

Master of Population Sciences (MPS) Professional Degree Program 2020-2021



**Department of Population Sciences
University of Dhaka**



Department of Population Sciences
Third Floor, Arts Building
University of Dhaka, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
Phone: 9612209; 01766517100
Email: dps@du.ac.bd
Website: www.du.ac.bd/academic/department_item/POPS or
www.dpsdu.edu.bd

Chairman's Note

The multidisciplinary approach to Population Sciences has gained increasing practical relevance in recent times. For Bangladesh, although many challenges remain, successive successes in several population related programs have brought international laurels and attention over the past few years. Recent developments and challenges in the population field have increased the need for professionals who can critically analyze population issues and steer various population related programs.

To address the need of the times, we are proud to lead the way by introducing this 21st century academic program with forward looking fields of concentration in areas such as demographic analysis; population studies; population and development; sexual and reproductive health and rights; population policy, program and management; food security and nutrition; gender issues; population ageing; and climate change adaptation and risk reduction strategies.

We are encouraged by the prospects which lie ahead. Students and professionals from fields as diverse as environment to medicine, engineering to sociology, business to women's studies, economics to geography, law to NGO management, both at home and abroad, have expressed keen interest in our program. We here at the Department are eager to live up to the expectations that have built up around us. In response to the diverse streams of students, we have put together a pool of faculty and adjunct faculty who have enriched our program with the breadth and depth of their knowledge and experience.

Our survey of population related organizations gives us reasons to believe that there are many opportunities for rewarding careers in these organizations for the right person. While we promise to deliver on an intellectually challenging academic program for our students, at the same time we are mindful that our training should open up stimulating career paths in population and development related disciplines. Candidates who wish to take on the intellectual challenge of our program, and who seek a career path that at the same time contributes to society, are strongly encouraged to apply.

Professor Dr. Mohammad Mainul Islam

1. Introduction

- 1.1** The Department of Population Sciences (DPS) was established in 1998 under the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Dhaka (DU) in collaboration with UNFPA with a view to create a cadre of trained person-power for the nation by developing skills and creative judgments in individuals for understanding and effective management of population issues through a multidisciplinary approach. The department was founded under the visionary leadership of Professor Dr. A K M Nurun Nabi.
- 1.2** The Department of Population Sciences offers a professional post-graduate degree program with duration of one year and a half (i.e., eighteen months). The degree awarded for this program is named ***Master of Population Sciences (MPS)***.
- 1.3** The program is open to individuals, coming from different disciplines, who plan to specialize and build careers in population related areas such as demographic analysis and population studies; fertility and reproduction; mortality and morbidity; migration and urbanization; population ageing; population, poverty, inequality; gender, population and development; reproductive and sexual health and reproductive rights; program management and planning; population, health and development policies; environment and climate change; food security and nutrition; HIV/AIDS; population management and human resource development; operations research and monitoring and evaluation; collection, processing and analysis of socio-economic, demographic and health related data.

2. The Master of Population Sciences (MPS) Professional Degree Program

- 2.1** The MPS degree program shall be of 48 credits and divided into 4 semesters. Each semester will be of 19 weeks, of which 15 weeks will be for class teaching, 1 week break for preparation, and 3 weeks for holding the semester final examinations.
- 2.2** Each full unit course shall be of 100 marks.
- 2.3** The program shall include teaching of 16 course units for a total of 1600 marks, which shall be translated into 48 credit hours.
- 2.4** The total credit hours shall be evaluated on the basis of 1600 total marks, of which 1500 marks shall be for 15 full units taught courses, or 1300 marks for 13 full unit taught courses and 200 marks for thesis research and 100 marks for written and oral comprehensive examinations.
- 2.5** There will be 4 courses in each semester with 100 marks each, resulting in 12 earned credits per semester.
- 2.6** Number of lecture classes/contact hours per week shall be determined on the basis of the credit hours assigned to each course. For a 3 credit course unit, there shall be two lecture classes of 60 minutes each and one 60 minutes

discussion class/tutorial class/lab work/group presentations/class test every week.

