

**REGULATIONS FOR THE
MASTER OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE (MCHC)**
(Applicable to candidates admitted in the 2026/27 academic year and thereafter)

(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)

M.C.H.C.87 Admission requirements

To be eligible for admission to the curriculum leading to the Master of Community Health Care, a candidate shall:

- (a) comply with the General Regulations;
 - (b) comply with the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
 - (c) hold the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery or a Bachelor's degree in Chinese Medicine/ Dentistry/Nursing/Social Work/Occupational Therapy/ Physiotherapy/ Psychology or another health care related field of this University, or other qualifications of equivalent standard from this University or from another University or comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and
 - (d) satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination, if required.
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M.C.H.C.88 Qualifying examination

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidate's formal academic ability or his/her ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent and may include a project report.
 - (b) A candidate who is required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until he or she has satisfied the examiners in the examination.
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M.C.H.C.89 Award of degree

To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Community Health Care, a candidate shall:

- (a) comply with the General Regulations;
 - (b) comply with the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
 - (c) complete the curriculum requirements and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.
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M.C.H.C.90 Advanced standing

Advanced standing may be granted to a candidate in recognition of prior studies completed at a comparable level before admission to the Master of Community Health Care subject to the following conditions:

- (a) such course(s) should be completed no more than 10 years prior to the candidate's commencement of the Master of Community Health Care curriculum;
and
- (b) advanced standing for up to 9 credits may be granted.

All applications are considered on a case-by-case basis by the Board of Studies and shall be approved by the Board of the Faculty.

M.C.H.C.91 Exit arrangements

- (a) A candidate may choose to exit the curriculum after having successfully completed a minimum

of 45 credits (inclusive of 12 credits of core courses and a minimum of 33 credits of elective courses) and be considered for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma in Community Health Care. Those who have been granted a Postgraduate Diploma in Community Health Care as an exit award shall not be re-admitted to the curriculum leading to the Master of Community Health Care.

- (b) A candidate may choose to exit the curriculum after having successfully completed a minimum of 30 credits (inclusive of 12 credits of core courses and a minimum of 18 credits of elective courses) and be considered for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate in Community Health Care. Those who have been granted a Postgraduate Certificate in Community Health Care as an exit award shall not be re-admitted to the curriculum leading to the Master of Community Health Care or the Postgraduate Diploma in Community Health Care.

M.C.H.C.92 Period of study

The curriculum shall normally extend over one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of three academic years of full-time study or four academic years of part-time study, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

M.C.H.C.93 Completion of curriculum

To complete the curriculum, a candidate shall:

- (a) satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (b) take not less than 63 credits in the manner specified in these regulations and the syllabuses, and follow the instructions in the syllabuses prescribed for the curriculum and complete satisfactorily all required written, practical or clinical work;
- (c) satisfy the examiners in the courses by continuous assessments and/or written examinations; and
- (d) complete and present a satisfactory thesis / capstone project, or complete an approved practicum on a topic approved by the Board of Studies and present for an oral examination as may be required.

A candidate who fails to fulfil the requirements within the prescribed maximum period of registration shall be recommended for discontinuation under the provisions of General Regulation G12.

M.C.H.C.94 Course selection

Selection of courses shall be made within the curriculum structure in consultation with the Academic Director and subject to the approval of the Board of Studies.

M.C.H.C.95 Title of the Thesis / Capstone Project/ Practicum Project Report

The title of the thesis / capstone project / practicum project report shall be submitted for approval in the year of graduation. The candidate shall submit a statement that the thesis / capstone report / practicum project report represents his/her own work (or in the case of conjoint work or work on a secondary dataset, a statement countersigned by his/her co-worker/supervisor, which shows his/her share of the work) undertaken after registration as a candidate for the degree.

All thesis / capstone reports / practicum may be subject to oral examination.

