

# MPH Context Certificate Roadmap:

## Mental Health and Substance Use (MHSU)

For students matriculating in  
Fall 2025/Spring 2026

Students must follow certificate requirements relative to the year/semester that they matriculated.

### Integrated Core, Foundations, & Career Prep (16 units)

Online course to be taken before classes begin:

- **PH700** Foundations of Public Health (0)

Develop a strong foundation in public health through the core courses:

- **PH717** Quantitative Methods for Public Health (4)
- **PH718** Leadership and Management in Public Health (4)
- **PH719** Health Systems, Law, and Policy (4)
- **PH720** Individual, Community, and Population Health (4)

Prepare for the Practicum and a career:

- **PH746** Career PREP (0)

### Additional Courses (20 units)

Students are required to complete one functional certificate (16 units unless otherwise indicated)

- Community Assessment, Program Design, Implementation, & Evaluation
- Health Communication and Promotion
- Environmental Health
- Epidemiology and Biostatistics
- Global Health Program Design, Monitoring, & Evaluation
- Health Policy and Law
- Healthcare Management (28)
- Program Management

and general electives (typically 4 units) to reach the 48-unit minimum for degree completion.

A maximum of 4 units may fulfill requirements in any two certificates. These units do NOT count twice toward the overall 48 units needed to graduate.

### MHSU Certificate Course Requirements (12 units)

Choose one required course:

**SB780** Mental Health and Public Health: A Social and Behavioral Sciences Perspective (4)

**SB785** Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use: People, Populations, and Policies (4)

*Note: Whichever option is not chosen can count as an MHSU elective*

Choose 8 units of MHSU electives:

**SB730** Stress as a Public Health Problem (2)

**SB832** Trauma, Trauma-Informed Care, Recovery & Resilience (4)

**MC783** Substance Use Among Minoritized and Marginalized Populations (4)

**MC800** Preventing Mental Health Concerns: A Life Course Perspective (2)

**LW854** Mental Health Law (4)

**EP790** Mental Health Epidemiology (2)

**PM758** Introduction to Mental Health Services (2)

**PM785** Mental Health Advocacy (2)

**PM795** Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Policy and Politics (4)

**GH765** Global Mental Health (2)

Students must complete a minimum of 48 units to earn an MPH degree.

Dual degree requirements differ from the roadmap. All Official requirements are in the Bulletin.

### MPH Practicum PH976 (240 hours; 0 units)

Gain experience as a public health professional through a Practicum.

- Students can begin a Practicum after having completed at least 16 SPH units.
- More information can be found at <https://www.bu.edu/sph/careers/for-students/practmenu/>
- Questions? Contact [sphpract@bu.edu](mailto:sphpract@bu.edu)

### Integrated Learning Experience PH845 (0 units)

Completed in final semester

- The ILE is tied to the functional certificate.
- Students must be enrolled in, or have completed, the Practicum to be eligible for the ILE.
- The Registrar will enroll a student in PH845 after their graduation application is reviewed.
- One ILE is required per student.

### Course Substitutions

There are no pre-approved Course Substitutions at this time.

*Special Topics courses may count toward the MHSU Certificate at the discretion of the Certificate Director. Students will need to fill out a [Course Substitution Form](#).*

### Certificate Contacts

Certificate Director:

Carol Dolan, [cdolan@bu.edu](mailto:cdolan@bu.edu)

Academic Program Administrator:

Sarah Lawrence, [sel6@bu.edu](mailto:sel6@bu.edu)