- 2.7** The distribution of course units, marks and credit build up for the MPS Professional Degree Program for 1600 marks for 16 courses shall be as under:

Course Structure of the MPS Professional Degree Program

Semester	No. of Courses	Total Marks	Earned Credits
One	4	400	12
Two	4	400	12
Three	4	400	12
Four	1 Thesis and 1 Course or 3 Courses	300	9
	Comprehensive (Written & Oral)	100 (50+50)	3
Total	16	1600	48

- 2.8** Classes for the MPS program shall be held on Thursday (6:00 PM to 9:00 PM), Friday (3:00 PM to 9:00 PM), and Saturday (6:00 PM to 9:00 PM).

3. Admission

3.1 Eligibility for Admission

- 3.1.1 Admission is open to the candidates, either Bangladeshi or foreign nationals, who have at least a bachelor degree, or its equivalent from any recognized university/college, including medical colleges, engineering universities/colleges, agricultural universities/ colleges, etc. Persons from the health, population and related fields with practical experience and who are currently in service, are also encouraged to apply for admission.
- 3.1.2 Persons, who have appeared in the bachelor degree final examination, or its equivalent degrees, may also apply, but they shall have to submit their certificates or marks sheets within 03 (three) days after the written admission test is held, otherwise, their candidatures shall be cancelled.
- 3.1.3 Candidates who have passed at least 5 papers in GCE "O" level and 2 papers of "A" level with an honors bachelor degree, or its equivalent, may also apply. For such candidates to be eligible to apply, one should obtain at least B grade in 5 papers and C grade in 2 papers of the 7 papers at "O" and "A" levels.

3.2 Application Procedure

Application form along with prospectus and information leaflet is available in the Department of Population Sciences on payment of fees determined by the Department. The filled-in application form should be submitted to the Office of

the Department of Population Sciences within the date notified in the advertisement.

3.3 Selection of Students

Seventy-five (75) students are admitted into the Master of Population Sciences Professional Degree Program. Students are selected on the basis of weightage on previous results (15 marks), written admission test (75 marks), and oral test (10 marks). Weightage of the previous results are distributed as following:

Certificate/Degree	Results [Division/Class/(C)GPA]	
	1st/3.5*	2nd/2.5*
SSC or equivalent	3	2
HSC or equivalent	3	2
Bachelor Degree (Pass)	3	2
Bachelor Degree (Honors)	5	4
Master	1	1

*In a 5-point scale, first class/division and second class/division shall be equivalent to (C)GPA of 4.0 and 3.0 respectively.

3.4 Registration

Applicants, finally accepted to the MPS degree program, shall obtain the prescribed form for admission to the University from the Office of the Department of Population Sciences and submit the completed form along with 7-passport size and one stamp size photographs plus other required documents within the stipulated time. Candidates who complete the above formalities must pay the requisite fees as determined by the Department. Enrollment in the MPS degree program is conditional upon completion of all admission formalities including the payment of all fees.

4. Curriculum

4.1 Course of Study

- 4.1.1 The Master of Population Sciences Professional Degree Program includes 15 full unit taught courses (each of which is of 100 marks), or 13 full unit taught courses (each of which is of 100 marks) plus a thesis research for 200 marks, and a comprehensive examination (both written and oral) for 100 marks. This total of 1600 marks will be translated into 48 credit hours.
- 4.1.2 The curriculum of the program is divided into 3 levels— **Foundation, Integration, and Specialization.**
- 4.1.3 Four (4) course units are taught at the **foundation level** and 4 course units are taught at the **integration level.** These 8 courses are mandatory for all students, which provide a functional basis for analytical skills and a framework for consolidating the basic population issues.

4.1.4 The **specialization level** is spread over two semesters -- third and fourth semester. 4 courses are taught at the third semester (one compulsory course, and 3 elective courses). Students shall select 3 elective courses from 7 alternative choices. Selection of elective courses shall be dependent on the three highest frequency of interests expressed by the students.

A thesis and one elective course are offered at the fourth semester. Only top 10 percent students can go for thesis option. Rest of the students will take two more elective courses instead of doing a thesis. Students shall select the elective course(s) from 6 alternative choices. Selection of an elective course shall be dependent on the highest frequency of interests expressed by the students. At the end of this level, all students shall appear at the comprehensive examination (both written and oral).