M.C.H.C.96 Assessment

- (a) A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in a course in the first attempt may be permitted:
 - (i) to attend a re-examination; or
 - (ii) to re-submit the failed coursework(s) without having to re-take the same course; or
 - (iii) to re-take the course and the prescribed assessment and examination(s); or
 - (iv) to enrol in another course in lieu if the failed course is not a core course.
 - (b) A candidate who has presented an unsatisfactory thesis / capstone report/ practicum project report in the first attempt may be permitted to revise the thesis / capstone report / practicum project report and to re-present it within a specified period of time after receipt of a notice that it is unsatisfactory.
 - (c) A candidate who has failed the practicum in the first attempt shall be permitted to undertake a supplementary practicum within a specified period of time after receipt of a notice that it is unsatisfactory.
 - (d) A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in the second attempt in any course(s), thesis, capstone report or practicum (inclusive of the practicum project report), or exceeded the prescribed maximum period of registration shall be recommended for discontinuation of studies under the provisions of General Regulation G12, or may be required to exit the curriculum by the Faculty Board, on recommendation of the Board of Examiners, with an award of Postgraduate Diploma / Certificate in accordance with M.C.H.C.91.
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M.C.H.C.97 Grading system

Individual courses (except the thesis, capstone project and practicum) will be graded according to the following grading system:

Grade	Standard	Grade Point
A+	Excellent	4.3
A		4.0
A-		3.7
B+	Good	3.3
B		3.0
B-		2.7
C+	Satisfactory	2.3
C		2.0
C-		1.7
D+	Pass	1.3
D		1.0
F	Fail	0

The thesis, capstone project and practicum will be graded according to the “Pass” and “Fail” grading system.

On successful completion of the curriculum, a candidate who has shown exceptional merit may be awarded a distinction as determined by the Board of Examiners for the degree which shall be recorded in the candidates’ transcript.

M.C.H.C.98 Publication based on work approved

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to The University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

SYLLABUS FOR THE MASTER OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE (MCHC)

Overall curriculum structure

Candidates are required to complete a minimum of 63 credits curriculum requirement for the Master of Community Health Care as set out below:

Curriculum Structure	Credit Weight
Courses	
Core Courses	12
Elective Courses	27
Thesis/Capstone Project/Practicum	24
Total credits	63

The modes of assessment for core courses will be by continuous assessments (100%) and elective courses will comprise of continuous assessments (40%-100%) and written examination (0%-60%). Candidates are also required to undertake a capstone project/thesis/practicum and submit a report and conduct a presentation to the satisfaction of the examiner(s).

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

- a) All candidates must enroll in the following core courses:

Code	Title	Credits
FMPC7001	Principles and Practice of Community Health Care	6
FMPC7002	Research Methods in Community Health Care	6

- b) All candidates must enroll in one of the following capstone courses:

Code	Title	Credits
FMPC7201	Thesis for Master of Community Health Care	24
FMPC7202	Capstone Project for Master of Community Health Care	24
FMPC7203	Practicum for Master of Community Health Care	24

c) Candidates must take at least 27 credits from the following elective courses:

Elective courses		Credits
FMPC7101	Chronic Diseases in the Community	3
FMPC7102	Women's Health in the Community	3
FMPC7103	Men's Health in the Community	3
FMPC7104	Care of Elders in the Community	3
FMPC7105	Mental Health in the Community	3
FMPC7106	Clinical Dermatology in the Community	3
FMPC7107	Point-of-care Testing	3
FMPC7108	Integrative Medicine	3
FMPC7109	Teaching and Learning in Community Health Care	6
FMPC7110	Advanced Statistical Methods and Technology in Community Health Care	6

COURSE LIST

(The courses are offered subject to availability and minimum student number.)

FMPC7001 Principles and Practice of Community Health Care (6 credits)

This course introduces the conceptual basis of community health care and the scientific basis of its practice, including the benefits of a multidisciplinary community health care team approach. This course will also examine different community health care models of care from cradle to grave; from health promotion and disease prevention to multidisciplinary team approach taken into accounts of biopsychosocial and medico-social integration. An overview of local and international community health care practices will be provided and the leadership roles of different professionals in the community health care team will be thoroughly discussed.

