



آغا خان یونیورسٹی

THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

**Offered by:**

Department of Community Health Sciences

**Information and Registration:**

Master of Science in Public Health

Department of Community Health Sciences

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## *Behavioral and Social Science Approach to Public Health* Standalone Course with Graduate Credits

*September 6 - December 31, 2024 / 2:30 - 5:30 pm / Every Friday*

The Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH) Programme is pleased to announce the standalone course scheduled for September - December 2024. This course is part of the programme curriculum but can also be taken without enrolling in a degree programme. Course credits can contribute towards a master's degree.

### **Course Description**

This course has been designed to incorporate various behavioral and social science disciplines to improve population health, with a special focus on approaches that influence health behavior and policies, and foster community participation and empowerment. The course will provide an overview of the social and behavioral sciences in public health, emphasizing the ecological model of community health problem analysis and the development of effective interventions.

Students will be introduced to selected social and behavioral theories and models used by public health professionals to plan, implement, and evaluate program strategies and policies aimed at improving community health. Public health professionals play dynamic and leadership roles across various systems. To be most effective, they must consider the complex interplay of behavioral, social, and environmental factors on population health and welfare, beyond just biological risk factors.

In this program, students will study social and behavioral theories, models, and methods for designing interventions that promote healthy behaviors and prevent or reduce disease and illness at both macro and micro levels. The course is specifically designed with local public health issues and determinants of health behaviors in mind. It includes interactive sessions, tutorials, and field visit. Assessment will be based on written assignments, students presentations, and quizzes.

### **Course credits can contribute towards a master's degree:**

Candidates who will achieve a cGPA of 3.5 or above after completing two courses or a cGPA of 3.0 or above after completing three courses are exempted from writing the Admission Test. They will be required to appear for an interview. The courses are valid for three years only for entry into the MSPH programme.

### **Audience**

- Physicians, dentists, nurses, and allied health professionals, preferably with experience in public health
- Health sector managers – public and private
- Public health professionals from other disciplines who have the required experience
- Health professionals working with NGOs and development agencies

### **Enrolment Criteria**

Candidates for enrolment in this course must present the following:

Candidates should have at least one year of full-time work experience after graduation in a health-related field (voluntary work, a part-time or unpaid internship is not included) and should hold at least one of the following degrees are eligible to apply:

Sixteen-year undergraduate degree from an accredited/recognized university in Sciences / Health Sciences, including bachelor's degree such as BSPH, MBBS, BDS, BScN, DVM, D Pharm, BS Human Nutrition, and Dietetics (or equivalent).

### **Important Information:**

Submit the form via e-mail by Friday, August 9, 2024, at [visiting.application@aku.edu](mailto:visiting.application@aku.edu) along with the following as a PDF file:

- Completed and signed application form along with a photograph
- Attested copy of degree and marks sheet of sixteen years of schooling in the relevant field as mentioned in the criteria.
- Attested copy of CNIC / Passport
- Attested copy of work experience letter

Interested candidates are encouraged to ensure their applications are duly completed, as incomplete applications will not be processed.

AKU may request additional documentation or an equivalence certificate to clarify your qualification.

**Course fee: PKR 102,300**

**Register by: August 09, 2024**