University of Pretoria Yearbook 2020

PGDip in Public Health (UPOnline) (10221019)

Minimum duration of study	2 years
Total credits	120
NQF level	08

Programme information

The curriculum for the PGDip (Public Health) will comprise of compulsory core modules and a research component. All modules will be offered online.

Information on UPOnline:

- The programmes presented by UPOnline are part-time and fully online
- Online programmes allow access to programme material on any device provided that a stable internet connection is available.
- The UPOnline modules have dedicated facilitators and contactable staff ready to help, motivate and assist students with any queries they may have.
- UPOnline programmes have been designed to provide a highly interactive learning environment which may include live chats, discussion forums and online video communication.
- These programmes are structured with six enrolment opportunities per year where a student will enrol for a single module of either 8 or 16 weeks at a time.
- Payment can be made per module.

Admission requirements

Relevant Honours degree (NQF level 8)
or
Relevant four-year Bachelor's degree (NQF level 8) with at least two years' applicable practical work experience
or
Relevant three-year Bachelor's degree (NQF level 7) with at least two years' applicable practical work experience

Additional requirements

Computer literacy

The University of Pretoria makes use of Blackboard, branded as clickUP, which is an online system that provides a workspace for students, providing students with the information and the connections needed. ClickUP contains study material as well as a simple, convenient, and reliable web conferencing and virtual classroom solutions specifically built for education and training. ClickUP is accessible via a web browser mobile device, or tablet and has a useful student guide.

Students are required to have some technical and digital literacy skills such as the ability to:

- navigate the University's eLearning environment (ClickUP);

- use the email service in the LMS;
- manage digital files: create, store, upload and attach files to assignment submissions (using applications such as MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint);
- use the Library or Library databases for research and make use of proper referencing techniques;
- use a webcam, upload videos or audio files, use social media for communication or to collaborate electronically; and
- download and install software and applications.

Examinations and pass requirements

Written, oral and/or practical assessments must be passed in all the modules. The minimum pass mark for prescribed modules' summative assessment is 50%. Only with the approval of the Chairperson of the School, on the recommendation of the head of department, will a student be allowed to continue his or her studies after having failed two modules (or the same module twice). A second assessment attempt in a module is arranged in conjunction with the head of department for any student obtaining less than 50% and more than 39% for any module assessment.

Pass with distinction

A diploma is awarded with distinction to a student who has obtained a mark of at least 75% for the externally moderated assessment components as well as a simple (unweighted) average of at least 75% of all the marks for the other required modules for the relevant diploma; excluding PHM 710 Learning in public health 710.

Curriculum: Year 1

Minimum credits: 120

- PHM 710 must be completed first before registering for any other module.
- AHM 710 can only be registered for after completing all of the other modules.
- HME 711 is a prerequisite for HME 712.
- This programmes is structured with six enrolment opportunities per year where a student will enrol for a single module of either 8 or 16 weeks at a time. The full curriculum is displayed below.

Core modules

PGDPH Research protocol 710 (AHM 710)

Module credits	30.00
Prerequisites	CDC 710 AND EHM 710 AND SCM 710 AND HCM 710 AND HME 710 AND PHM 710 AND HME 711 and HME 712
Contact time	Fully online
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	School of Health System and Public Health
Period of presentation	UPOnline Long Intake 1 - 6

Module content

A formal protocol for study that is feasible and suitable for submission to the ethics and postgraduate committees for an MPH mini-dissertation project.

Principles of disease prevention and control 710 (CDC 710)

Module credits	10.00
Prerequisites	PHM 710
Contact time	Fully online
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	School of Health System and Public Health
Period of presentation	UPOnline Short Intake 1 - 6

Module content

Students will be presented with an overview of health and disease followed by a set of tools for disease prevention and control. They will especially be encouraged to reflect on the importance of epidemiology and surveillance systems (for disease as well as health and for risk factors). They will be tasked with the application of these tools to the prevention and control of a number of important (for South Africa) health threats, both infectious and non-infectious. The scope will be all disease conditions including psychiatric, trauma, violence, etc in addition to the conventional inclusion of infectious diseases and diseases of lifestyle. There will be a link, too, to the concept of “implications for policy”.

Introduction to environmental health 710 (EHM 710)

Module credits	10.00
Prerequisites	PHM 710
Contact time	Fully online
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	School of Health System and Public Health
Period of presentation	UPOnline Short Intake 1 - 6

Module content

The principles of environmental health. The mechanisms behind the relationship between environmental exposures and the development of disease states. Environmental measures to prevent and control disease, both infectious and non-infectious diseases.

