

Berkeley Online MPH



Message from the Director

Dear Alumni,

I hope this first OOMPH+ alumni newsletter finds you and your families well. As we start our 2022 academic year, OOMPH has much to be thankful for and many exciting new educational initiatives to announce. Next January, we will celebrate the 10 year anniversary of our first cohort of 8 pioneering online students. These pioneers and all who have followed (including each of you) have contributed so much to OOMPH and Berkeley Public Health. **Stay tuned: a celebratory event is being planned for early 2022.**



Over the years, many of you have continued to contribute to OOMPH after your graduation in a variety of ways - we have always thought of this as **OOMPH+**. I am happy to share that Judy Smithson in her new role as the Director of Online Student Services and Advising will be leading OOMPH+ outreach including our biannual alumni newsletter, [webpage "OOMPH+ Alumni Portal"](#), continuing education offerings, and more. We are excited to welcome Judy into this role and hope to reconnect with you in new ways.

With all of the attention brought to public health by the last year + of COVID, our

enrollments continue to grow and we are expecting our biggest cohort ever this fall. This enrollment growth is making possible a number of exciting educational initiatives including new courses across the OOMPH program (please see details below by concentration). Our new alumni webpage has information on options for **taking courses (including new ones) as an alumni**.

We have also seen much needed attention to the impact of racism and all forms of discrimination and unjust treatment on health. In June of 2020, the American Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) elevated anti-racist pedagogy and practice to one of the 3 key **educational priorities** for schools and programs of public health. The OOMPH program is participating school-wide Berkeley Public Health efforts toward diversity, equity and inclusion (see details below and stay tuned for more).

In closing, I would like to thank all our OOMPH staff and faculty who work tirelessly to make OOMPH the program it is. This past year has challenged us all in so many ways and our dedicated OOMPH team has been there through it all. Also a warm thank you to all our students past and present; you are why we do this work and forever the heart of our community.

Best wishes to all for the upcoming year. We hope to connect with you.

Deborah Barnett, PhD, MS
Chief of Curriculum and Instruction
Director On-Campus/Online Professional MPH Program

New OOMPH+ Alumni Portal



The OOMPH+ cohort is 497 strong and growing in 23 countries around the world. Check out our new alumni webpage, the [OOMPH+ Portal!](#)

Connect with fellow alums, update your contact information, find out about new online courses (and how to take them as an OOMPH alumni), as well as learn about career and volunteer opportunities available to OOMPH alumni.

Health Policy and Management (HPM)

OOMPH's Health Policy and Management Concentration, now in its 5 year, continues to build on its programing with new courses (also available to OOMPH alumni) and now offers an official Berkeley Graduate Certificate in Health Management.

New Course Offering

- **Spring 2022: James Robinson, PhD, MPH** will begin offering his **Health Care Technology Policy** course in the OOMPH 8 week online format. This course examines the policy framework for biomedical technology, including medical devices, drugs, diagnostics, digital therapeutics, and algorithms. Emphasis will be placed on the funding of research and development, the protection of intellectual property, FDA market authorization, insurance coverage, and algorithm design. While, the focus will be on the US, the course will examine industrial policy and innovation nationalism within a global context.

New Graduate Certificate in Health Management

- The HPM concentration team announces the new Graduate Certificate in Health Management! The certificate incorporates 3 related courses: Strategic Management & the Health Sector, Organizational Behavior & Management in Health Care, and Health Care Finance and will appear on official UCB transcripts. Effective, professional management of the diverse array of organizations operating in the healthcare sector requires specialized knowledge and expertise in organizational and financial structures within organizations, and experience with strategic planning and implementation. UC Berkeley HPM Certificate students develop these critical competencies in a comprehensive set of toolkit courses focusing on skills, frameworks, and applied learning. Theoretical concepts and practice of important skills such as budgeting and investment analysis, external landscape scans and customer journey maps, culture assessments, and process improvement initiatives are learned through team projects, presentations, and case studies. A focus on key issues facing managers today also importantly includes how to incorporate diversity, equity and inclusion into managerial decision-making and ensure all voices are at the table.

"The Health Management Certificate program courses (HC Finance, Strategy, and Organizational Behavior) each included outstanding content. Collectively, however, they deliver a nuanced, Public Health focused framework to assess how organizational decisions impact program performance and, ultimately, patient outcomes."

-John Bodtker, PharmD, MPH'21 HPM Concentration

Epidemiology and Biostatistics Concentration

New Course Offerings

OOMPH launched our [Epidemiology and Biostatistics Concentration](#) in July 2020 and will roll out the complete online Epidemiology and Biostatistics curriculum over the upcoming academic year with 3 new online courses (also

available to OOMPH alumni).

