

**Grand Valley State University: School of Social Work
MPH Fellowship: Master of Public Health Certificate Program**

- Offered through Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) – Primary federal agency for improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, under-insured or medically vulnerable.
- This fellowship is funded under the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) program. Funding goes to the College of CPS to pay faculty for stipends, faculty, environmental costs, etc.
- The program offers 6-8 SW students a stipend each semester to attend a 90 hour per semester course, for 2 semesters.
- The course is taught via ITV with the University of Texas (Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, and Houston).
- The course focuses on prevention and the health care needs of women and children (families) in community.
- The relationship with the University of Texas enhances the student vision from State or local to national and international.
- Student goals include competency in leadership – empowering communities in culturally appropriate ways of preventing health problems and treatment. Topics include: Ethics and professionalism, policy and advocacy, communication, negotiation and conflict resolution, interdisciplinary team building, critical thinking, cultural competency and humility and self-reflection.
- Lectures from MCH experts include topics such as: understanding growth restriction and birth defects, normal development from conception to birth, issues of perinatal regionalization and care of high risk newborns, drug screens for pregnant women, policy and political strategies, assessment of community health needs, from needs assessment to program planning, intervention mapping, etc.
- Students are expected to participate in all of the assignments: Community needs assessment, project presentation, class debate, position papers, etc. Participation expectations also include in-class surveys and exercises.

- GVSU SSW students are assigned to a health/medical field placement that interacts with women or children in issues related to behavioral or physical health. The students are credited 6 hours of field work per week for attendance and participation in the fellowship program.
- Students must sign a contract pertaining to the information discussed within this list of facts regarding the fellowship.
- The course is inter-disciplinary: nursing students, medical interns, Ph.D. in health students, and GVSU social workers.
- Upon completion of the program (2 semesters), students will be awarded a "Master in Public Health Certificate" from the University of Texas.
- The College of Community and Public Service is strongly supportive of the School of Social Work offering this fellowship opportunity to students.
- The benefits to the GVSU SSW student:
 - Stretches the student capacity to see the individual through a broadened national lens.
 - Connects students to community needs through assessment, planning and implementation education.
 - Exposes students to the importance of working with an inter-disciplinary team to the benefit of the patient.
 - Challenges students to consider leadership as empowerment and not colonizing.
 - Gives students exposure to prevention teaching and problem solving regarding treatment.
 - Focuses on the central role of women and children in identifying family.

There are many links to HRSA, MCH and public health sites available and the competencies for the program can be viewed on a variety of websites.