Principles of health policy and management 710 (HCM 710)

Module credits	10.00
Prerequisites	PHM 710
Contact time	Fully online
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	School of Health System and Public Health
Period of presentation	UPOnline Short Intake 1 - 6

Module content

The module provides introductory learning in Health Policy and Management, in a manner suitable for new managers or those who have not had formal management training, sufficient for you to undertake basic management tasks. Whatever field of public health a graduate enters they are likely to have to undertake some management responsibilities. This module aims to provide all graduates with the foundation of knowledge, skills, attitudes and values in health policy and management that they will need.

Introduction to research methodology 710 (HME 710)

Module credits	10.00
Prerequisites	PHM 710
Contact time	Fully online
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	School of Health System and Public Health
Period of presentation	UPOnline Short Intake 1 - 6

Module content

To learn to “think epidemiologically”. The principles of epidemiology including applied epidemiology. The use of EpiData software for questionnaire design and data collection. Rates ratios and proportions; Basic study designs used in epidemiology (include cross-sectional, cohort, case-control, ecological, RCTs. Also sub-groups such as MCC, Historical cohort, Nested C-C). Validity, repeatability, confounding, effect modification; Sources and types of bias; sampling methods, probabilistic and non-probabilistic; stratified and cluster sampling; designing questionnaires and questionnaire items; calculating odds ratios, relative proportions relative risks and incidence rate ratios and the correct interpretation of these. ID epi (host/agent/environment model, R0, attack rates, outbreak investigations). Clinical epidemiology (sensitivity specificity predictive values). Operational research basic principles only.

Epidemiology and Biostatistics I 711 (HME 711)

Module credits	15.00
Prerequisites	PHM 710
Contact time	Fully online
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	School of Health System and Public Health
Period of presentation	UPOnline Short Intake 1 - 6

Module content

This module introduces learners to thinking “epidemiologically” and the principles of epidemiology including applied epidemiology. The module introduces software for questionnaire design and data collection. Basic principles such as rates ratios and proportions are explained. Key study designs used in epidemiology (include cross-sectional, cohort, case-control, ecological, randomised control trials and sub-groups are introduced. This module introduces learners to the development and application of statistical reasoning and methods addressing, analysing, and solving problems in public health-, health care-, and biomedical, clinical-, and population-based research.

Epidemiology and Biostatistics II 712 (HME 712)

Module credits	15.00
Prerequisites	HME 711 AND PHM 710
Contact time	Fully online
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	School of Health System and Public Health
Period of presentation	UPOnline Short Intake 1 - 6

Module content

This module introduces learners to the application of epidemiology and the statistical procedures and analysis of the most commonly used statistical tests in the field of biostatistics.

Learning in public health 710 (PHM 710)

Module credits	10.00

Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	Fully online
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	School of Health System and Public Health
Period of presentation	UPOnline Short Intake 1 - 6

Module content

The history and scope of public health. The importance of self-motivated deep learning as opposed to passive learning. Learning the value of group work. The use of the internet and the library to research areas of study. The writing of literature reviews and assignments. The avoidance of plagiarism. Improving English writing skills. Elements of human rights and public health ethics. Students will be given assignments involving a short literature search and applied writing practice. They will also learn how to use the internet and its information with discretion, and also how to use the UP on-line learning platforms.

Social determinants of health 710 (SCM 710)

Module credits	10.00
Prerequisites	PHM 710
Contact time	Fully online
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	School of Health System and Public Health
Period of presentation	UPOnline Short Intake 1 - 6

Module content

A range of factors that influence health from a social, environmental and economic basis; analysis of the determinants of health problems and related behaviours, their effect on the individual, community and the broader society. Health promotion approaches, strategies and actions to address social determinants. Planning, implementation and evaluation of public health interventions to address social determinants of health.

Curriculum: Final year

Minimum credits: 120

- PHM 710 must be completed first before registering for any other module.
- AHM 710 can only be registered for after completing all of the other modules.
- HME 711 is a prerequisite for HME 712.
- This programmes is structured with six enrolment opportunities per year where a student will enrol for a single module of either 8 or 16 weeks at a time. The full curriculum is displayed below.

Core modules

PGDPH Research protocol 710 (AHM 710)

Module credits	30.00
Prerequisites	CDC 710 AND EHM 710 AND SCM 710 AND HCM 710 AND HME 710 AND PHM 710 AND HME 711 and HME 712
Contact time	Fully online
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	School of Health System and Public Health
Period of presentation	UPOnline Long Intake 1 - 6

Module content

A formal protocol for study that is feasible and suitable for submission to the ethics and postgraduate committees for an MPH mini-dissertation project.