4.1.5 The distribution of course units' marks and credit build up for the MPS degree program is presented below:

Semester I: Foundation Level (400 marks, 12 credits)			
Course Number	Course Title	Total Marks	Earned Credits
MPS 501	Introduction to Population Sciences	100	3
MPS 502	Fertility & Reproduction	100	3
MPS 503	Social Science Research Methodology	100	3
MPS 504	Statistics for Population Sciences	100	3

↓

Semester II: Integration Level (400 marks, 12 credits)			
Course Number	Course Title	Total Marks	Earned Credits
MPS 505	Morbidity & Mortality	100	3
MPS 506	Basic Techniques of Population Analysis	100	3
MPS 507	Population and Development	100	3
MPS 508	Migration and Urbanization	100	3

↓

Semester III: Specialization Level (400 marks 12 credits)			
Course Number	Course Title	Total Marks	Earned Credits
Compulsory Course			
MPS 601	Population Dynamics of Bangladesh	100	3
Elective Courses			
MPS 602	Quality Checking, Evaluation and Adjustment of Population Data	100	3

MPS 603	Reproductive & Sexual Health and Rights	100	3
MPS 604	Gender Inequality and Women's Empowerment	100	3
MPS 605	Population and Health Policies	100	3
MPS 606	Program, Planning and Management	100	3
MPS 607	Population Aging	100	3
MPS 608	Operations Research	100	3



Semester IV: Specialization Level (400 marks 12 credits)			
Course Number	Course Title	Total Marks	Earned Credits
Elective Courses			
MPS 609	Population, Poverty, and Inequality	100	3
MPS 610	Monitoring and Evaluation	100	3
MPS 611	Environment, Climate Change, and Adaptation	100	3
MPS 612	HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases	100	3
MPS 613	Population, Food Security, and Nutrition	100	3
MPS 614	Population Management and Human Resource Development	100	3
MPS 615	Thesis Research*	200	6
MPS 616	Comprehensive Examination (Oral & Written)	100	3

*Only top 10 percent students based on their CGPA of the First Year will be allowed to submit Thesis Proposal. The submitted proposals will be reviewed by a panel of reviewers and determine the potentiality of doing Thesis.

4.2. Administration of the Examination

- 4.2.1 The Chairman of the Department shall provide the Dean of the Faculty and the students with a semester calendar before the beginning of a semester indicating the duration of 15 weeks for class teaching, dates of mid-semester examination, date of submission of assignment/term paper, duration of the preparation week, dates for the semester final examinations, and date for the commencement of the next semester.
- 4.2.2 At the beginning of the semester, a course teacher shall provide the students with a course outline indicating the objectives, contents and activities (teaching approaches such as labs, case studies, field work, lecture, presentation, etc.) related to the course, text books to be followed, the dates for mid-semester and submission of term papers/home assignments.
- 4.2.3 The course teacher shall announce the result of the mid-semester examination and term papers/home assignments within two weeks of the date of holding of

the examination, and submit the marks to the Chairman of the Examination Committee, immediately after the announcement of the result.

- 4.2.4 All semester final examinations shall be conducted by the Department, with the assistance of the Office of the Controller of the Examinations, except for the semester final examination of the fourth semester of the MPS Degree Program.
- 4.2.5 All students of the semester concerned shall have to fill in the semester final examination entry form, supplied by the department, on payment of dues determined by the Department/Controller of Examinations, for appearing at the semester final examination, except for the semester final examination of the fourth semester of the MPS degree program.
- 4.2.6 The Controller of the Examinations shall conduct only the semester final examination of the fourth semester of the MPS degree program.
- 4.2.7 All students shall have to fill in the examination entry form, supplied by the Controller of Examinations, on payment of dues, for appearing at the semester final examination of the fourth semester of the MPS degree program.
- 4.2.8 The Controller of the Examinations shall publish the cumulative results of the MPS degree program and shall provide the transcript showing course wise grades and the Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of the candidates for the degree concerned.

4.3 Evaluation and Grading

- 4.3.1 Evaluation and grading shall be determined on the basis of an overall evaluation of student's performance in class attendance; active participation in the discussion class/tutorial class/group presentation/class test; term papers/home assignments; mid-semester examination; and semester final examination.
- 4.3.2 The distribution of marks for evaluation shall be as under:

Class attendance*	10 %
Active participation in the discussion class/tutorial class/group presentation/class test	10 %
Term papers/home assignments	10 %
Mid-semester examination (Duration of 75 minutes)	20 %
Semester final examination (Duration of 3 hours)	50 %
Total	100 %

*Overall 40% attendance is required to sit for semester final examination. Students having attendance between 40%-60% will require to pay certain amount of fine for appearing in the semester final examination.

