

New and Incoming Student FAQ

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I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

*Please note that most of your financial aid questions can be answered by contacting the Office of Financial Aid at financial.aid@umich.edu or (734) 763-6600**

The SPH website also has a "Funding FAQ" page:

<http://www.sph.umich.edu/admissions/faqs.html>

What do I need to fill out for Financial Aid?

You only need to fill out the FAFSA for loans and work study awards. If you have questions about loans and work study, contact the Financial Aid Office.

You were automatically considered for SPH awards when you applied. If you have questions about SPH tuition awards, contact your departmental student services representative.

If I get student loans now and get a Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) position in August, how will that affect my financial aid?

Your loans will pay first and when your GSI is added it will bump your loans. You end up with a large refund from your loans--*that you have to pay back*. Be sure to submit your GSI letter to Financial Office as soon as possible so they can estimate your financial aid package and have your loans pay accordingly.

What kind of financial aid is available to international students?

It is difficult for international applicants to get funding through UM SPH, and it is expected that international applicants show proof of funding. A popular loan for international students is the Citiassist Global Loan.

Can I qualify for in-state tuition if I've been living outside Michigan? Can I qualify after I've been at Michigan for a year?

In a nutshell, no. If you can't prove that you came to the State of Michigan for a reason other than to attend UM SPH, you'll be classified as a nonresident (for tuition purposes) and have to pay out-of-state tuition. For specific information regarding residency, contact the University of Michigan Office of the Registrar at 763-5174.

* All contact information for resource offices and staff can be found at the end of this document.

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Is the tuition for the Executive Master's program different for out of state students?

Yes, tuition is different for out-of-state and in-state students, regardless of your program. To ask specific questions about residency requirements, contact the University of Michigan Office of the Registrar at 763-5174

What are banking options in Ann Arbor?

See www.umich.edu/~info/bank for more information on Ann Arbor banking.

How can I open up a bank account if I don't have a social security number?

Tell the bank that you are an international student and exempt from having a social security number. Request that you fill out a W-8-BEN Internal Revenue form in place of the social security number to open up your bank account

Does interest accrue right away on unsubsidized federal loans?

Yes. Contact financial aid with questions about your student loans.

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II. REGISTRATION AND ACADEMICS

Please note that most of your registration questions can be answered by visiting the SPH Registrar's website at <http://www.sph.umich.edu/academics/registrar.html>

For department-specific questions, please contact your departmental student services representative.

How do I sign up for classes?

We will be sending a summer packet out in June that will outline the registration process, which will take place after orientation.

When does the orientation and registration for new students take place?

Please visit the SPH News and Events Calendar at http://www.sph.umich.edu/news_events/

Is there a way to register early? I am dealing with child care credits and cannot claim a flexible spending amount for an au pair until I am registered. I must hire one by late spring.

Talk to your department's student services representative to see if they will approve you for early registration.

When should I arrive to start classes?

Classes start in early September with Academic Preview and Orientation beginning in late August. You should plan to arrive accordingly.

How many students are in the __ department/program/IC?

Check with your department for specific information on these numbers. More general numbers about SPH students can be found on the "Profile of an Incoming Class" web page, which can be found at http://www.sph.umich.edu/admissions/class_profile.html

Can I take classes outside SPH?

Yes, but they must be graduate level courses in order to count toward your degree program. Please discuss your options for non-SPH courses with your program advisor when planning the course of your program.

Is a thesis required to complete the MPH?

Capstone requirements vary. Please check with your departments to learn about academic requirements. Department contact information can be found at the end of this FAQ.

Are advisors assigned or should I contact someone?

Most students are assigned advisors by August, but if you are in doubt, please contact your department to ask.

What is the difference between being formally enrolled in an IC and just taking classes in my area of interest (i.e. global health, genetics, reproductive health)?

If you are not enrolled in an IC, you cannot take the core seminar and the IC will not appear on your transcript.

Are students able to switch departments? I applied as a [Department A] student, but what if I find that [Department B] better suits me?

Switching is possible with the approval of the dept. into which you wish to move. See the Registrar's website for detailed information.

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What is Academic Preview?

Each year, the UM SPH Office of Academic Affairs plans a mini-session for incoming students, featuring preparatory courses in biostatistics and epidemiology, plus mathematics and training in use of the university's online resources. Other resources on navigating through graduate school will also be presented. All entering students are warmly invited to come to Preview, but participation is not required. There is no charge for attending. Please visit the Preview website for more information: http://www.sph.umich.edu/students/academic_preview/

Do most students participate in Academic Preview?