- Fall 2021: [Patrick Bradshaw, PhD](#) will teach for OOMPH his **PH252: Epidemiologic Analysis**. Drawing on concepts from intermediate-level epidemiological methods (PHW250B) and biostatistics courses (PHW142, PHW241), PH252 covers techniques for regression modeling of data from epidemiologic studies to estimate common measures of association and their estimates of precision. After completing this course, students will be able to outline the steps necessary for data analysis, apply the appropriate technique to estimate required measures of association, understand any necessary assumptions, and present and interpret the results. These skills provide a foundation for completion of the analytical components of research projects, as well as prepare students for more advanced coursework in epidemiologic methods and causal inference.
- Fall 2021: **William Wheeler, PhD, MPH** and chief of the AIDS Drug Assistance Program & HIV Care Evaluation and Informatics Branch at Office of AIDS, California Department of Public Health will teach **PHW251: R for Public Health**. We piloted this course last year with great reception from students. The purpose of this 2 unit course is to examine the principles and methods underlying the use of R, emphasizing multi-disciplinary, collaborative, and “real world” uses. In addition, the course will emphasize common practices for collaborative coding using online Git/GitHub repositories for storing and sharing code to benefit not only your current collaborators but your most frequent collaborator - your future self. The course will also explore best practices for organizing your data and projects.
- Spring 2022: [Stefano Bertozzi, MD, PhD](#) is developing a 2 unit, 15 week online **Implementation Science** course. Implementation science leverages a heterogeneous set of methodological tools to study the implementation of programs and policies, including both qualitative and quantitative methodologies; process evaluations; impact evaluation; and cost-benefit, cost-effectiveness, and efficiency analyses. The proposed curriculum will reflect diverse faculty instructors and methodologies which span a wide range of disciplines from economics, epidemiology, behavioral science, to cutting edge statistical techniques. More details will be shared in our next newsletter.

Public Health Nutrition (PHN)

New Course Offerings/ New Concentration Coming Soon!

A proposal for a third OOMPH concentration option in Public Health Nutrition (PHN) is under final campus review. We are anticipating final approval sometime this summer with a formal announcement/kick off this Fall. This new concentration will require the 6 core MPH courses plus 5 required PHN courses. For this new concentration, OOMPH will add two new online Public Health Nutrition courses that will also be open to OOMPH alumni.

- Spring 2022: [Sarah Zyba, PhD](#) will offer the first new online public health nutrition course: **PHW206A: Nutrition Assessment** for Spring 1 of 2022 will cover current tools to assess nutrition and dietary behaviors; field application of measures; and their use in evaluating nutrition programs
- Fall 2022: [Hannah Thompson, PhD, MPH](#) will offer the second new online public health nutrition course: **PHW206B: Food and Nutrition Policy** in Fall

2. PHW206B will examine the historical origins of food and nutrition improvement programs in the United States, including the political and administrative conditions that led to the development of these programs.

The two new online Public Health Nutrition Courses will join PHW205: Program Planning, PHW218: Evaluation of Health and Social Program and PHW206: MCAH Nutrition to complete the 5 required PHN courses. Students in the PHN concentration will be able to choose any 3 electives from the suite of OOMPH courses to complete their MPH degree.

Interdisciplinary Program

Other courses in our pipeline

Students in the Interdisciplinary program have the opportunity to take any of the new courses being developed for specific concentrations (see above).

- Summer 2022: [Jay Graham, PhD, MBA, MPH](#) is developing a course in WASH: Water and Sanitary Hygiene for summer 2. More details coming soon.
 - New course updates will be coming to our [Course Catalog](#).
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Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

In June of 2020, the American Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) elevated anti-racist pedagogy and practice to one of the 3 key **educational priorities** for schools and programs of public health. Berkeley Public Health realizes that we ourselves have MUCH work to do towards anti-racism and under the leadership of our Associate Executive Dean, Amani Allen, have established the ARC4Justice program. This program approaches anti-racism from multiple angles spanning faculty recruitment and training, recruitment and student services, curriculum decolonization and redesign based on anti-racist pedagogy, development of a bias reporting system, community engagement, staff training, and review of our business practices.

This summer, the OOMPH program began to work on our ARC4Justice goals with 11 faculty, teaching key OOMPH courses, participating in an Anti-Racism Pedagogy Faculty Academy. They will be working to apply their learnings to their teaching and bring more attention to the work of BIPOC scholars in their fields. Our summer virtual visits integrated anti-racism workshops led by [Dr. Lori Watson](#).