- 4.3.3 For each course, student's performance in class attendance; active participation in the discussion class/tutorial class/group presentation/class test; term papers/home assignments; mid-semester examination; and semester final examination shall be evaluated and totaled as per the rules of the university and converted into letter-grades following a 4-point grading scale presented below:

Grading Structure for MPS Degree Program in a 4-Point Grading Scale

Mark Range (in percent)	Letter-Grade	Explanation	Grade Point
80 and Above	A+	Excellent	4.00
75-79	A		3.75
70-74	A-		3.50
65-69	B+	Very Good	3.25
60-64	B		3.00
55-59	B-		2.75
50-54	C+	Satisfactory	2.50
45-49	C		2.25
40-44	D	Passing	2.00
Below 40	F	Failing	0.00
.....	I	Incomplete
.....	W	 Withdrawn

4.3.4 A total of 200 marks for thesis is distributed as 150 marks for Thesis Evaluation and 50 marks for Viva on Thesis.

4.4 Interpretation of the Grades

- 'A+', 'A' and 'A-' grades are indicative of 'excellent' performance overall by a student, earning grade points of 4.0, 3.75, and 3.50, respectively.
- 'B+', 'B' and 'B-' grades are indicative of 'very good' performance overall by a student, earning grade points of 3.25, 3.00, and 2.75, respectively.
- 'C+' and 'C' grades are indicative of 'satisfactory' performance overall by a student, earning grade points of 2.50, and 2.25, respectively.
- 'D' grade is indicative of minimally acceptable 'passing' performance overall by a student, earning a grade point of 2.00.
- 'F' grade is indicative of an unacceptable 'failing' performance overall by a student, i.e., fail to earn any credit point.
- 'I' grade is indicative of a situation where a student, for non-academic reasons beyond her/his control, is unable to complete the full requirements of the course for not being able to sit for the semester final examination. With the submission of valid and authenticated evidence of such reason(s), and the recommendation of the course teacher (to be reported to the Chairman of the Examination Committee), that particular student shall be allowed to complete the semester final examination with the next batch. Meanwhile, the student concerned will be promoted to the next semester. If an 'Incomplete' grade is not cleared with the next batch, the 'I' grade shall automatically be changed to an 'F' grade. A maximum of two 'I' grades shall be allowed to a student in one semester. However, to get an 'Incomplete' grade, a student must submit an application to the Chairman of the Department at least prior to the examination held.

- 'W' grade shall be awarded when a student is permitted to withdraw/drop a course/semester without penalty. Withdrawals without penalty are not permitted after the mid-semester examination. A student may take readmission in the semester concerned with the next batch by paying the fees for two semesters.

4.5 Promotion

- 4.5.1 For promotion from First Year to Second Year a student shall require to earn a minimum CGPA of 2.00.
- 4.5.2 To obtain an MPS degree, a student shall require to earn a minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 2.25, taking into consideration all the grade points earned in total number of courses of first through the final semester and improved grade, if any.
- 4.5.3 A student failing to clear up the annual university or departmental dues of the year of study shall not be promoted to the next semester.

4.6 Improvement

- 4.6.1 A student earning 'F' grade in any course shall be allowed to improve the grade with the next batch. In such case, the student shall be allowed to improve the grades in semester final examination twice including improvement in mid semester examination once.
- 4.6.2 If a student obtains grade 'B' or less in a course, she/he shall be allowed to improve the grade, either through a Supplementary Examination within 45 days under the same Examination Committee, or improvement with following batch. Students failed to obtain required grade point shall also be allowed to appear in the Supplementary Examination/Improvement. If they fail to obtain required marks/grade points in the Supplementary Examination/Improvement, they must seek readmission with the following batch.
- 4.6.3 Such improvement shall be allowed only once in a course and in such case the student's previous final grade shall be automatically cancelled.
- 4.6.4 If a student obtains 'B+' or better grade in any course, she/he shall not be allowed to repeat the course for the purpose of grade improvement.
- 4.6.5 If a student likes to improve the grade point earned in a course of 4th semester for the MPS degree program, she/he must apply for such improvement examination before the certificate is issued.
- 4.6.6 Improvement shall not be allowed once the certificate is issued.
- 4.6.7 A student carrying grade 'F' in any course shall not be awarded the degree unless she/he improves it by appearing at the semester final examination with the next batch.
- 4.6.8 If the student gets 'F' in the improvement examination, he/she shall automatically be dropped from the semester and the student shall have to take readmission with the next batch, provided the student concerned is eligible for readmission.

