy | 3 |
| 496RPWWD2 | Research Proposal Writing | 2 |
| 496ODHRD2 | Organizational Development with Emphasis on Human Resources Management | 3 |
| 496LAMMD3 | Leadership and Management | 2 |
| 496PRACD2 | Practicum 1 | 10 |
| 496THEBD2 | Dissertation 2 | 10 |
| | Total | 30 |

Semester 3

| Code | Course Name | Credits |
|-----------|--|-----------|
| 496GGHDD4 | Global Governance and Health Diplomacy | 3 |
| 496ESADD3 | Evidence Synthesis and Dissemination | 2 |
| 496DTCCD3 | Health Technology Assessment | 1 |
| 496ISHHD3 | Information Systems and E-Health | 3 |
| 496EMPRD3 | Emergency Preparedness and Response | 1 |
| 496PRABD3 | Practicum 2 | 10 |
| 496THECD3 | Dissertation 3 | 10 |
| | Total | 30 |

Semester 4

| Code | Course Name | Credits |
|-----------|----------------------------|---------|
| 496CHSSD3 | Comparative Health Systems | 3 |
| 496VBHCD4 | Value-Based Healthcare | 1 |

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| 496PDAED4 | Program Design and Evaluation | 1 |
| 496ADVOD4 | Advocacy and Community Mobilization | 2 |
| 496THEDD4 | Dissertation 4 | 25 |
| | Total | 32 |

Semester 5

| Code | Course Name | Credits |
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| 496THEED5 | Dissertation 5 | 30 |
| | Total | 30 |

Semester 6

| Code | Course Name | Credits |
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| 496THEFD6 | Dissertation 6 | 30 |
| | Total | 30 |

COURSE DESCRIPTION

496GHLDD1 Governance and Health Leadership 3 Cr.

The course will introduce candidates to the concept of governance and its importance as one of the health system's building blocks. It will assist candidates in understanding the theory and practice of governance, and the dynamics at multiple levels of the healthcare systems, highlighting their interlinks, dysfunctions, and challenges. It provides practical examples and exercises on how health system governance operates in the real world, and how to seek a multisectoral approach and involve the community to induce change. A good understanding of alternative governance structures and potential roles of different stakeholders helps candidates to apprehend the leadership styles needed to convene actors and establish networks for collaborative decision-making and implementation to achieve common goals.

The pedagogical approach includes case studies, problem-based learning, and discussion with key invited speakers to better grasp the different concepts and challenges of health leadership and governance. The aim is to better prepare future health professionals to play an active leadership role in good governance in their respective institutions and to become active players in health at national, regional, and global levels.

496SDRMD1 Study Design and Research Methods 6 Cr.

This course aims at introducing doctoral candidates to the foundations of research in public health. The course presents a general framework for the development of suitable research designs for various public health research questions. Candidates are familiarized with the research process and introduced to various paradigms and logic underlying research in public health.


496HREED1 Human Rights and Ethics 2 Cr.

This course is divided into 5 seminars as it addresses a range of issues in public health ethics and bioethics as well as research ethics. Each seminar will introduce ethical frameworks and concepts relevant to the topics studied. A case-based approach will be used to address ethical dilemmas. This course is designed to:

- Stimulate participants' moral imagination
- Improve participants' ability to recognize ethical issues in public health practice and research
- Develop analytic skills for managing ethical dilemmas
- Elicit a sense of ethical obligation and responsibility for our work in public health
- Teach principles of research ethics that should be applied during the research studies that are part of the doctorate as well as any future practice-based research

496ECFLD1 Effective Communication for Leaders 2 Cr.

The program scope aims to establish a foundation and basic understanding of the characteristics that distinguish



successful leaders from ordinary managers.

It explores fundamental perspectives on leadership, as a person and as a practice. It also addresses the impact of leadership on team building and employee engagement.

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| 496AHPPD2 | Applied Health Policy | 3 Cr. |
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This course introduces candidates to the field of health policy analysis and teaches relevant concepts and methods to develop basic skills required to find scientific evidence for the purpose of informing or explaining health policy development. It also enables candidates to be critical consumers of health policy research and media coverage of health policy issues. Candidates will learn how to utilize research and data to inform and support health policy decisions, emphasizing the importance of evidence-based policymaking. They will develop skills to effectively engage with stakeholders, including policy makers, health professionals and the public, and advocate for health policy changes. Discussions include case studies application including policy issues at the national, regional, and international levels

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| 496RPWWD2 | Research Proposal Writing | 2 Cr. |
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This seminar equips PhD candidates with essential skills and knowledge to develop strong research proposals and enhance their scientific writing capabilities, which are crucial for successfully completing their doctoral work. The course focuses on key areas such as achieving clarity and consistency in writing, formulating precise research aims and objectives, integrating relevant conceptual and theoretical frameworks, addressing ethical considerations, and designing effective communication and dissemination plans. Beyond their PhD, these skills will prepare candidates to submit competitive funding proposals to research councils, funding agencies, and other stakeholders, positioning them for success in securing research grants and advancing their academic and professional careers.

