

Semester: IV
Core Course

16. Course Title and Code: MPC 54 91 & Dissertation

Credit: 12

About Dissertation

This core course is offered in Semester-IV to MPH students. As part of this course students are required to undertake a research work (using primary data) of public health importance under the supervision of a faculty within the department. The main purpose of this course is to enable the students obtain first-hand experience of conducting a public health research and gain insights into the processes involved, including (but not limited to) research proposal development, seeking necessary approvals (Technical Advisory Committee and Ethics), data collection, data analysis and report writing. The dissertation is expected to provide students with an opportunity to apply and learn the research skills learnt during the course of MPH programme.

Course outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course the students shall be able to

- i. Understand the steps involved in the research process.
- ii. Design and conduct original research project to answer research question in the disciplines of public health.
- iii. Develop research question specific methodology to answer the specific research questions.
- iv. Perform analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data using SPSS, R, NVivo
- v. Develop scientific writing skills

Skills developed

On completion of the course the student shall be able to develop skill to design and conduct an original research in disciplines of public health, manifest skills in applying research methodology and using data analysis software such as SPSS, R and NVivo etc., develop scientific writing skills.

Evaluation: This course will be evaluated for 100 marks involving both internal and external evaluations. An evaluation of 60 marks will be done by an external examiner, by evaluating the dissertation report and viva voce. The internal evaluation of 40 marks will be done by the respective supervisor/research guide of the individual student.

Process of dissertation: The process of dissertation commences with the identification of research problem, development of research questions and objectives and presentation of research proposal at the departmental level by the students during Semester-III. Once the research questions and objectives are finalized and approved by the faculty council, the students are assigned research supervisor/guide from within the department. Under the supervision of research supervisor, the students are required to develop the research proposal, submit it to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the department for TAC clearance certificate. After obtaining TAC clearance, the students are required to obtain the ethics approval from the Institutional Human Ethics Committee (IHEC), Central University of Kerala. The student will undertake data collection after seeking the approval of IHEC. The data analysis and report writing will be undertaken by the student under the supervision of the assigned research supervisor. The stages of research proposal development, TAC clearance and IHEC approval will be undertaken in Semester-III. The process of data collection, analysis, report writing and dissertation viva voce will take place during Semester -IV.