



## MASTER OF HEALTH SOCIAL SCIENCE

The Master of Health Social Science is a 14-month program designed for those with a bachelor's degree (or higher) in the social sciences, natural sciences, or health-related fields who need the theoretical bases of and specialized skills in the social science aspects of research as well as program design, management, and evaluation as applied to community and culture-based health issues.

The program aims to impart to students a holistic understanding of the cultural and social dimensions of health research as well as program design, implementation, and evaluation that will enable them to conceptualize, design, execute and assess relevant health programs. It also seeks to instill in students the sensitivity to gender issues as they develop their understanding of and skills in the foregoing areas. The program has adopted the modular approach where courses are taught one after the other.

### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Academic Courses	36 units
Thesis	6 units
<b>Total</b>	<b>42 units</b>

### MAJOR COURSES

#### **Biological and Social Foundations of Health (ABS542M)**

*3 units*

The course provides an overview of the structural and functional basis of health and illness, disease conditions with higher prevalence and where the socio-behavioral components are critical for control or management will be selected for illustration. Wherever possible, a gender perspective will be incorporated in the approach to the subject. The lifecycle approach is used in discussing the developmental changes, leading causes of morbidity and mortality and other important health issues in the intra-uterine, infancy, childhood, adolescent, adult and senescent phase in life. The biological foundations and the socio-behavioral aspects of health promotion and disease causation are described in the different stages across the life span.

#### **Health Social Science (ABS541M)**

*3 units*

The course introduces the student to the major perspectives, frameworks, and concepts in the social sciences, especially as these are applied to the study of health and illness. At the end of the course, the student is expected to describe, explain and critique major frameworks or perspectives in the social sciences for understanding health and illness behavior, as well as summarize and discuss major empirical findings on the sociocultural dimensions of health care in the Philippines. Furthermore, students will prepare and present a research proposal that examines the sociocultural determinants and consequences of a particular health care issue in the Philippines.

#### **Health Social Science Research Methods 1 (ABS525M)**

*3 units*

The first of a two-part course, Health Research Methods 1 deals with the basic framework, features, processes and methods of conducting social research in general and health research in particular. It provides students with the fundamental knowledge on the processes, philosophy, principles and rules of the appropriate use of the varying methods, tools and techniques of social science and health research. Furthermore, as efforts will be focused on carrying out research related to health, it will introduce and familiarize students to the basic concepts of epidemiology, its uses and tools. At the end of the course, students are expected to distinguish different approaches and types of research and characterize what constitutes health social science research. The course also aims for students to understand and assess the methodological variations in health social science research and identify and consider the ethical issues and concerns in the practice of social science research, specifically in the area of health. At the end of the course, students are also required to formulate a research problem, review related literature and draw up a conceptual framework and apply the basic skills and techniques in conceptualizing and developing a sound and viable health social science research proposal.

#### **Health Social Science Research Methods 2 (ABS526M)**

*3 units*

This is the second part of the course on health social science research methods. It focuses on the specific approaches and techniques, both qualitative and quantitative, in the collection, measurement, and analysis of empirical data conducted in social science research in general and health social science in particular. It will highlight the principles, issues and procedures in doing social research on current health/health-related concerns within the scientific enterprise. As a continuation of Research Methods 1, the course furthers the students' knowledge on the practice of social research, with emphasis on social research methodologies specific to the study of health social problems or issues in the Philippines.



## **Health Statistics (ABS500M)**

*3 units*

The course deals with basic concepts and tools for statistical analysis in health research. It focuses on the descriptive correlational and inferential statistics with specific application to epidemic logical analysis and health research in general.

## **Program Planning and Management with Practicum (ABS815M)**

*3 units*

The course introduces the students to the basic principles and techniques of planning and management of health programs. It also exposes students to community-based health programs and projects as well as health problems in a community and utilizes the tools of planning and management in assessing the foregoing.

## **Seminar on Gender, Sexuality and Reproductive Health (ABS555M)**

*3 units*

Students are introduced to gender issues as well as the psychosocial, cultural, political and economic aspects of gender, sexuality and reproductive health. Particular attention will also be given to the interrelationship between gender and health. The course provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the Program of Action of the UN International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD in Cairo 1994), and the ICPD+5 as the framework for reproductive health. Gender and sexuality issues are discussed in relation to reproductive health, particularly in the Philippine setting. The various components and determinants of reproductive health are discussed, including its operationalization in the country as well as its policy and programmatic implications. Students are also familiarized with gender analysis, planning and its mainstreaming in all sectors. The course will adopt a comprehensive life-cycle approach to reproductive health. Special areas of focus will be prenatal and postnatal care, unwanted pregnancy, adolescent development, fertility and sexuality, reproductive tract infections including HIV/AIDS, family planning, menopause, gender violence, ethics and reproductive rights.

## **Population Studies (ABS550M)**

*3 units*

The course introduces the students to the social and cultural base of human fertility and mortality. Specifically, students will be provided with an understanding and appreciation of basic fertility and mortality techniques, methods, and perspectives used in population study (or social demography). Varying fertility and mortality conditions will be linked with some health and health care related issues and concerns. The geographic focus is global, but the Filipino perspective will be given considerable attention in the course.

## **Directed Readings (ABS820M)**

*3 units*

A course designed as independent research subject to complement thesis writing. Students are expected to write a thorough literature review, consult with their mentors and the professor of this course. They are also expected to present their literature review and comprehensive bibliography as well as the draft of their research design and research instruments orally and in written form.

## **Ethics, Policy and Program Analysis (ABS585M)**

*3 units*

This modular course introduces students to the concepts and issues of bioethics and social (particularly health) policy. It also attempts to describe the process of health policy and program formulation. At the end of this course, the students are expected to: (1) define and describe bioethics including its brief history and guiding principles; (2) understand current issues in bioethics including some aspects of feminist bioethics; and (3) understand basic concepts and issues of social policy and the process of health policy and program formulation.

## **Community Organization and Development (ABS681M)**

*3 units*

This course deals with two current modes of realizing planned social change – community organization and community development. It focuses on the historical development, philosophy, concepts, principles, strategies, development and practice of community organization and community development in health in the Philippine setting and other Third World societies. It is designed to enable students to view community organization and community development within a theoretical framework and to understand how these actually work in practice.



# De La Salle University

## **Health Economics (ABS532M)**

*3 units*

This course is an introduction to the economics of health and health care. It starts with a basic overview of the macroeconomic issues facing the health and proceeds to introduce basic theories, concepts and techniques used in economics as applied to the health care. The course focuses on the microeconomic functions of different health care markets. It will also cover important health policy issues related to economic evaluation, health finance, health service provision, distribution and consumption. One of its aims is for students to gain appreciation of the usefulness of economic concepts and tools in understanding health sector-related problems. The course also aims to enrich the perspective in designing and evaluating health programs.

## **THESIS**

### **Thesis (ABS851M)**

*3 units*