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| 496ODHRD2 | Organizational Development with Emphasis on Human Resources Management | 3 Cr. |
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This course extends the capacity of PhD candidates to produce applied and theoretical knowledge pertaining to organization, social and enterprise transformation with emphasis on developing the human potential. The course aims at providing the candidates with conceptual and behavioral skills to tackle the complexity, uncertainty, and celerity of changing environments to nurture the human potential. The objective is to adjoin the academic development of candidates with a conceptual framework to assess the dynamics of systemic transformations and provide them with appropriate techniques for transformative learning and knowledge creation. The material is taught from the perspective that candidates are or will be stakeholders in sustainable transformative actions. In keeping with the values of Jesuit education, particularly the thriving for excellence, pursuing discernment and justice, critical thought, and the development of the whole person, candidates will be accompanied to experiment in real-life situations. They will therefore be expected to acquire and demonstrate a professional posture such as professional communication and writing, measured behavior and manners, professional attire, commitment, attendance, engagement, filing and reporting, etc.


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| 496LAMMD3 | Leadership and Management | 2 Cr. |
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The Leadership and Management course focuses on teaching candidates how to effectively run public health organizations and inspire their teams. It focuses on cultivating adeptness in managing these entities while fostering leadership abilities to inspire and empower personnel within such settings.

Throughout the course, emphasis is placed on utilizing organizational behavior and theories to explore critical management concepts. These encompass a broad spectrum of topics, including managerial functions, activities, and skill sets pivotal in the development and implementation of public health initiatives. Additionally, the course delves into comprehending the organizational frameworks within the realm of public health and the practical application of management proficiencies in real-world scenarios.

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| 496GGHDD4 | Global Governance and Health Diplomacy | 3 Cr. |
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The course introduces candidates to global governance and its importance in the global health structure, particularly in preventing preparing and responding to multi hazard global threats. The course assists candidates in understanding the theory and practice of multilateralism and its dysfunction to respond to serious challenges, whether in the event of acute emergencies such as COVID 19, or in facing long-term effects like climate change.





The course also introduces multilateral organizations such as WHO, other UN agencies, the World Bank and other Bretton Woods institutions. Candidates will also become familiar with international conventions and treaties, gaining insight into their formulation, global adoption, and compliance issues at the national level.

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| 496ESADD3 | Evidence Synthesis and Dissemination | 2 Cr. |
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This course enables candidates to integrate knowledge, approaches, methods, values, and potential contributions from multiple professions, sectors, and systems in addressing public health problems. Candidates also learn to synthesize evidence to inform policy makers and the public to rationalize policy making and people's expectations.

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| 496DTCCD3 | Health Technology Assessment | 1 Cr. |
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Health technologies have generated remarkable advances in healthcare during the last decades. In recent years, innovations in a variety of areas have helped to improve healthcare delivery and patient outcomes. Thus, the proliferation of healthcare technology and its expanding uses have contributed to growing healthcare costs. However, this relationship is variable, complex, and evolving. The adoption and use of technologies have been stimulated by patient and physician incentives to seek any potential health benefit with limited regard to cost, and by third-party payment, provider competition, effective marketing of technologies, and consumer awareness. As a result, the question of whether healthcare interventions deliver value for money has become vital. Economic evaluations of healthcare interventions address this question, and are used to inform the optimal allocation of healthcare resources.

This course enables candidates to better understand the complexity and challenges of health technologies and innovations in the field of healthcare and the impact of innovative technologies on the healthcare system. It presents tools to assess key questions regarding the introduction and adoption of new technologies to make informed decisions where budgetary and security constraints must be reconciled.

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| 496ISHHD3 | Information Systems and E-Health | 3 Cr. |
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The course's objective is to introduce candidates to useful principles of nomenclatures and related vocabulary in Public Health Informatics, with a review of informatics applications in healthcare in the public domain. Through literature reviews and case studies, participants will acquire in-depth knowledge of big data in healthcare, approaches to creating a Public Health Information Systems, and practices for implementing electronic medical records as part of the notion of the digital hospital.