FMPC7002 Research Methods in Community Health Care (6 credits)

This course will provide an overview of research methods that may be used to conduct scholarly research projects – including the thesis or capstone project required for this master's degree. In addition, it will briefly provide an overview of how these methods may be applied for continuous quality improvement projects in community care. This module will provide an introduction of: 1) Study designs; 2) Epidemiology; 3) Biostatistics; 4) Literature review; 5) Producing sound research grants and publications. The basic set of knowledge and skills taught in this course will allow students to critically read scientific publications and to understand the basic elements of conducting research studies in health care.

FMPC7201 Thesis for Master of Community Health Care (24 credits)

The 24-credit thesis entails 600 hours of student learning activities throughout the entire program. Students are expected to develop a research question and undertake a comprehensive research project, which includes conducting a literature review, designing the study, obtaining ethics board approval, collecting and analyzing data. They are required to submit a literature review, research proposal, thesis (5,000-8,000 words), and a poster presentation to communicate their findings. Assessment will be based on continuous evaluation of the output at different stages of the research project.

FMPC7202 Capstone Project for Master of Community Health Care (24 credits)

The 24-credit capstone project requires 600 hours student learning activities over the course of the entire curriculum. Students will demonstrate the acquisition and synthesis of skills and competencies acquired in the programme and culminating in a Capstone report (5000- 8,000 words) and a poster presentation. It typically involves a practical project, such as developing a program or implementing a healthcare intervention. The

capstone project demonstrates the student's ability to integrate theory and practice in addressing a relevant healthcare issue, which can be done locally or abroad. Students will need to provide their supervisor with a detailed plan prior to embarking on the Capstone Project.

FMPC7203 Practicum for Master of Community Health Care (24 credits)

To fulfill the 24-credit Practicum requirement, students must engage in 600 hours of learning activities over the course of the entire curriculum, with 200 hours dedicated to the practice site. Students will submit a practicum learning log (normally 300-500 words). Students will also complete a project at their practice site, resulting in a project report and a presentation to disseminate the project results. Students will be assessed on the basis of their practicum report (5,000-8,000) as well as the supervisor assessment of the quality of their workplace performance and the practicum deliverable.

FMPC7101 Chronic Diseases in the Community (3 credits)

The course covers how chronic disease management can be optimized utilizing a multidisciplinary approach in the community health care setting. It equips the health care professionals with specific knowledge and skills in chronic disease management, from prevention and early detection to effective intervention and complications control. Person-centered care is emphasized across the spectrum of health promotion, risk reduction, and evidence-based management of common chronic diseases. The roles of different health care professionals contributing to the holistic care of the patients will be examined.

FMPC7102 Women's Health in the Community (3 credits)

This course covers a wide range of topics related to the specific health needs and challenges faced by women such as reproductive health, maternal health, gynaecological issues, menopause, breast health, and gender-specific diseases such as ovarian and cervical cancers. Practical components of the program may include hands-on experience in the field. Students will learn the complex and multifaceted aspects of women's biopsychosocial health across diverse populations.

FMPC7103 Men's Health in the Community (3 credits)

This course covers a range of topics focused on the unique health needs and challenges faced by men such as male reproductive health, prostate health, sexual health, cardiovascular health, mental health, and the impact of lifestyle factors such as diet, exercise, and substance abuse on men's health. Students will learn the role of masculinity and gender norms in shaping men's health behaviours, as well as the social determinants of men's health disparities as well as specific health issues affecting men at different life stages, from adolescence to older adulthood.

FMPC7104 Care of Elders in the Community (3 credits)

This course introduces basic knowledge on ageing and quality care of elderly people in community health care settings. Students will learn how the common health problems in elderly people may present as frailty, loneliness, incontinence, dementia and falls and be managed in holistic and biopsychosocial terms by interdisciplinary team. Other topics will include biological ageing, healthy ageing, and ethical and legal aspects of care for elders.

FMPC7105 Mental Health in the Community (3 credits)

This course aims to provide the students with an understanding of the nature of common mental health problems encountered in Community Health Care settings, for example, depression, anxiety, difficulty falling asleep at night and dementia. Students will learn how some of these problems may present and be managed in Community Health Care settings and when more serious and complex problems will be needed to be referred to specialist mental health experts.

