

**I. UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE EXAM POLICY**

A. Stony Brook University has established a challenge program that permits matriculated undergraduates and graduates to earn advanced placement credit and course credit by taking examinations instead of traditional course work. No more than five courses (including credit from advanced placement examinations) can be credited to any student from challenge examinations, and no prerequisite for a course already passed may be included. Credit by examination does not count toward the University's residence requirement and cannot be used to satisfy total credits necessary to qualify for degrees with distinction (From HSC Bulletin, page 32).

**II. GPPH CHALLENGE EXAM POLICY**

A. Students who have previously completed coursework that duplicates a course in the MPH curriculum may request a Challenge Exam for that course, if the previous coursework cannot be transferred into the MPH program. This should be a rare occurrence, but it provides flexibility when necessary. Examples of these situations are:

1. Students who have taken courses that have already counted toward another degree.
2. Students who have taken non-credit bearing courses, which cannot be transferred into and counted toward the MPH degree.

B. A Challenge Exam can only be taken once. Students who do not pass a Challenge Exam must take the regular course.

**III. CHALLENGE EXAM PROCEDURE**

- A. The student completes the student section of the *Challenge Exam Application* and provides the application to the MPH Academic Coordinator.
- B. The MPH Academic Coordinator validates eligibility to challenge. This may require the student to provide a transcript and/or course syllabus for review.
- C. If approved, the student brings the completed *Challenge Exam Application* with a check for payment to the Bursar's Office.
- D. Checks are made payable to "SUNY Stony Brook." The cost is \$65 per graduate credit.
- E. The student returns the completed *Challenge Exam Application* with a copy of the Bursar's Office receipt attached to the MPH Academic Coordinator.
- F. The student schedules an appointment with the Course Instructor responsible for the Challenge Exam to discuss the exam requirements.
- G. When the Challenge Exam is complete and graded, the faculty member administering the exam submits a letter to the MPH Coordinator indicating the grade received.
- H. The MPH Academic Coordinator forwards a copy of the faculty letter, *Challenge Exam Application*, and Bursar's Office receipt to the HSC Office of Student Services, which posts the grade to the transcript.

Graduate Program in Public Health  
**Challenge Exam Policy & Procedure**

- I. *Special Note:* Any student who receives the MD/MPH waiver does not have to pay for the credits at the Bursar. However, all paperwork must be received prior to taking a Challenge Exam.