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| 496EMPRD3 | Emergency Preparedness and Response | 1 Cr. |
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This seminar is designed to equip doctoral-level public health candidates with the critical knowledge and practical skills needed to effectively anticipate, prepare for, and respond to health emergencies. These emergencies may include pandemics, natural disasters, bioterrorism incidents, and other public health crises that threaten the safety and well-being of communities. The course integrates multidisciplinary approaches, evidence-based strategies, and national and global best practices to provide candidates with a comprehensive understanding of EPR.

By examining real-world case studies and participating in interactive sessions, candidates will explore the complexities of emergency situations and the interplay between various systems and stakeholders. Emphasis is placed on the importance of early detection, rapid response, and effective communication, alongside the critical evaluation of surveillance systems and recovery strategies.

This course prepares future experts in public health to address challenges such as resource allocation, stakeholder engagement, and long-term resilience building. Candidates will leave the course equipped to navigate the dynamic landscape of public health emergencies and develop innovative solutions adapted to diverse contexts.

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| 496CHSSD3 | Comparative Health Systems | 3 Cr. |
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This course introduces candidates to system analysis and assists them in understanding health systems and health economics concepts including market mechanisms and social coverage. It teaches relevant theories and methods to assess health systems performance. It enables candidates to conduct a critical analysis of the health system and play a leading role in introducing change. It introduces them to contemporary debates around health systems and the concepts of universal health coverage and primary healthcare. Candidates are expected to gain knowledge in systems thinking and understand the complexity of health systems and the challenges to deliver equitably accessible health services of good quality.



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| 496VBHCD4 | Value-Based Healthcare | 1 Cr. |
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This course introduces value-based healthcare (VBC) as a concept where value is the main outcome sought through healthcare delivery. While value to persons receiving care is at the core of VBC, it also intends to benefit society, payers, providers and suppliers. We will also explore how to define patient outcomes, including patient satisfaction, and develop appropriate methods to measure these. A bottom-up framework for assessing effectiveness, equity and efficiency will also be used to structure the approach to diverse outcomes, including quality of care. We will examine how hospital and health system performance has developed and been used in the real world, and how linkages to rewards and reimbursement types may incentivize improvement. The course emphasizes real-world experiences and the necessity of critical thinking in developing appropriate and sustainable VBC from within health systems.

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| 496PDAED4 | Program Design and Evaluation | 1 Cr. |
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This seminar introduces candidates to the concepts and methods of public health program design and evaluation. Candidates will develop skills for assessing community needs for the development of health programs. The seminar then covers program design, including developing measurable objectives. It aims to build skills in basic data analysis, interpretation, demand and use, as well as the understanding of the role of data and research in decision-making.

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| 496ADVOD4 | Advocacy and Community Mobilization | 2 Cr. |
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This course enables candidates to analyze the influence of different stakeholders and interest groups (governmental, private sector, and civil society), on public health policy formation and implementation. In addition, it determines which advocacy strategies and lobbying tactics are most appropriate to influence different actors' and interest groups' positions regarding public health policy in different contexts.

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| 496THEAD1 | Dissertation 1 | 15 Cr. |
| 496THEBD2 | Dissertation 2 | 10 Cr. |
| 496THECD3 | Dissertation 3 | 10 Cr. |
| 496THEDD4 | Dissertation 4 | 25 Cr. |
| 496THEED5 | Dissertation 5 | 30 Cr. |
| 496THEFD6 | Dissertation 6 | 30 Cr. |

The above-named courses refer to the work of PhD candidates on their doctoral dissertation under the direction and mentorship of their supervisors. Candidates start with development of the research project proposal, and submission to and clearance from the Center for Research Ethics at USJ. They then move on to data collection, analysis, and interpretation before finalizing their manuscripts. In parallel, candidates work on finalizing their research papers for publication in peer-reviewed indexed journals and/or conferences, in accordance with the requirements of the doctoral school (EDSS) and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

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| 496PRACD2 | Practicum 1 | 10 Cr. |
| 496PRABD3 | Practicum 2 | 10 Cr. |

The above-named courses refer to the internship that PhD candidates must complete at the practicum site of their choice, which should be relevant to their dissertation topic. This internship is supervised by a practicum preceptor and aims to equip candidates with executive knowledge and skills envisioned by the program.