Principles of disease prevention and control 710 (CDC 710)

Module credits	10.00
Prerequisites	PHM 710
Contact time	Fully online
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	School of Health System and Public Health
Period of presentation	UPOnline Short Intake 1 - 6

Module content

Students will be presented with an overview of health and disease followed by a set of tools for disease prevention and control. They will especially be encouraged to reflect on the importance of epidemiology and surveillance systems (for disease as well as health and for risk factors). They will be tasked with the application of these tools to the prevention and control of a number of important (for South Africa) health threats, both infectious and non-infectious. The scope will be all disease conditions including psychiatric, trauma, violence, etc in addition to the conventional inclusion of infectious diseases and diseases of lifestyle. There will be a link, too, to the concept of “implications for policy”.

Introduction to environmental health 710 (EHM 710)

Module credits	10.00
Prerequisites	PHM 710
Contact time	Fully online
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	School of Health System and Public Health
Period of presentation	UPOnline Short Intake 1 - 6

Module content

The principles of environmental health. The mechanisms behind the relationship between environmental exposures and the development of disease states. Environmental measures to prevent and control disease, both infectious and non-infectious diseases.

Principles of health policy and management 710 (HCM 710)

Module credits	10.00
Prerequisites	PHM 710
Contact time	Fully online
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	School of Health System and Public Health
Period of presentation	UPOnline Short Intake 1 - 6

Module content

The module provides introductory learning in Health Policy and Management, in a manner suitable for new managers or those who have not had formal management training, sufficient for you to undertake basic management tasks. Whatever field of public health a graduate enters they are likely to have to undertake some management responsibilities. This module aims to provide all graduates with the foundation of knowledge, skills, attitudes and values in health policy and management that they will need.

Introduction to research methodology 710 (HME 710)

Module credits	10.00
Prerequisites	PHM 710
Contact time	Fully online
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	School of Health System and Public Health
Period of presentation	UPOnline Short Intake 1 - 6

Module content

To learn to “think epidemiologically”. The principles of epidemiology including applied epidemiology. The use of EpiData software for questionnaire design and data collection. Rates ratios and proportions; Basic study designs used in epidemiology (include cross-sectional, cohort, case-control, ecological, RCTs. Also sub-groups such as MCC, Historical cohort, Nested C-C). Validity, repeatability, confounding, effect modification; Sources and types of bias; sampling methods, probabilistic and non-probabilistic; stratified and cluster sampling; designing questionnaires and questionnaire items; calculating odds ratios, relative proportions relative risks and incidence rate ratios and the correct interpretation of these. ID epi (host/agent/environment model, R0, attack rates, outbreak investigations). Clinical epidemiology (sensitivity specificity predictive values). Operational research basic principles only.

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Module credits	15.00
Prerequisites	PHM 710
Contact time	Fully online
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	School of Health System and Public Health
Period of presentation	UPOnline Short Intake 1 - 6

Module content

This module introduces learners to thinking “epidemiologically” and the principles of epidemiology including applied epidemiology. The module introduces software for questionnaire design and data collection. Basic principles such as rates ratios and proportions are explained. Key study designs used in epidemiology (include cross-sectional, cohort, case-control, ecological, randomised control trials and sub-groups are introduced. This module introduces learners to the development and application of statistical reasoning and methods addressing, analysing, and solving problems in public health-, health care-, and biomedical, clinical-, and population-based research.

Epidemiology and Biostatistics II 712 (HME 712)

Module credits	15.00
Prerequisites	HME 711 AND PHM 710
Contact time	Fully online
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	School of Health System and Public Health
Period of presentation	UPOnline Short Intake 1 - 6

Module content

This module introduces learners to the application of epidemiology and the statistical procedures and analysis of the most commonly used statistical tests in the field of biostatistics.

Learning in public health 710 (PHM 710)

Module credits	10.00

Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	Fully online
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	School of Health System and Public Health
Period of presentation	UPOnline Short Intake 1 - 6

Module content

The history and scope of public health. The importance of self-motivated deep learning as opposed to passive learning. Learning the value of group work. The use of the internet and the library to research areas of study. The writing of literature reviews and assignments. The avoidance of plagiarism. Improving English writing skills. Elements of human rights and public health ethics. Students will be given assignments involving a short literature search and applied writing practice. They will also learn how to use the internet and its information with discretion, and also how to use the UP on-line learning platforms.

Social determinants of health 710 (SCM 710)

Module credits	10.00
Prerequisites	PHM 710
Contact time	Fully online
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	School of Health System and Public Health
Period of presentation	UPOnline Short Intake 1 - 6

Module content

A range of factors that influence health from a social, environmental and economic basis; analysis of the determinants of health problems and related behaviours, their effect on the individual, community and the broader society. Health promotion approaches, strategies and actions to address social determinants. Planning, implementation and evaluation of public health interventions to address social determinants of health.

The information published here is subject to change and may be amended after the publication of this information. The General Regulations (G Regulations) apply to all faculties of the University of Pretoria. It is expected of students to familiarise themselves well with these regulations as well as with the information contained in the General Rules section. Ignorance concerning these regulations and rules will not be accepted as an excuse for any transgression.