About 50% of the entering class generally participates in Preview. Last year, there were 140 registrants.

Do students find Academic Preview worthwhile?

Yes! Many students have reported feeling less apprehensive about the beginning of the semester after taking preparatory courses in Epidemiology and Biostatistics, subjects that are new and/or intimidating to some incoming students. Students have also been appreciative of being able to get back into "school mode" after having been out of a university setting for awhile. Additionally, Preview is a great time to get to know your fellow students; many students have reported making friends at Preview that have lasted the course of their SPH career

What have other students said about Academic Preview?

- "It was good to get a preview of the material in the classes and to meet my fellow classmates early on."
- "It was good preparation for what attending classes at SPH would feel like."
- "The sessions were good refreshers to get back into an academic mindset."
- "It was easier to speak to faculty members [during the school year] who also attended academic preview. It also helped meeting students from other departments before the school year began."
- "I met the majority of my friends at academic preview."

Will I meet current students at Preview?

Yes! Current SPH students will be helping with registration and lunches, giving campus tours, and student organizations will host social events in the evenings.

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III. STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND CAREERS

SPH Career Services website: http://www.sph.umich.edu/career_networking/

What is the average salary, type of work, etc. of a master's/Ph.D. student who graduates from EPID/EHS/HBHE/HMP/BIO?

Please visit the SPH Career Services website and/or contact for career-related information.

Graduate career surveys can be found at

http://www.sph.umich.edu/career_networking/students/survey.html

For an in-depth consultation, contact Shelagh Saenz, SPH Career Services Coordinator, at sph.jobs@umich.edu

Are students with prior professional background ever able to get positions working at the hospital?

Some SPH students work on studies done through the hospital. It is possible, but something you need to look for, and we recommend looking for these opportunities on both the SPH and UM job posting sites.

How can I find Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) positions?

Please be advised that few students get a GSI position their first term. Visit the Academic Human Resources page linked below for detailed information on GSI postings by department. This page includes information on application procedures, posting periods for each term, departmental contact information, and how frequently each department hires GSI's from other departments. <http://www.umich.edu/~hrra/acadhr/grads/postings.html>

Can a student use the knowledge from his/her undergraduate degree to find GSI positions in departments outside of SPH?

Absolutely! For example, many EHS students find GSI positions in the departments of chemistry and biology since they have undergraduate programs. Searching in a field in which you have a degree or practical experience is wise.

What are the basic requirements for research assistantships?

There are no specific requirements for research assistantships; it depends on the specific research project. You'll need to consult with faculty members who have openings. RA positions are tight, with priority normally (not always) going to doctoral students. A good first step is to contact professors with whom you are interested in working. Check with your department to see if you should contact professors individually or if you can send a general email to faculty in your department.

Where can I find postings for work-study jobs?

The student employment website lists both work-study and non-work-study jobs:

<http://www.studentemployment.umich.edu/> You can also find out about job opportunities from the SPH Job Bulletin, which can be accessed from the SPH Career Services website.

How many hours can/should I work while I'm a student?

If you're doing work study to partially finance your education, we suggest no more than 20 hours per week.

Do many students do internships abroad?

The number of students working abroad is increasing each year. There are excellent resources on campus for investigating your options for an international internship. The SPH Career Services

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Office, the UM International Center, fellow students and/or alumni who have interned abroad, and your professors are all valuable resources for learning about internship opportunities.

How far in advance should I look for an international internship?

It is wise to start your search early, as international internships take time to arrange. Many students start looking first semester and then apply for funding assistance.

Do SPH students ever get part-time jobs at the UM Health System?

Yes! SPH students work on a variety of projects through the UM Health System, even in the summer. You should look for openings on both the SPH and UM job posting websites.

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IV. HEALTH CARE

Where do students go to see a doctor?

The University Health Service (UHS) provides comprehensive outpatient medical services to students, faculty, and staff in a newly renovated facility conveniently located on central campus. UHS services are ideally suited for all students, including those with managed care insurance. And, unlike most other health care institutions, students may receive services at UHS without the hassle of getting a referral from their primary care physician beforehand. For more information, contact UHS at (734) 764-8320 or visit their website at <http://www.uhs.umich.edu/>

Are there community-based facilities where I can see a doctor?

