

University of Ghana School of Public Health

Opened in 1994, the University of Ghana's School of Public Health (SPH) is a constituent school of the College of Health Sciences (CHS) and has a strong track record of community outreach as well as advanced research and health education and practice to create the much-needed solutions to public health challenges not only in Ghana but also in other African countries. The school has an enviable reputation of undertaking multidisciplinary research and training on key health issues in Ghana and around the world. The school has established an extensive network of research partners with leading institutions in more than 35 countries on a regional and international scale for successful international collaborative research and training projects. The school collaborates with governmental institutions in Ghana in its discharge of teaching, research, and extension services.

MEASURE Evaluation

MEASURE Evaluation strengthens the capacity of developing countries to gather, interpret, and use data to improve health. MEASURE Evaluation creates tools and approaches for rigorous evaluations, which provide evidence to address health challenges, and strengthens health information systems so countries can make better decisions and sustain good health outcomes over time.

MEASURE Evaluation is a cooperative agreement awarded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and five partner organizations: ICF International, John Snow Inc., Management Sciences for Health, Palladium, and Tulane University.

Global Evaluation and Monitoring Network for Health (GEMNet-Health)

GEMNet-Health aims to foster organizational growth, collaboration, and South-to-South support for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of health programs globally. The member institutions of GEMNet-Health are the University of Pretoria (South Africa), Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia), Addis Continental Institute of Public Health (Ethiopia), Centre African d'Etudes Supérieures en Gestion (Senegal), El Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública, (Mexico), Mahidol University (Thailand), the University of Ghana, Public Health Foundation of India, and Kenyatta University (Kenya). MEASURE Evaluation serves as the Secretariat for GEMNet-Health.

Cost of the Workshop

The total course fee is US\$ 2,485, which covers tuition, lodging, partial board (breakfast daily and lunch on days when the workshop is in session), and round-trip airport transfers.

Prospective applicants are advised to seek funding from their home organizations or from national or international agencies. Applicants who have requested funding should submit their complete application forms to the University of Ghana before the deadline. When funding is confirmed, the applicant should let the University of Ghana know as soon as possible.

MEASURE Evaluation will fund a limited number of bursaries for qualified candidates from low- and middle-income countries. The bursary will cover tuition, economy- class air travel, and lodging.

Contact information

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International Workshop on Qualitative Methods in Evaluation of Public Health Programs

October 22–28, 2017
Accra, Ghana

University of Ghana School of Public Health

MEASURE Evaluation, University of North
Carolina

Global Evaluation & Monitoring Network for
Health (GEMNet-Health)



Health organizations around the globe regularly make evidence-informed decisions for effective health programming. Qualitative research methods play an important role in the rigorous evaluation of programs, because they can illuminate complex issues in a way that quantitative methods cannot. Qualitative data sources can answer the “why” behind program successes or challenges. Additionally, qualitative data illuminate the uniquely human side of health programming, and bring light to important contextual factors such as culture, gender, and social norms. Qualitative data may be used to complement quantitative data, to answer a question not accessible quantitatively, or to serve as a cost-effective data source when one would not otherwise be available.

Despite widespread interest in the effectiveness of health programs and the common use of qualitative data in program evaluation, the quality of qualitative evaluation methods is often overlooked in practice and in short courses on qualitative methods. Are qualitative methods really appropriate to answer the evaluation question? How do we analyze our data beyond basic summarization? How do we ensure our results are trustworthy—credible, transferable, dependable, and confirmable? And how do we communicate this trustworthiness to others who are unfamiliar with qualitative methods? Are we appropriately addressing the unique ethical concerns raised in evaluations using qualitative methods?

This workshop is meant to address these questions and to help health professionals use qualitative skills for sound and rigorous evaluation of their programs. The sessions go beyond basic concepts to explore important considerations of qualitative methods in the context of rigorous evaluation. Through session content and participatory exercises, participants will gain skills in rigorous qualitative data collection, analysis, and use.

Workshop Objectives

This is an intermediate-level course. Its purpose is to build on participants’ basic knowledge of qualitative methods and advance their capacity to apply these methods in

evaluation of public health programs. This course contextualizes qualitative methods within rigorous evaluation, rather than offering the basics of a qualitative methods approach.

Workshop Content

This hands-on training will cover the following areas:

- Concepts, approaches, and purposes of qualitative methods in evaluation
- Developing qualitative evaluation questions
- Trouble-shooting using selected common methods
- Sampling for qualitative data collection
- Developing data collection tools
- Qualitative data–analysis techniques
- Fieldwork considerations
- Ethical principles for qualitative methods in evaluation
- Addressing gender throughout qualitative evaluations
- Applying qualitative norms in research; trustworthiness
- Data dissemination and use and communicating findings and trustworthiness to different audiences

The workshop consists of lectures, practical sessions, case studies, and group work. Participants will form groups to prepare a proposal for qualitatively evaluating a real program. Participants are encouraged to bring their own cases of programs they are evaluating in their countries.

Eligibility

The course is designed for mid-level health professionals involved in the implementation and evaluation of public health programs. Computer literacy, experience using qualitative methods in evaluation, and at least basic knowledge of qualitative methods will be essential. Applicants should be familiar with how to conduct in-depth interviews and focus group discussions, as well as have a basic understanding of research ethics. Applicants should be proficient in English. A **laptop is desirable**.

Faculty

The course will be taught by experts from MEASURE Evaluation at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA; the University of Ghana; Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública, Mexico; and the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

Application Procedures and Deadlines

Those who wish to take part in the workshop should send the completed application forms and other application documents as soon as possible to:

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Application materials should arrive in Ghana no later than **August 31, 2017**.

Only complete applications will be reviewed.

Workshop information and application forms can be obtained at: www.measureevaluation.org/measure/training
www.publichealth.ug.edu.gh/