

## UC BERKELEY'S CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN MCAH FAQs

### **What is a Center of Excellence in MCH Education, Science, and Practice?**

*A Center of Excellence in MCH Education, Science, and Practice is Federally funded [Center of Excellence Training Grant](#) that aims to improve the health of women, infants, children, youth, and their families through workforce development. In administration with accredited schools of public health, these programs support masters and doctoral levels of education, as well as continuing education for public health and clinical professionals. The goal of these programs are to prepare students for careers in maternal and child public health practice, research, planning, policy development, and advocacy. There is an emphasis on leadership training, applied research, and technical assistance to communities, states, and regions*

*Centers of Excellence in MCH Education, Science, and Practice are funded through the Health Resources & Services Administration's ([HRSA](#)) Maternal and Child Health Bureau ([MCHB](#)), and is housed in the [Division of MCH Workforce Development](#)*

### **What is the focus of UC Berkeley's Center of Excellence in MCAH?**

*The [UCB Center of Excellence in MCAH](#) (CoE in MCAH), housed in the [School of Public Health](#), has been providing graduate-level training and continuing education in maternal, child, and adolescent health research and practice since 1953. As one of the longest awarded Centers of Excellence in MCH, UC Berkeley's mission is to develop a generation of leaders equipped to solve health challenges facing women, children, adolescents and families of the 21st century.*

*The CoE in MCAH aims to:*

- *To provide the best education possible to develop graduates who are prepared to lead Title V and other MCAH organizations and promote and protect the health status of diverse MCAH populations.*
- *To prepare public health and health care professionals to be leaders in the field of MCAH with a culturally competent, multidisciplinary, community oriented, ethical, and cost-effective vision of maternal, child and adolescent health, with the skills that can help solve the health challenges of the 21st century.*
- *To work closely with Title V and other MCAH programs at the state, local, national, and global levels to mobilize large scale, synergistic efforts to reduce and eliminate health disparities and barriers to health that affect MCAH populations*

### **What academic programs are supported by the CoE in MCAH?**

*[Master of Public Health in MCAH](#): The Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (MCAH) program encompasses an epidemiology curriculum designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills to conduct quantitative research in MCAH topics. The program provides a broad public health perspective with particular focus on MCAH epidemiology and leadership skills.*

*The CoE provides financial support to trainees from this program in a number of ways including through MCAH traineeships which cover a portion of their tuition and fees. There are opportunities for students to receive funding for summer internships positions, conference travel, and other professional events. The center also offers a number of Graduate Student Instructors (GSI) and Graduate Student Researchers (GSR) positions for students to obtain experience teaching and conducting research.*

*Postdoctoral Training Program in MCAH Epidemiology: The CoE in MCAH received supplemental funding to support postdoctoral fellows in MCAH during the 2015-2020 grant cycle. The postdoctoral training program provides fellows with a transdisciplinary perspective and advanced training in MCAH and epidemiology. Postdoctoral fellows receive mentorship while working on research projects with one of our [affiliated research centers](#), where they obtain skills needed to transition to academic faculty and research leadership roles.*

### **What are opportunities for continuing education at the Center of Excellence in MCAH?**

*The UCB Center of Excellence in MCAH hosts a variety [events and opportunities](#) for MCAH professionals to continue to develop their knowledge and skills in MCAH topic and research areas. These opportunities include research symposiums, interdisciplinary colloquia with other MCHB leadership training programs, and events for MCAH professionals on topics of interest.*

*In particular, our CoE has developed a **free, open-access, and self-directed** online training module series available to the MCAH workforce. This training series, [Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Life Course Perspective, Practice, and Leadership](#), offers a 5-part module series on the life course perspective and leadership. This resource includes video interviews with national experts, recommended readings, case studies of organizations in practice, and an opportunity to reflect on information presented.*

### **What types of technical assistance and/or consulting does the CoE in MCAH provide to organizations?**

*The MCAH faculty provide technical assistance and consultation to State and local Title V agencies and community based organizations in MCAH, as well as national and international MCAH programs. This can take the form of assisting in conducting research, publishing and disseminating research findings, and providing guidance for program implementation. Contact us at [mcahprogram@berkeley.edu](mailto:mcahprogram@berkeley.edu) for inquiries.*

### **What is the role of the CoE in MCAH's advisory board?**

*The Center of Excellence maintains an Advisory Board of leading MCAH professionals in the San Francisco Bay Area. The [advisory board](#) has representatives from Title V and MCH organizations such as CYSHCN, state and local MCH Directors, and other HRSA MCH funded projects, alumni, and community representatives. The board's role is to provide guidance, input, and partnership with the CoE in MCAH on emerging MCAH issues, workforce development needs, and opportunities for trainees.*

## EMPHASIS ON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

### How is leadership development emphasized in the academic program?

The MCAH Program [promotes leadership](#) by providing students with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand and analyze current issues in the field. Some examples of leadership activities students engage in include leadership retreats, enrolling in a MCAH Leadership Seminar, and completing a 480 hour summer practicum experience. Students often also attend and present at professional conferences and meetings while in the program. These activities and opportunities focuses on personal leadership development, culture competence, ethics, teamwork and the ability to make difficult decisions. The students are able to apply the skills and theories learned into the real-world MCAH setting both in their practice-based classes and during their summer practicum experience.

### What are the CORE MCH Leadership Competencies?

The leaders of MCH are individuals who understand and support the MCH mission, values, and goals with strong purpose and moral commitment. MCH leaders have acquired MCH specific knowledge of MCH populations and their needs. The [CORE MCH Leadership Competencies](#) are organized in the framework of self, others, and wider community.

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