Yes. Some community-based clinics are:

Packard Community Clinic (734) 971-1073 The Packard Community Clinic offers complete medical care by appointment on a sliding scale. A Shared-Care obstetric program is offered jointly with St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. The clinic serves all members of the community, regardless of income or presence of health insurance.

St. Joseph Mercy Health System is a unit of Mission Health System; St. Joseph Mercy Hospital offers comprehensive, coordinated health care services through its network of community facilities partially listed below. The hospital's main site is located on East Huron River Dr. between Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. To locate a physician on staff, call the McAuley Referral Line at 712-5400.

Planned Parenthood of Mid-Michigan (734) 973-0710 Planned Parenthood of Mid-Michigan provides birth control information, contraceptive services, pregnancy testing and counseling, early abortion services, group pre-marital education, anonymous HIV/AIDS testing and counseling, and a vasectomy clinic. All services are confidential and provided regardless of race, marital status, or place of residence.

Is health insurance required for students?

Health insurance is required for all international students.

What kind of health insurance is available for international students?

For detailed information, contact the International Center's Health Insurance office at 734-647-2303 or ihi@umich.edu

What kind of health insurance is available for domestic students?

The University provides limited health care with your enrollment. The University also provides a health insurance policy that you can purchase. For details, visit the Student Insurance Office website: <http://www.uhs.umich.edu/insurbill/msa.html>

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V. HOUSING

Is it difficult for grad students to get on-campus housing?

A lot of on-campus housing is on North Campus, which is about a 10 minute bus ride from SPH. The buses run about every 10 minutes to North Campus, so it is not a bad commute. For more information about on-campus graduate student housing, visit <http://www.housing.umich.edu/northwood/index.html>

When do on campus housing inform students of housing availability?

As soon as students pay their enrollment deposits.

What about off campus housing?

Most SPH student do not live on campus. When you start to look for off-campus housing, begin with the Housing Information Office website: <http://www.offcampus.housing.umich.edu>. Most graduate student start their searches in the spring, but you can also find housing in the summer. If you're arriving late, don't panic, you can still find something! But as a general rule of thumb, earlier is better.

Some other housing resources:

- Craigslist – <http://www.craigslist.org>
- Spectrum Apartment Search – a local apartment searching service (free). Call (734) 677-3710 to set up an appointment
- Classified ads – check out the *Ann Arbor News* (online at mlive.com) and the Michigan Daily (online at michigandaily.com)
- Current students - If you're not having luck elsewhere, connect with current students. You can get student contacts through your department and SPH's student organizations.

Is it possible to rent an apartment without visiting Ann Arbor?

Yes, it is possible, but not advisable. If you cannot visit the apartment, have someone in Ann Arbor visit for you.

How do I pay an application fee or put down a deposit on a property if I'm not in Ann Arbor?

If you're somewhere besides Ann Arbor (like overseas) and need to get an application fee or deposit to a landlord, be sure to ask about paying with VISA or MasterCard. This will save you the hassle and expense of sending a certified check, money order, etc. or trying to wire money. Be aware that Ann Arbor landlords take a very dim view of people who apply for or sign leases and make deposits and then change their mind! If you try this, you can rest assured that you will get no sympathy from the landlord, and none of your deposit or application fee, either.

What are the utility companies in Ann Arbor?

The major utilities and their servicers are:

Electricity	DTE Energy	800-477-4747
Gas	DTE Energy	800-477-4747
Telephone	SBC	800-244-4444
Water	City of Ann Arbor Water Utilities Dept.	734-994-2666
Cable Television	Comcast Cablevision	800-COMCAST

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How much can I expect to pay for an apartment in Ann Arbor?

Generally, students and staff report that one bedroom apartments rent for about \$600-800 per month, on average. Many students share apartments to save money.

Is there any place to look for SPH roommates?

There currently is no SPH roommate matching service, but the UM housing office site has roommate matching.

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VI. GETTING AROUND

How can I get to Ann Arbor from Detroit Metro Airport?

There are a variety of shuttle services that provide transportation from the Detroit Metro Airport to Ann Arbor. Many of them drop passengers off at the Michigan Union, located on central campus. On average, shuttle service costs \$22-25 each way. Rather than rent a car, it might be more economical to take the shuttle into Ann Arbor, then perhaps just get a cheap cab ride from the Union to your apartment or hotel (there are usually cabs waiting outside the Union).

