

UConn

**PROGRAM IN APPLIED
PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES**

Fall 2026

Elective Course Offerings

Open to *all* students

classes.uconn.edu

FALL 2026

PUBH 5432-F01

SAS Programming and Data Management *3 credits*



COURSE DESCRIPTION

Focuses on SAS programming to introduce the most commonly used features of the language, including data definition, modification and organization; data manipulation and selection; data display and basic data analysis using descriptive statistics. Students also learn to create datasets using data entry or importing from other programs. Examples are based on public health data.

COURSE SCHEDULE: Mondays, 5:30 - 8:30 PM

LOCATION: In Person, A1



GRACE CHAN, PhD

gchan@uchc.edu

FALL 2026

PUBH 5497-F01

**Geospatial Health: Causal
Analytical Methods**
3 credits



COURSE DESCRIPTION

This graduate course explores how place, space, and individual factors shape public health research using modern AI tools (see syllabus: [Tinyurl.com/GEOCAUSAL2](https://tinyurl.com/GEOCAUSAL2)). Rather than a traditional lecture course, it is a guided lab in geospatial health causal thinking, where students use AI to ask better questions and build stronger causal evidence. Building on spatial epidemiology concepts, students develop skills in spatial data visualization, manipulation, and analysis using tools such as GeoDa, QGIS, PolicyMap, Dagitty, Stata, and R. Through hands-on analysis of real-world datasets, students complete an independent research project culminating in a conference proposal or manuscript draft.

COURSE SCHEDULE: Mondays, 5:30 - 8:30 PM

LOCATION: Hybrid/ CQM Conference Room, U30827, 195 Farmington Ave



EMIL COMAN, PhD

coman@uchc.edu

Research Area(s) of Interest: Spatial epidemiology, measurement, racial/ethnic health disparities, structural racism, causality

FALL 2026

PUBH 5497-F10

Mixed Methods Research in Public Health 3 credits

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This introductory course examines mixed-methods research (MMR) in public health, focusing on the meaningful integration of quantitative and qualitative approaches. Designed for advanced MPH and doctoral students, the course guides students in developing the research design for a dissertation or other research proposal. Students will identify an MMR topic, develop research questions and a conceptual model, justify the use of mixed methods, and select appropriate data sources. The course also covers major MMR designs, sampling strategies, and data integration, providing the foundation and skills needed to design a mixed-methods study.

COURSE SCHEDULE: Mondays, 2:00 - 5:00 PM

LOCATION: In Person/U3071 A/B, 195 Farmington Ave



MAYTE RESTREPO-RUIZ, PhD, MPH

restreporuiz@uchc.edu

Research Area(s) of Interest: Global Health & Early Childhood

FALL 2026

PUBH 5497-F11

Substance Use & Public Health *3 credits*



COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to the field of substance use through a public health lens. It will examine how we classify substance use, substance misuse, and substance use disorders; the impact on population health, including health inequity; and how the social determinants of health impact substance use. Using the socioecological model as a framework, we will analyze key risk and protective factors for substance use. We will review prevention and treatment efforts and critically examine research methods used in the field. Students will gain a critical understanding of current issues in substance use and become experts in a chosen addictive substance or behavior.

COURSE SCHEDULE: Mondays, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

LOCATION: Hybrid/CQM Conference Room, U30827, 195 Farmington Ave



ERIN MEAD-MORSE, PhD

mead@uchc.edu

Research Area(s) of Interest:

Mixed methods research to inform tobacco control and tobacco regulatory science

FALL 2026

PUBH 5433-F01

Health Program Evaluation

3 credits



COURSE DESCRIPTION

Methods of evaluating the implementation and impact of health programs. Topics include specification of program objectives and components, experimental and quasi-experimental evaluation designs, collection and analysis of program data, and the dissemination and application of evaluation results.

COURSE SCHEDULE: Tuesdays, 5:30 - 8:30 PM

LOCATION: Hybrid/ Public Health Sciences Conference Room
195 Farmington Ave, Suite 2100



YOUNGJI JO, PhD

jo@uchc.edu

Research Area(s) of Interest: Infectious Diseases

FALL 2026

PUBH 5497-F02

Health Topics in Humanitarian
Crisis, Disaster Preparedness, &
Response

3 credits



COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an overview of the public health impacts of disasters and humanitarian crises, with a focus on disaster preparedness, emergency response, and long-term recovery. Students will learn practical strategies for disaster planning and response while exploring the history and ethics of humanitarianism. Topics include infectious disease, displacement, malnutrition, gender-based violence, mental health, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), logistics, security, and healthcare in crisis settings. Students will develop a response plan and examine the health needs of displaced populations.