- 4.6.9 For improvement of grade in a course, the student shall apply to the Chairman of the Department at least 4 (four) weeks before the start of the semester final examination.
- 4.6.10 If any student wants to sit for supplementary examination for any course/courses, then he/she has to pay certain amount of fees per course as decided by the Department. If there is only one student registered for supplementary examination, then the student will be responsible to bear all expenditures associated with the supplementary examination.

4.7 Readmission

- 4.7.1 A student failing to get the required grade points for promotion (clause 4.5) from one year to the next may seek readmission with the following batch.
- 4.7.2 For readmission, a student shall have to apply within one month after the announcement of result of the concerned year.
- 4.7.3 On readmission, grades earned earlier by a student in the class of readmission shall cease to exist and the student has to retake all the course works and examinations.
- 4.7.4 A student shall not be allowed readmission in more than twice during the entire MPS degree program.

4.8 Drop out

- 4.8.1 A student failing to earn the CGPA for promotion from one year to the next after taking readmission within the stipulated time shall be dropped out of the program.
- 4.8.2 A student earning 'F' grade in any course after taking improvement examinations or readmission within the stipulated time shall be dropped out of the program.

4.9 Adoption of Unfair Means

- 4.9.1 If any student adopts unfair means in any examination or home assignment, the teacher/invigilator shall report in writing to the Chairman of the Examination Committee/Chief Invigilator for onward transmission to the Disciplinary Board of the University for action as per university rules.

4.10 Completion of MPS Professional Degree Program

- 4.10.1 A student shall be allowed to complete the MPS Professional Degree Program within five years from the date of admission into the program with prior permission from the Department. However, this will not be applicable for those students who have dropped out because of the clause set in 4.8.

5. General Facilities

The Department of Population Sciences, with active support from UNFPA, has built up adequate support facilities required for the program, with sophisticated electronic devices and equipment.

5.1 Specialized Library

A specialized library containing a rich collection of books, periodicals and visual materials on population related areas have been set up by the Department. More than 5500 excellent entries have already been collected. Recently the automation of the library has been completed and students will have access to E-library facilities. The air-conditioned library has a capacity for 25 readers at a time. A Library and Database Networking Officer is always there to assist.

5.2 Computer Laboratory

The computer laboratory of the department is well equipped with 20 computers, 1 Multimedia projector. The students and faculty of the department enjoy fiber optics broadband internet facilities with an independent domain. A Computer Lab Demonstrator is always there to assist.

5.3 Student Counseling Service

Close contact between students and faculties are an integral part of the program. Students are assigned to a departmental student advisor, who works with the students on various aspects of the academic program and students' lives.

6. Faculty

A list of the teachers and experts involved in teaching the courses are given below:

6.1 Core Faculty

Mohammad Mainul Islam, PhD, Professor & Chairman

Tehmina Ghafur, PhD, Professor

Md. Aminul Haque, PhD, Professor

Mohammad Bellal Hossain, PhD, Professor

Md. Mehedi Hasan Khan, Associate Professor

Md. Rabiul Haque, Associate Professor

Md. Kamrul Islam, PhD, Associate Professor (on study leave)

A H M Kishowar Hossain, Associate Professor (Student Advisor)

Gaylan Peyari Tarannum Dana, Associate Professor (on study leave)

Farhana Ferdous Luna, Assistant Professor

Sanjit Roy, Assistant Professor (on study leave)

Mohammad Sazzad Hasan, Assistant Professor (on study leave)

Nusrat Jafrin, Assistant Professor (on study leave)

Shafayat Sultan, Lecturer

Md. Zakiul Alam, Lecturer

Sawkia Afroz, Lecturer

6.2 Adjunct Faculty

Abu Jamil Faisal, MBBS, Former Country Representative, EngenderHealth, Bangladesh

Syed Shahadat Hossain, PhD, Professor, Institute of Statistical Research and Training, DU

Gobinda Chokrabarty, PhD, Professor, Dept. of Political Science, DU

Md. Mahabub Ul Anwar, PhD, Public Health Specialist, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Bangladesh Country Office

Mr. Md. Nazmul Hossain, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka

Ms. Salina Siddiqua, Assistant Professor, Department of Development Studies University of Dhaka