Shuttle service information can be found at the following websites:

www.aaairportshuttleexpress.com/

a2airportshuttle.com/

www.selectride.com/APS.htm

Do I need to get Michigan car insurance?

Yes. Although you can keep your out-of-state license plates, you should get Michigan auto insurance when you move to Ann Arbor. Michigan law about minimum insurance levels differs from that of other states, and most insurance companies require you to keep them updated on where the car is spending most of its time.

Do you have any advice on good car insurance companies?

Car insurance policies will vary based on factors such as your age, make and year of your car, where you live, etc. Call around for quote comparisons from all of the major insurance companies in the area (State Farm, Progressive, Citizens, AAA, Allstate, etc.). Their contact information can be found in the Yellow Pages.

Is there parking available for students near SPH?

Very little parking is available for student use, and students are strongly advised to not bring cars to campus. As is true with most large university campuses, parking is scarce around SPH, and most people walk, ride a bicycle, and/or take the bus. Info on student parking can be found here: http://www.parking.umich.edu/parking_options/students.html

What are the routes and schedules for buses that go to SPH?

Ann Arbor has a great bus system that is used by many faculty, staff and students at UM. The Ann Arbor Transit Authority (AATA) has routes that serve all of Ann Arbor (including campus) and some points in Ypsilanti. All AATA buses are **FREE** to students. All you have to do is show your valid Mcard ID to the bus driver. Buses #2, #4, #14, 12UL and 12UM and #9 all stop in front of SPH Building I. For routes and schedule information, visit <http://www.theride.org>

How late do buses run?

For specific bus routes and schedules, visit the AATA website at <http://www.theride.org>

What are my options for nighttime transportation?

AATA subsidizes a low-cost, shared-ride nighttime cab service, called Night Ride, that runs within the city limits. **Night Ride** operates from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Monday through Friday, 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, and all passengers pay a fixed fare of \$3.00 per person, regardless of the distance traveled in Ann Arbor. For information, call (734) 528-5432.

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If you're on campus, **Ride Home** is a free shared-ride taxi service for students, faculty and staff to their residence hall, parked vehicle or local residence. This service is available after University transit buses and shuttles have concluded daily service: from 2 a.m. through 7 a.m., seven days a week. To request a ride, phone Yellow Cab directly at 663-3355 on a phone provided by the Library. From the Medical Campus, rides start at the Maternal and Child Health Center (MCHC) entrance. Riders can book their own rides, starting from 1:20 a.m. On North Campus, rides are available from the Duderstadt Center, where the staff books the trips for the passengers.

Do many people ride their bikes in Ann Arbor?

Yes! Bicycles are a popular means of transportation around campus and there are many bike stands outside SPH to accommodate parking. Bicycle riders are required to obey all traffic signs (including one-way streets).

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VII. SPORTS AND RECREATION

Where can I work out?

There are a variety of work-out and recreation facilities on campus that are available to students at no charge. Visit <http://www.recsports.umich.edu/> for more information.

There are also commercial gyms such as Bally Total Fitness, etc. or the YMCA in Ann Arbor. If you prefer a more natural setting, many students opt for a jog in Nichols Arboretum ("The Arb" - <http://sitemaker.umich.edu/mbgna>) – which is very close to SPH – or in Ann Arbor's Gallup Park.

Can I play intramural sports?

The Intramural Sports Program (734-763-3562) provides a broad spectrum of activity for personal enjoyment, fitness, and competition. Through various team, individual, and dual activities, the program offers every individual and/or group in the campus community an opportunity to participate.

How can I get Michigan football tickets?

You will receive football ticket information in a Welcome Packet. There is an SPH code for football tickets so you can purchase tickets in the same vicinity as other SPH students.

If I am admitted late, can I still get football tickets?

Once the application deadline has passed, you can still be placed on the student waitlist for season football tickets. In order to be placed on this waitlist, email the Ticket Office. The subject of your email should state "student waitlist" and the body of the email should include your full name, UMID, email address, and a daytime phone number. If you have further questions regarding the student waitlist for season football tickets, please contact the Ticket Office directly at: 734-764-0247.

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VIII. COMPUTING SERVICES

What computing services are available while I'm a student?

Please visit <http://www.itd.umich.edu/your-account/index> If you are attending Academic Preview in August, you will learn all about SPH-specific computing services. The SPH Library & Informatics website is <http://www.sph.umich.edu/phli/>

What will my UM email be?