COURSE SCHEDULE: Tuesdays, 12:00 - 3:00 PM

LOCATION: In Person/U3071 A/B, 195 Farmington Ave



NATALIE MOORE, MD, MPH

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FALL 2026

PUBH 5497-F09

Public Health Ethics

3 credits



COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the principles of public health ethics, emphasizing the health and well-being of communities rather than individual autonomy. Students will examine ethical questions surrounding public health policies, including balancing individual freedoms with the protection of community health through the lenses of justice, equity, and social responsibility. The course also explores contemporary public health ethical issues, including changes to the U.S. health system under the Trump administration.

COURSE SCHEDULE: Tuesdays, 5:30 - 8:30 PM

LOCATION: Hybrid Limited/ U3071 A/B, 195 Farmington Ave



AUDREY CHAPMAN, PhD, MDiv, STM

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Research Area(s) of Interest:

Humanities and Bioethics

FALL 2026

PUBH 5497-F13

Tools & Technology for Public Health Professionals

3 credits

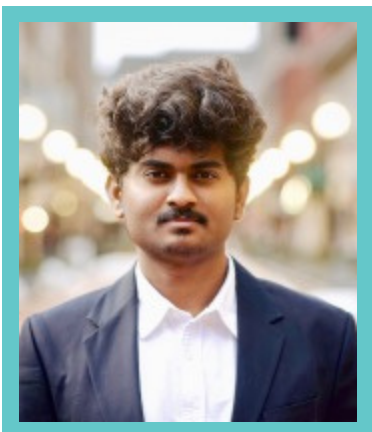


COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course equips master's-level public health students with practical technology skills for modern public health practice. Through hands-on projects, students will learn to use collaboration platforms, data management tools, survey software, automation workflows, AI applications, and content creation tools to support public health research, communication, and interventions. The course emphasizes ethical technology use, equity, and real-world application, culminating in professional-grade public health deliverables.

COURSE SCHEDULE: Tuesdays, 12:00 - 3:00 PM

LOCATION: Hybrid Limited/CQM Conference Room, U30827
195 Farmington Ave



THARUN PALLA, MS

palla@uchc.edu

Public Health Interest: Media for Public Health

FALL 2026

PUBH 5201-F01

Essentials of Social Inequality & Health Disparities

3 credits

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the extent of health disparities in the U.S. and examines how social inequality shapes health outcomes. Students will explore how social, economic, political, and cultural institutions contribute to unequal opportunities and health inequities. Topics include race and racism, poverty, income inequality, education, environmental conditions, social capital, social mobility, safety, and the criminal justice system. The course also introduces public health assessment and provides the conceptual foundation for PUBH 5202.

COURSE SCHEDULE: Wednesdays, 5:30 - 8:30 PM

LOCATION: In Person/ Public Health Sciences Conference Room
195 Farmington Ave., Suite 2100



SHAYNA CUNNINGHAM, PhD

scunningham@uchc.edu

Research Area(s) of Interest: Maternal and Child Health, Community-Based Participatory Research

FALL 2026

PUBH 5497-F03

Practical Approaches to Health Disparities Research

3 credits



COURSE DESCRIPTION

Throughout MPH training, students gain a solid theoretical understanding of health disparities through lectures and academic literature. However, the transition from theoretical knowledge to practical application often presents challenges. This course bridges the gap between academic knowledge and real-world application, equipping students with the practical skills necessary to make a meaningful impact in the field of health equity. It provides students with the confidence and competence to take the next step in the health equity journey, whether for the students' capstone projects or future professional endeavors in public health.

COURSE SCHEDULE: Wednesdays, 5:30 - 8:30 PM

LOCATION: In Person/U2083, 195 Farmington Ave.



HELEN (ZHAO) WU, PhD

zwu@uchc.edu

FALL 2026

PUBH 5497-F05

Data Foundations for Public Health: A SAS Approach

3 credits

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the use of SAS software for managing and preparing public health data. Topics will include data importing and cleaning, dataset merging, variable creation, and data transformation. Students will learn to write SAS programs to efficiently handle large datasets and ensure data integrity for analyses. Emphasis will be placed on documentation and best practices in data management within public health research.

COURSE SCHEDULE: Wednesdays, 2:00 - 5:00 PM

LOCATION: Hybrid Limited/U3071 A/B, 195 Farmington Ave.



AMY HUNTER, PhD

amhunter@uchc.edu

Research Area(s) of Interest:

Injury Epidemiology, Violence Prevention, and Racial Disparities Disproportionality

FALL 2026

PUBH 5497-F07

Public Health Research Appraisal

3 credits



COURSE DESCRIPTION

A research seminar examining the uses, strengths, and limitations of public health research methodologies. Manuscripts and research proposals on infectious disease, chronic disease, health behavior, and health care delivery are critically analyzed with the goal of promoting sound judgement about the scientific validity of public health research and to develop skills in self- and peer review.

