

1. Teaching and training activities

i. Undergraduate teaching

Phase I

The department of community medicine and behavioral sciences academic staff members are involved in teaching and coordinating two courses that are offered to students admitted to the faculties of Medicine, Dentistry, and Pharmacy. The first course is Basic Biostatistics and Epidemiology and the second course is Introduction to Computers in medicine. In both courses, the academic contents are taught through lectures, tutorials, workshops, and use of computer laboratory to provide students with hands-on sessions for using SPSS statistical software and informatics resources to aid students to seek medical information and knowledge

Phase II

Phase II of the curriculum is a systems-based and problem-triggered curriculum with weekly cases. It runs from the second year through to the end of the fourth year, after which the more clinically-oriented Phase III begins. Phase II is organized according to four themes, including the Integrated Basic and Clinical Sciences (IBCS) Theme, Clinical Competence (CC) Theme, Professional Development (PD) Theme, and the Public Health (PH) Theme. The Department of Community Medicine contributes primarily to the IBCS, PH and PD Themes with contributions from the following disciplines and specialist fields:

Communication Skills

Communication Skill course is delivered in Year 2 during as part of clinical skills lab consists of a 7-hours workshop that is spread throughout 3 days using live demonstration and practice with a simulated patient (SP).

Epidemiology and prevention

This series of lectures, also delivered during Years 3 and 4, covers the Epidemiology and Prevention of the most important diseases within each system. Topics include the epidemiology and prevention of coronary artery disease, hypertension, stroke, asthma, COPD, occupational lung diseases, tuberculosis, lung cancer, pneumonia, thyroid diseases, diabetes, obesity, osteoarthritis, back pain, rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, viral hepatitis, colorectal cancer, end-stage renal disease, infectious diseases, and HIV. The focus of these deliveries is the global and local burden of disease, modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors for the disease, and evidence-based interventions for the primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention of the disease.

Nutrition and Obesity Medicine

The course covers a range of topics pertinent to the everyday practice of nutrition and obesity in medicine, including:

- Introduction to Nutrition and Obesity Medicine
- Nutritional assessment tools.
- Identification of underlying causes of Obesity
- Consultation and communication skills.
- Application of the current guidelines.
- Nutrition and lifestyle therapy.

Medical Ethics

The Ethics and professionalism course is taught throughout Phase II and III. In phase II there are 5 lectures in Foundation, Block II and 18 lectures across Years 2.3.and 4 of Phase II

Psychology

The Psychology course (total of 31 lectures) is taught in the second semester of the second year (Foundation Block II). Additionally, 8 Psychology lectures and learning topics are provided in the Phase II systems Modules that follow Foundation Block II. The course provides foundational knowledge of the psychological processes needed for successful interaction with patients, for the specialized study of mental illness and for the acquisition of knowledge concerning psychological aspects of specific disease processes.

Phase III

Community Medicine

The academic staff members at the Department of Community Medicine and Behavioral Sciences coordinate and collaboratively teach the Community Medicine course to students in their first clinical year (i.e., 5th year). This six credit hours course is taught three times over the academic year. The course teaches the concepts, principles, and methods of Community Medicine, its application within the global and local community, and its relevance to the physician's practice. Specifically, the course covers the disciplines of epidemiology, biostatistics, evidence-based medicine skills, behavioral sciences, social demography, health education, health systems, ethics, and professionalism. Also, the academic staff members participate in six Medical School Days (MSDs) scattered throughout the academic year, in which the broad areas of disease prevention, environmental and occupations health, and global health are covered. An additional three MSDs are delivered by the department during which in the Community Medicine rotation students present their community-based research projects.

Also, academic staff members at the department offer elective courses in "Learnt Creative Writing" and "Research Ethics: Evil Medical Experiments and Lessons".

Communication Skills

Paediatrics Medical school day for 6th year medical students on 'Communication Skills in 'Pediatrics'. An academic member of staff from the department of CMBS is involved in co-teaching this component with academic members of staff from the department of paediatrics. Through the use of role-play, volunteer students practice their communication skills with trained simulated patients and with a variety of medical cases commonly encountered in pediatrics.

ii. Graduate Teaching

1. Master of Public Health (Epidemiology and Biostatistics) program

Department of Community Medicine & Behavioural Sciences has been offering its Master of Public Health (Epidemiology and Biostatistics) since 2013-2014. The program aims to prepare students as academically qualified public health professionals, equipped with the knowledge and skills base needed for a career that effectively addresses public health challenges both nationally and internationally. MPH students complete minimum of 45 credit hours of coursework comprising core courses (21 credit hours (CH)), concentration courses (10 CH), elective courses (9 CH) and Kuwait University College of Graduate Studies courses (5 CH). Additionally, MPH students do capstone project on a public health issue chosen by the MPH students in consultation with their academic supervisors. The capstone project requires the development and implementation of a research proposal, data collection, analysis and report writing under the close supervision

of an academic advisor. The practicum course involves the MPH students in a planned, supervised and evaluated practice experience that combines public health knowledge and skills. For practicum, students are placed in Ministry of Health facilities, Department of Public Health, infectious disease control, Social Health and Communicable diseases department under professional vision of a site supervisor. The CHs earned in protocol development, capstone project and practicum courses are counted towards the requisite number of CHs mandatory for the completion of MPH degree. So far, four batches of MPH (Epidemiology and Biostatistics) including (20) students have graduated from this program.

2. M.Sc. Programs FOM

Biostatistics and Computers in Medicine is a faculty-requirement course intended for all students joining the various M.Sc. programs in the Faculty of Medicine. The course has two components that focus on “biostatistics” and “computers”, respectively. The course takes into account the fact that enrolled students have different backgrounds and hence it includes a diversity of topics to meet their interests. It covers a number of advanced statistics topics such as analysis of variance, multiple linear regression, logistic regression, and design and analysis of controlled randomized trials. The computer component provides students with knowledge of relevant computer hardware and software.

3. Master of Child Life program

This two-year program will prepare students for a professional career as child life specialists, who are able to work in both hospital and other health-care settings. Students will acquire the skills necessary to promote family-centered care and to effectively work with children and their families who are coping with a chronic or terminal illness, surgery, trauma, injuries and disabilities. The program will provide students with a combination of a solid theoretical background and a supervised clinical internship, in addition to introducing students to developing research skills and to administration related competencies.

The Master of Child Life program has been approved by Kuwait University Council in 2015. However, recruitment difficulties preclude starting the program.

iv. Accreditation of Medical Education

The Department of Community Medicine and Behavioural Sciences(CMBS) is playing a notable role in the process of accreditation of KU, FOM, MD degree by the World Federation on Medical Education (WFME). Prof. Saeed Akhtar is the Chairman of subcommittee assigned to develop write-up of Standard 7 – Program Evaluation for an overall Self-Evaluation Report to be submitted to (WFME). Furthermore, Dr. Joseph Longenecker, Associated Professor in CMBS is a member of the subcommittee on standard 7 –Program Evaluation.