It will depend on what "username" is assigned to you by the University's Information Technology Division (ITD). Once you confirm that you will be attending the U of M, you may be able to find out what your username and e-mail address will be by going to the University directory at directory.umich.edu and searching your first and last name. If your username has been created and assigned to you, it will appear when you search for yourself. If you don't like your assigned username, you can request a new one from the ITD office in the Michigan Union computer lab (in the basement of Michigan Union). See <http://www.com.itd.umich.edu/dialin/account> for more information about computer accounts.

Do I need a laptop?

They're certainly convenient, but they are not required and many students get by without them.

What software can I buy through the university?

UM offers deeply-discounted software for students. Other Microsoft software (such as Windows 2000 or Windows ME) is available for borrowing from the U of M libraries. See <http://www.itd.umich.edu/microsoft> for more information.

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IX. SPH GENERAL

What kind of interaction exists between SPH and UM Medical School?

There is plenty of interaction between the two schools, most notably on research and post-doctoral fellowship programs. There are many joint faculty appointments between the two schools, as well. There are fewer students taking courses in both schools, although we do get several med students each year who sign up for a dual degree program.

Additionally, SPH students have the opportunity to work with students from the med school is MedConsulting. MedConsulting allows graduate students from the schools of public health, medicine, and business to apply their knowledge to “real world problems” and experience the atmosphere of the UM hospital and the cooperation of multidisciplinary teams.

What is UM SPH's ranking from US News & World Report?

US News ranks graduate schools each year. Please refer to their online or print version for the most up-to-date rankings.

http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/rankings/hea/heaindex_brief.php

Are there any SPH student groups?

Yes, there are several diverse student organizations that are active in SPH. Check out the Student Organizations website for more information:

http://www.sph.umich.edu/students/student_org.html

How socially/politically active are SPH students?

Recently, students have become much more socially and politically active. The response to Hurricane Katrina has been particularly strong, with 40 students spending spring break working in hurricane-ravaged areas. Individual initiative and leadership greatly contribute to how active students are in a given year. We encourage you to contact any of our student organizations to see how you can get involved in student activities and leadership.

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X. ANN ARBOR - GENERAL

What's so great about Ann Arbor?

Ann Arbor has a lively year-round arts calendar, with cinema from first-run movies to underground classics, experimental and international theater (including the Royal Shakespeare Company), and music to suit every taste. Book and music stores abound, catering to every interest. Sports enthusiasts find an array of activities, from canoeing to cross-country skiing. Restaurants run the gamut, from four-star to coffee houses, most with outdoor seating to take advantage of Michigan's beautiful summer evenings. Ann Arbor has ethnic celebrations, a Summer Festival, and nationally recognized juried art fairs (pictured) that transform downtown streets into art galleries in July. If that isn't enough, Ann Arbor's "Tree Town" moniker stems from the dense forestation of its parks and residential areas. The city holds almost as many trees as residents, with more than 50,000 trees sited along city streets and an equal number in city parks. For more information on Ann Arbor, visit <http://www.ci.ann-arbor.mi.us>

Is Ann Arbor a safe town?

Yes, Ann Arbor is safe for the most part. However, common sense dictates that you take the same precautions that would be applicable anywhere: walking in well-lit areas at night, locking your home and car, and reporting suspicious persons to the police. Always lock your doors and windows at night or when you're not home, and never leave valuables unattended, on campus or about town.

Does Ann Arbor get cold in the winter?

Yes, it does get cold (and usually snowy) in the winter, but the general consensus at UM SPH is that the snow is beautiful – and fun!

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University of Michigan School of Public Health (UM SPH) Contacts

For specific questions, please contact the appropriate person listed below:

Student Services - Dr. Mary Clark (mkclark@umich.edu)
SPH Admissions - Kendall West (klwest@umich.edu)
Registrar - Daryl McDaniel (darylmcd@umich.edu)
Career Services - Shelagh Saenz (sph.jobs@umich.edu)
Interdepartmental Concentrations - Peter Menard (pnmenard@umich.edu)
Academic Preview/Student Services - Kim Creasap (kcreasap@umich.edu)

Departmental Contacts:

BIO - Heonia Hillock (hillockh@umich.edu)
EHS - Sue Crawford (sac@umich.edu)
EPID - Norma Crowley
EPID Admissions - Mohsina Qadr (mqadr@umich.edu)
HBHE - Jackie Cormany (jcormany@umich.edu)
HMP - Pat O'Kray (pokray@umich.edu)