

Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Program

FAQs

Additional information on the MCAH program, our curriculum, and the most recent program handbook can be found on our website [here](#).

The MCAH Program

What is the difference between the one-year and two-year MCAH program?

The **two-year MPH program** is designed for students with a Bachelor's degree and is a full-time course of study, requiring a minimum of 48 units over four academic semesters, completion of a capstone research project, and an internship.

The **one-year MPH** is designed for public health professionals who already hold an advanced degree or are current medical students. The one-year MPH is an intensive, full-time course of study running from July-May. The program requires completion 42 units of coursework and a capstone research project.

I am interested in quantitative and qualitative research, can I gain both skills in the program?

The MCAH program is a quantitative, research-based program. The required coursework and capstone project of the MCAH program is designed to ensure our students gain the necessary knowledge, skills, and tools to comprehensively understand and conduct epidemiologic research.

Students may choose to take electives in qualitative methods and/or select a summer internship that focuses on qualitative research.

What is the required capstone project?

As part of the requirement for the MPH, each MCAH student must complete a quantitative capstone research project. This project consists of a written and an oral component and is considered to be the comprehensive examination for MCAH students. Students are enrolled in seminars designed to support students in the capstone process.

What is expected for the summer internship?

Students in the MCAH program strengthen their leadership and practice knowledge and skills by completing a 480 hour internship. Typically, these placements are a 12-week, full-time work experience during the summer between the first and second year of the program. The internship experience is required for all two-year and concurrent degree program students.

More information on the internship requirement can be found on the [SPH website](#).

How many applications do you receive per year?

On average, we receive 65 applications for the two-year MPH Program and 14 applications for the one-year MPH Program.

How many applicants are offered admission per year?

On average, we offer admissions to 21 applicants for the two-year MPH program (32% of the applicant pool), and nine applicants for the one-year MPH program (64% of the applicant pool).

How much MCAH experience is recommended before applying to the program? What type of work and/or volunteer experience is preferred?

We look for students who have at least one year of experience following the completion of their bachelor degree for the two-year MPH. Applicants for the one-year MPH much have a graduate level degree (e.g., MSW, MD) or currently be enrolled in medical school.

We hope to see experience related to research and/or MCAH issues. For example:

- Experience working on a research team, being an undergraduate research assistant, conducting needs assessments, designing evaluations etc.
- Experience working with a reproductive health center, youth advocacy, teen pregnancy, MCAH policy work, MCAH advocacy, etc.

Individuals with paid and/or voluntary experience in MCAH at the local, state or federal level, and those who are dedicated to the concerns and needs of diverse and underrepresented communities are desired applicants.

What aspects of the application are weighed more heavily than others?

We review applications holistically, taking all aspects of a prospective student's application into consideration when making decisions about offering admissions. Overall we are looking for prospective students who demonstrate great potential for leadership and have a keen interest in research, including quantitative data collection and analysis, and who are passionate about MCAH issues.

Due to the quantitative nature of our program, we do look at a number of factors related to an applicant's interest in, and ability to succeed, in our research-focused program. This may include, but is not limited to—an applicant's GPA; transcripts indicating coursework in statistics or math; GRE scores; statement of purpose; and research experience. We also look for statements indicating the prospective student's topic areas of interest related to MCAH. For example, information indicating how this program will help the individual achieve their short- and long-term career goals, what area of MCAH the individual hopes to research while in the program, and why the program is a good fit for them.

What are the average GRE scores of accepted applicants in your program?

The average entering student has a quantitative score at or above the 56th percentile, verbal score at or above the 74th percentile, and analytic score at or above the 80th percentile.

Admissions

When are applications due?

Specific application deadlines can change year to year. Please check the [SPH website](#) to the most up to date information about application deadlines.

How soon after I submit my application can I expect to hear an official response?

The admissions committee will review applications between December and January. Decisions are generally made between February and March, and official decision communications are shared by the Graduate Division.

If I am not admitted, can I apply again next year?

If an applicant is not admitted they are able to apply again in future years. Please note, the applicant will have to submit all their materials again.

I have been offered admission—how can I arrange to visit campus and Berkeley in order to make a decision?

The School typically hosts a Spring Visit Day in mid-March for those candidates who have been offered admission which is a great opportunity to visit campus.

Prospective and admitted students can also email the MCAH Assistant Director (mcahprogram@berkeley.edu) to arrange a separate campus visit.

If offered admission, can I defer and begin a year later?

If an applicant was offered admissions without an exceptional approval, then they can defer admissions for one year. Applicants who need an exceptional approval for the department to offer admissions, for example applications with lower than a 3.0 GPA, are not able to defer admissions offer.

I am an international student, does my degree qualify me to apply?

Information on the eligibility requirements for international students can be found on the [SPH](#) and [Graduate Division](#) webpages. Specific questions should be directed to admission coordinators in their offices.

How can I connect with a current student or alumni to talk about the program?

To connect with a current student please email our GRADS Ambassadors at: sphgrads@berkeley.edu. To connect with an alumni, please email mcahprogram@berkeley.edu

What scholarships, fellowships, or financial aid are available?

Financial Aid

MCAH FAQs

Each academic year, a limited number of merit and need-based fellowships and scholarships are awarded to students by Berkeley's Graduate Division and the School of Public Health. For more information specific fellows & scholarships, please see the [SPH webpage](#). For information on timelines please see the [Deadlines & Timeline](#) information.

Graduate students may apply for need-based loans and work-study through the Financial Aid Office. The programs are based on demonstrated financial need and require a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For more details and additional information please visit the [SPH website](#).

Does the MCAH program offer any funding for admitted students?

The MCAH program can provide some financial support to admitted and enrolled students in a variety of ways. Almost all funding provided is through our [Center of Excellence in MCAH](#) which is a funded training center through [HRSA's Maternal and Child Health Bureau](#).

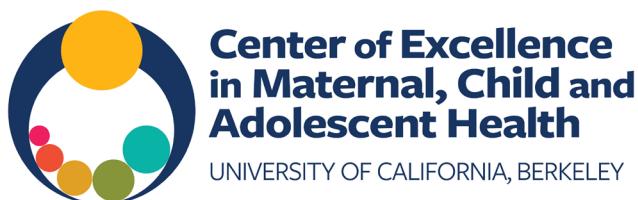
- All MCAH students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents are eligible to funding support from the Center of Excellence, and efforts are made to support all students in need for at least one semester during their time in the program.
- Admitted students who would like to participate in Spring Visit Day but need financial assistance to attend can contact the Assistant Director (mcahprogram@berkeley.edu) to see if funding is available for travel support.
- A limited number of MCAH traineeships are awarded to MCAH students annually. Traineeships are small financial awards that typically cover a portion of tuition and fees for the semester. Faculty review and select traineeship recipients based on applications, as such the program recommends making applications as strong as possible.
- The program also provides some financial support for summer internships for students in the 2-year program. Students are asked to submit an application if they request financial support for a summer placement.
- The program has also supported students through Graduate Student Instructors (GSI) and Graduate Student Researchers (GSR) positions. The availability of these positions are not guaranteed each semester.
- Lastly, [our affiliated MCAH research centers](#) often have GSI or GSR positions that students enrolled in the MCAH program may be eligible to receive.

Contact us

Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Program

2121 Berkeley Way
Mail Code #5302
Berkeley, CA 94720-7360

mcahprogram@berkeley.edu



Berkeley Public Health