FMPC7106 Clinical Dermatology in the Community (3 credits)

This course is tailored to enrich the expertise of health care practitioners in diagnosing and treating patients with dermatological conditions and is co-organized by the Department of Family Medicine and Primary Care and the Division of Dermatology at The University of Hong Kong. The curriculum aims to enhance participants' ability to recognize, assess, and manage common dermatological issues, highlight unique aspects of care for patients with dermatological conditions, and emphasize the importance of prevention and health maintenance. Topics

important in community care will be emphasized including common facial dermatoses, scalp, hair, and nail disorders, genital dermatoses, urticaria and allergy testing, eczema, psoriasis, skin manifestations of systemic diseases, drug eruptions, dermatology emergencies, and skin tumors. Workshops will be integrated into several sessions to reinforce practical skills applicable in community care settings.

FMPC7107 Point-of-care Testing (3 credits)

This course provides Community Health Care professionals with essential knowledge to effectively utilize rapid diagnostic tests for various conditions such as HIV, STIs, HCV, HBV, and cancer screening. Students will learn the principles of point-of-care testing, test selection criteria, interpretation of results, quality assurance, and best practices for integrating these tests into routine Community Health Care settings. Through interactive sessions and case studies, students will be able to enhance their understanding of the benefits, limitations, and implications of point-of-care testing, ultimately improving patient care and outcomes.

FMPC7108 Integrative Medicine (3 credits)

This course aims to empower healthcare practitioners from varied backgrounds, be it in Chinese or Western Medicine, dentistry, nursing and other allied health professions to synergistically address a myriad of health conditions within the community. This course is designed to empower healthcare professionals to collaboratively manage a broad spectrum of diseases in the community through a robust and holistic framework of primary healthcare services, while enhancing health outcomes, tackling multi-morbidity, and ultimately improving the overall quality of care. Evidenced-based teaching and learning will be specific on the management of important topics of musculoskeletal pain, hypertension, diabetes, mental health, health promotions, respiratory diseases and cancer care. This evidence-based learning will facilitate the communication between Chinese and Western healthcare professionals for multidisciplinary collaboration integrating traditional Chinese medicine with Western medical practices.

FMPC7109 Teaching and Learning in Community Health Care (6 credits)

This course is designed for students interested in enhancing their teaching and training skillset, with a particular emphasis on health care professionals who may derive additional benefits. The course provides a practical foundation, covering theoretical concepts and principles as well as best practices in teaching, adult learning, and curriculum development. Topics include, but are not limited to, the design and implementation of learning activities, assessment, and the curriculum development cycle, including design, implementation, evaluation, and feedback. Participants will gain the knowledge and skills necessary to design and deliver effective educational initiatives across community health care contexts.

FMPC7110 Advanced Statistical Methods and Technology in Community Health Care (6 credits)

(Pre-requisite: FMPC7002 Research Methods in Community Health Care)

This course offers an opportunity to explore the theoretical principles and practical skills necessary for designing and implementing strategies for data collection, analysis, interpretation, and integration of quantitative data in the context of Community Health Care research. It aims to familiarize students with statistical techniques commonly used and reported in health professions research literature, particularly those relevant to primary care settings. The primary focus will be on analyzing real datasets to address key questions in Community Health Care, such as the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of interventions or programs. Students will be engaged with case studies that reflect the complexities of Community Health Care research, including considerations of sample size, study design, and selection of statistical models. Key theoretical concepts related to statistical data analysis will also be thoroughly examined, equipping students with the skills to apply these methods effectively in their future research endeavors. This course will also introduce students to the principles and applications of digital technologies in primary healthcare settings. Students will be introduced to the foundations and enablers of digital health such as electronic health record, data lifecycle and interoperability standards. The course will cover use of digital health applications such as telehealth, remote monitoring, virtual and augmented reality, and how they improve healthcare delivery. Students will learn the role of big data analytics in enabling artificial intelligence and explore current and emerging cases in primary healthcare. Moreover, students will critically analyse the ethical, privacy, and governance challenges associated with digital health technologies, and explore strategies in data security and regulatory compliance.