COURSE SCHEDULE: Thursdays, 2:00 - 5:00 PM

LOCATION: In Person, CQM Conference Room, U30827,
195 Farmington Ave



HELEN SWEDE, PhD

swede@uchc.edu

Research Area(s) of Interest: Cancer
Chemoprevention and Cancer Disparities

FALL 2026

PUBH 5497-F08

Communicating Public Health Data Effectively

3 credits

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course prepares public health professionals to communicate complex health topics through clear, engaging, and accessible presentations. Students will develop skills in presentation design, storytelling, audience analysis, interactive engagement, accessibility, and cultural responsiveness. By the end of the course, students will be able to confidently design and deliver effective presentations for scientific conferences, community forums, stakeholder briefings, and educational outreach.

COURSE SCHEDULE: Thursdays, 2:00 - 5:00 PM

LOCATION: In Person/ U3071 A/B, 195 Farmington Ave



MISTI LEVY ZAMORA, PhD

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Research Area(s) of Interest:

Environmental Health and Engineering

FALL 2026

PUBH 5497-F12

Public Health Leadership

3 credits

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An overview of the inter-relationships between public health organizations/agencies and the adaptive and flexible strategies need for mobilizing practitioners to tackle tough challenges that are impacting their communities' health. Future public health leaders will gain deeper insight into practical leadership tools for resolving recurring organizational challenges pertaining to leadership ethics, personnel management/Human Resources, labor law and the core function of budget and grant/project management.

COURSE SCHEDULE: Thursdays, 6:00 - 9:00 PM

LOCATION: Hybrid/U3071 A/B, 195 Farmington Ave



MICHAEL PASCUCILLA, PhD, MPH

pascucilla@uchc.edu

FALL 2026

PUBH 5497-F04

Lifestyle Factors in Chronic Disease Epidemiology

3 credits



COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines how modifiable lifestyle factors influence chronic disease risk and survival. Topics include tobacco and alcohol use, diet and nutrition, obesity, sleep, and physical activity, and their relationships to a range of chronic diseases. Students will evaluate current epidemiologic research to better understand exposure measurement, study design, and the distribution of lifestyle-related health risks.

COURSE SCHEDULE: Fridays, 12:00 - 3:00 PM

LOCATION: Hybrid/U3071 A/B, 195 Farmington Ave.



KRISTIN GUERTIN, PhD

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Research Area(s) of Interest: Chronic disease epidemiology; Nutritional epidemiology; Modifiable Lifestyle factors; Biomarkers; Cancer risk and survivorship and Type 1 diabetes

FALL 2026

PUBH 5497-F06

Leadership Education in
Neurodevelopmental and related
Disabilities (LEND) Seminar I

3 credits



COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is the first of a 2-seminar sequence that is part of an interdisciplinary leadership training program aimed at improving the health of infants, children, and adolescents who have, or at risk for developing, neurodevelopmental and other related disabilities, with an emphasis on autism spectrum disorders. Lecturers include experts from different disciplines from UConn and across the country. Topics include the following: cultural competency, family-centered care, interdisciplinary teamwork, service integration, community-based organization, disability policy and advocacy, etc. This seminar is open to LEND trainees. **Instructor consent and permission number required.**

COURSE SCHEDULE: Fridays, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

LOCATION: In Person/UCEDD Conference Room, Suite 173
The Exchange, 270 Farmington Ave.



MARY BETH BRUDER, PhD

bruder@uchc.edu

Research Area(s) of Interest: enhancing the quality of life for those with disabilities and their families, Inclusion of children with special needs in early childhood and school settings

FALL 2026

PUBH 5501-F01

Foundations of Public Health and Disability

3 credits



COURSE DESCRIPTION

This introductory course explores the relationship between disability and public health policy and practice. Students will examine developmental and acquired disabilities through topics including the history and epidemiology of disability, disability law, ethics, research, financing, and public health interventions. The course also considers how societal attitudes toward disability influence public health policies, practices, and outcomes. **Instructor consent and permission number required.**

LOCATION: Online



TARA LUTZ, PhD, MPH, CHES

lutz@uchc.edu

Research Area(s) of Interest: Inclusive and accessible health and health care for persons with developmental disabilities

FALL 2026

PUBH 5503-F01

Disability Law, Policy,
Ethics, and Advocacy

3 credits



COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a legal, conceptual, and practical overview of disability rights, discrimination, and public policy. Students will examine state, national, and international laws affecting people with disabilities, including health policy, civil rights protections, education under the IDEA, and human rights frameworks. The course also explores principles of self-determination, inclusion in policymaking, and the role of legal systems in protecting the rights of people with disabilities. **Instructor consent and permission number required.**

LOCATION: Online



TARA LUTZ, PhD, MPH, CHES

lutz@uchc.edu

Research Area(s) of Interest: Inclusive and accessible health and health care for persons with developmental disabilities