OOMPH joins with the rest of Berkeley Public Health to welcome [Ché L. Abram](#) as our new Chief of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging. In the coming academic years, OOMPH will work closely with Ché and Executive Associate Dean Allen on these goals through the professional development opportunities we offer students and alumni as well as working towards improving our own equity and inclusiveness in all aspects of what we strive to do. We welcome your feedback. Please let us know if you are interested in joining this work.

Class of 2020 In-Person Commencement

Date: Sunday, August 29, 2021

Time(s): The 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. events are sold out; space is still available for the 7 p.m. event.

Location: [Greek Theatre](#)

Each event will last approximately three hours and include a brief ceremony with speeches and the conferring of degrees, followed by a procession in which graduates will cross the stage, receive a symbolic diploma, and have their photos taken.

Please visit the [Berkeley Commencement website](#) for more information.

Alumni Spotlights

Kim Wu MPH' 2018 is a second year PhD student at Tulane University's School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine where is working on research that centers strengths based approaches to public health. Kim's research interests include working with adolescents, mental health, and community based research methods, especially to understand the strengths embedded within the cultural values of communities of color. Outside of work, Kim enjoys crafts, paddleboarding, and hikes.



Stephanie Huerta MPH' 2019 is a Program Coordinator at UCSF Fresno with the Latino Center for Medical Education and Research where she helps lead multiple health pathway programs in rural and urban communities. Her interests include improving health equity in rural communities, increasing educational attainment in minority groups, and increasing the health care workforce diversity in the Central San Joaquin Valley. When not working, she loves spending time with her two daughters and husband as well as crafting, traveling, watching new movies and taking photos of her family and friends.



Olivia Dean MPH' 2018 is a Policy Research Senior Analyst at AARP Public Policy Institute where she works on public health and health policy issues impacting adults ages 50 and older, including food insecurity and access to affordable health coverage. When not at work, Olivia loves to be outdoors hiking and camping.



Frederick Rosen MPH' 2018 is the Deputy Health Officer for the County of San Luis Obispo. He has been working in the COVID-19 response on an ongoing basis since first pulled to the Emergency Operations Center in March 2020. Because of his

OOMPH degree, he is able to go paddle boarding with sea otters most weekends.



Berkeley Public Health Alumni Events

The UC Berkeley Public Health Alumni Association (PHAA) hosts various events through the academic year. Connect with old friends and make new ones. Please visit the [PHAA Calendar of Events](#) to see how you can get involved.

Thank you to our past and current **OOMPH alumni representatives** serving on PHAA. If you are interested in becoming a PHAA Board Member, check out information on the [PHAA webpage](#).

Career Opportunities

Did you know that you can access career resources beyond graduation?

- Alumni can attend career programs and schedule appointments to meet with Career Services during the “off-season” (later in the semester and throughout the summer), schedule permitting.

Log in to [PHLEX](#) to book an appointment with a career advisor or to access the many job opportunities posted there.

Continue Your Education with OOMPH

Check out the [Catalog of Online Courses](#) for opportunities to refresh or expand your knowledge of current public health trends.

When “seats” are available, OOMPH invites Alumni to enroll in courses as non-degree students.

Alumni have full student status, take part in group projects, and receive instructor feedback on assignments and exams. Cost varies depending on whether you choose a certificate of completion or transcribed credit for completed courses:

- **Option 1: Certificate of Completion** – Cost per unit is \$400. When “seats” are available, course listings will appear in our [online catalog of courses for Alumni](#), where you can enroll.

- **Option 2: Transcribed Credit** – **Cost** per unit is \$750, plus \$125 application fee and \$250 student services fee. [Register with UC Berkeley Extension concurrent enrollment](#). Availability is determined at the time of application.

Questions? Please contact: oomph_admin@berkeley.edu

Revenue from alumni continuing education will help support scholarship opportunities for current OOMPH students.

Make a Gift

OOMPH has committed to returning 2% of our program revenue in return to aid as well as working with partners (such as Gilead Biosciences) to provide funding for OOMPH students. We have created a gift fund to increase the amount of scholarship support we can provide.

Your gift helps with important program goals such as providing fellowships to address the financial needs of a diverse and highly qualified group of mid-career MPH candidates from around the world, and instructional innovation to continue providing the highest quality education to our students.

With your generosity, we can train the next generation of global public health change makers to improve health locally and globally in real time and ensure that they can continue their studies while working in their home communities.

[Make a Gift!](#)

How to Get Involved

Stay involved!

- Volunteer to host an OOMPH Practicum or become a program Ambassador
- Join a teaching team and work as a Course Facilitator.



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