



## Teaching and Training in health systems and policy

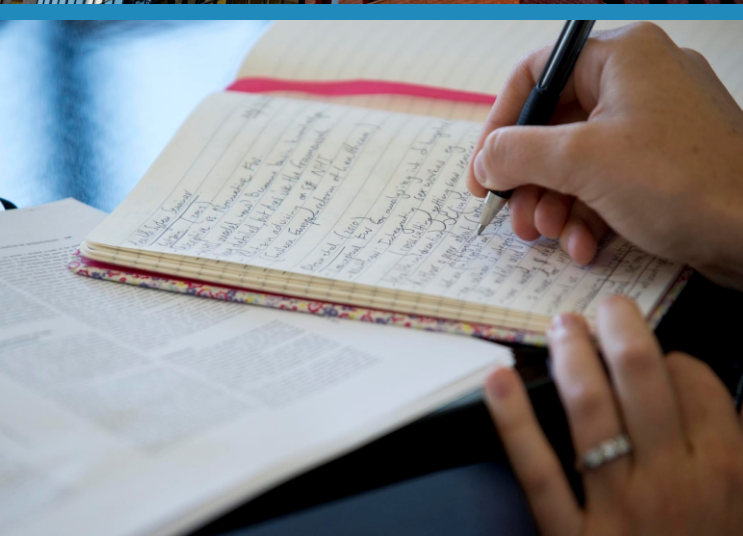
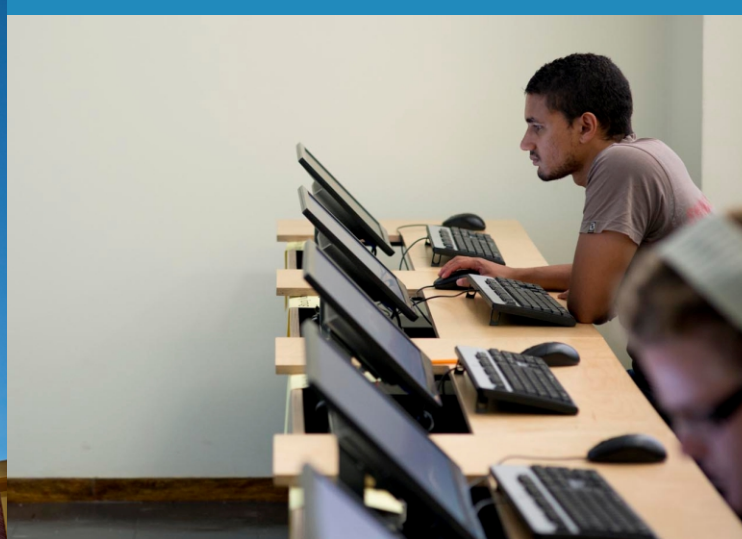
The Centre for Health Policy (CHP) is based in the School of Public Health (SPH) at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. Established over 25 years ago, the Centre is one of the few multi-disciplinary health policy units in South Africa.

CHP is actively involved in post-graduate teaching of Masters of Public Health (MPH) in Health Systems and Policy, which is run every second year and is next scheduled for 2015. The degree mainly targets middle and senior managers working in the public and non-governmental sectors to prepare them for the changing policy dynamics and health system challenges in South Africa and the rest of Africa.

We teach five modules in the field of health systems and policy which include lectures, group work and presentations, self-study, an individual assignment and integrated exams. There has been quite a large demand for our modules; we therefore plan to accept students who want to do any of our modules as a standalone short course from 2015 onwards.

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## Health Policy and Policy Analysis (HPPA)

### Module overview:

This module provides an outline of key issues in health policy analysis and introduces the use of theoretical frameworks and approaches to HPPA. These are applied to routine work experiences and 'real life' policies. The module introduces some key health policy debates and adopts an integrated approach to assessment, linking class-based work to assignments and examinations which allows students ample opportunity for developing teamwork skills while strengthening their individual analytical abilities.

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## Health Systems Evaluation and Research (HSER)

### Module Overview:

Health Systems Evaluation and Research focuses on health information systems, one of the six building blocks of a health system, and introduces evaluating the performance of a health system and health systems research.

The module aims to enhance understanding of a health information system (HIS) and how a HIS relates to broader health system strengthening. It will also improve evaluation skills and the ability to apply the concepts and principles when evaluating projects and programmes in the health sector, health systems performance, or health system sub-components at a district, provincial or national level. The module offers an introduction to health systems research and its potential contribution to improve population health and health systems performance.

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## Health Systems Organisation & Human Resources for Health (HSOHRH)

### Module overview:

This module covers two key 'building blocks' of health systems, namely health service organisation and human resources for health. It gives students a broader understanding of how these areas relate to health systems strengthening, and provides an overview to contemporary issues in health services organisation, with attention to health decentralisation, and district and primary health care implementation.

The module addresses partnerships and networks in health service delivery, and mechanisms for improving accountability, participation and quality assurance. In addition, the module covers issues around the human resource context in health systems and strategies to address human resource problems, including different approaches to health workforce planning and improving motivation and performance of health workers.

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## Health Care Financing (HCF)

### Module overview:

The module on Health Care Financing provides students with an understanding of financing arrangements in terms of sources, collection, risk pooling, regulation and strategic purchasing. Different country experiences in moving towards universal coverage are also covered. Students will also use the principles of equity and efficiency to look at district financing, accountability, contracting, and methods of re-imburement for providers. The sessions examine the effect of various financing mechanisms, particularly on poor households. The module uses case studies, group exercises and scenarios to provide opportunities for critical analysis.

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## Introduction to Health & Health Systems

### Module overview:

This module provides an introduction to the components, actors and inter-relationships of the health system, as well as core principles of systems thinking and policy analysis as a platform for health systems analysis, action and research.

The course considers what a health system is and why it is important, and introduces frameworks for thinking about health systems. The Thailand experience of health system development is considered in some detail as an example of a 'whole system' improvement, and is linked to current international debates around primary health care and universal health coverage. The course outlines the pivotal role of people in health systems, their values and mind-sets and why they are important for our understanding of and intervention in health systems. A series of case studies are used to illustrate concepts and ideas, and students are encouraged to apply the new ideas to their own contexts. Complex adaptive systems thinking is introduced as an approach for understanding and changing health systems.

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