

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
School of Population and Public Health

**SPHA 556 Social Determinants of Health**  
**2025-2026 Winter Term**

**Course details:** SPHA 556 Social Determinants of Health

**Appointment dates:** September 1 to December 15, 2025

**Position:** 1 part-time TA (approximately 45 hours total)

Course descriptions and class schedules are posted on the School's Master of Health Administration (MHA) website: <https://spph.ubc.ca/mha/program-details/mha-program-schedule/>

UBC hires on the basis of merit and is committed to employment equity. We encourage all qualified applicants to apply.

Please note that this course will be taught in person in UBC Robson Square for both weekends that the course is offered.

The deadline for applications is **July 16, 2025**. The application includes the application form and a copy of your CV. Please name your application *surname2025.pdf* using your surname and the year of submission (e.g., 2025) and your CV *surnameCV.pdf*, and e-submit to Lucy Li, Administrative Coordinator, at [spphr.coordinator@ubc.ca](mailto:spphr.coordinator@ubc.ca).

The application form can be found at: <https://spph.ubc.ca/about/career-opportunities/>

Applications will be forwarded to the course instructor after the deadline for applications (**July 16, 2025**). The instructor will make the final selection of the successful candidate.

Remuneration for Teaching Assistants effective September 2024:

*\$40.16/hour (GTA I)*

*\$38.65/hour (GTA II)*

*\$26.40/hour (UTA I)*

*\$24.44/hour (UTA II)*

*A full-time Teaching Assistantship is 12 hours/week for a total of 192 hours per term.*

For more information visit: [CUPE 2278 Collective Agreement](#)

**Course Learning Objectives:**

Social determinants of health frameworks move beyond a historical focus on individual-based risk factors for health and disease to describe the upstream dynamics and environments that are increasingly recognized as fundamental drivers of health inequities. Enduring social patterns and arrangements, including social hierarchies in policies, economic systems and other institutions (e.g., justice and educational systems) are further identified as producing and maintain social and health

inequities along intersecting social identities, including race, class, gender and sexuality, among others. This course will introduce some of the theories and methods for understanding how social processes are related to health and health equity, and to foundational thinking for intervening to effect change. By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Explain how the 'social determinants of health' are linked to health equity (Module 1, Assignment 1, Final Project);
- Apply and critically assess the frameworks that link the 'social determinants of health' to health equity, and future directions (Module 2, Final Project);
- Propose and critically evaluate health and social programs, policies and/or interventions to address health inequities from a social determinants of health perspective (Module 3, Assignment 3, Final Project);
- Identify and analyze complexity in social determinants of health and relationships to health outcomes and health inequities (Module 4, Final Project).

**Duties:**

- Support course set up on Canvas (e.g., upload and update course materials on Canvas, return marked assignments, etc.).
- Attend in-person and hyflex class sessions, and to support with in-class (or online) learning as per the request of the instructors. The course weekends are: September 26-27 (in-person attendance at UBC Robson Square campus), and October 25-26 (hyflex modality teaching with the in-person component in UBC Robson Square).
- Marking assignments for the course. The instructors will provide a rubric for marking the assignments. Please note that final assignments are typically due three weeks following the final class and therefore the marking task would start closer to the end of November.

**Qualifications:**

- A graduate student with an understanding of the learning objectives for the course from direct education and professional experience.
- Available during the course dates in September and October (September 26-27, 2025, and October 25-26, 2025), three weeks before the course start date, and 3-4 weeks following the course for marking assignments.
- Preference given to individuals with a background in public health and who have completed Social Determinants of Health in SPPH or at another post-secondary institution in Canada.
- Fluent in written and verbal English with excellent written communication skills.
- Ability to prioritize work and meet deadlines.
- Ability to work in a team.
- Prior experience with e-learning an asset.