

PUBLIC HEALTH, M.P.H.

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Degree offered: Master of Public Health

The goal of the public health department is to prepare graduates as competent public health practitioners. Public health is an essential function of modern society. It is, in the words of the Institute of Medicine, “What we as a society do collectively to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy.” Assuring the public’s health at the community level often means affecting policies and actions at the national, or even international, level. Public health professionals must deal with myriad issues: access to quality health care, prevention and control of disease, environmental protection, the health needs of special populations, data analysis and evaluation, policy planning and administration, and health promotion.

The primary objective of the department is to graduate public health generalists with a strong interdisciplinary foundation for practice. The curriculum enables students to understand 1) the var-

ious factors that affect the health of a community; 2) the methods to identify and measure community health; and 3) the components that comprise public health services delivery systems (cost, planning, and administration). While the department’s required courses provide the generalist background needed by all students, the elective courses allow students to concentrate on a particular aspect of public health.

JOINT DEGREE OFFERING


UIS’ departments of public health and public administration have an articulation agreement that allows interested students to obtain a master’s degree with a double major (MPA/MPH) in public health and public administration. Contact either department for details.

Contact: Information about the public health department is available at (217) 206-6301. Information can also be requested at mph@uis.edu.

THE MASTER’S DEGREE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must submit an admission application and transcripts from previous college-level academic work to the UIS Office of Admissions and Records. As a second part of the admissions process, applicants must 1) complete a department application specifying professional goals and identifying past academic work and/or employment related to these goals; 2) submit three completed recommendation forms from employers, professional peers, or educators; and 3) submit Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores in the general examination. Other aptitude tests – Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), Dental Aptitude Test (DAT), Law School Admission Test (LSAT), or the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) – can be submitted. Applicants with postbaccalaureate degrees are exempted from submitting GRE scores.

Applicants must have earned an overall GPA of 3.00 (4.00 point scale) for previous academic work. Conditional admission is possible for those with exten-



sive public health experience whose undergraduate GPA is between 2.50 and 3.00. To be fully admitted, applicants must have a 3.00 GPA at the end of their first 12 semester hours of study. Students who take TOEFL exams must score 580 or better.

Undergraduate work should include at least three semester hours of biology. Courses in physiology, chemistry, and statistics are desirable but not required.

ADVISING

Advising in the public health department provides an individual approach to the academic and professional development of each student. On admission, each student is assigned a temporary adviser to assist with academic planning. Thereafter, students may choose an adviser from department or associated faculty.

GRADING

Students must earn a grade of B- or better in all courses counting toward the M.P.H. degree. Courses taken on a credit/no credit basis will not count toward the degree. Students must maintain a B average to remain in good standing in the program.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The master of public health degree requires that students complete 48 semester hours of course work, 32 hours of which are required core courses, including a four-hour internship. The 12 hours of electives must be in a specific area of study, either within or outside the department.

REQUIRED CORE COURSES

MPH 503 Biostatistics for the Health Professional	4 Hrs.
MPH 506 Community Health Research	4 Hrs.
MPH 511 Foundations of Epidemiology	4 Hrs.
MPH 521 Environmental and Occupational Health	4 Hrs.
MPH 531 Public Health Policy	4 Hrs.
MPH 545 Sociocultural Aspects of Health	4 Hrs.
MPH 551 Public Health Administration	4 Hrs.
MPH 561 Community Health Education	4 Hrs.
MPH 581 Internship	<u>4 Hrs.</u>
	36 Hrs.
Approved Electives	<u>12 Hrs.</u>
	Total 48 Hrs.

CLOSURE EXERCISE

The closure experience is a comprehensive written ex-

amination with questions designed to test students' ability to integrate the knowledge that they have gained from the core curriculum. A student must successfully complete the exam within one year after completing course work for the degree. Students who do not complete the examination during their final semester of study must enroll in MPH 583 for one hour of audit credit each semester until they pass the exam. Details about the procedure are provided in the *MPH Student Handbook*.

MPH PROFESSIONAL OPTION

The MPH professional option provides an opportunity for physicians and others with earned doctorates and at least one year of health-related experience to earn a master of public health degree at UIS. The option requires completion of the 36 hours of core courses including the internship. Other applicants may be eligible for admission to this option and will be considered by the admissions committee on a case-by-case basis. Included are 1) those currently enrolled in a physician residency-training program, 2) those who are in the process of completing a doctoral level health-related degree and who have at least one year of health-related experience, and 3) those who have an earned master's degree in a health field and who have at least three

years of health-related experience. Interested applicants should contact the UIS public health department for information about the application process.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MPH 405 Computer Applications in Public Health (2 Hrs.)

Course available online; may also be available on campus. Refer to the current course schedule for further information.

Application of reasoning patterns of epidemiology to interpretation of data about health and disease. Basic practical concepts and computer techniques for analyzing health-related research. Topics include introduction to commonly used software systems in public health, simple statistical analysis, and interpretation of results. Also offered online.

MPH 408 Writing in the Profession (4 Hrs.)

Focuses on the styles and techniques of writing expected of professionals in human services, health, and social science fields. Builds on students' lower-division composition courses to teach the language and analytical skills needed for the types of report writing and correspondence required of professionals. Prerequisite: Two semester hours of lower-division English composition.

MPH 419 Environmental Law (4 Hrs.)

Surveys the major federal statutes and regulatory schemes relating to environmental quality; analyzes and compares

the contrasting approaches to regulation that have been used. Focuses on the interaction of law and policy and considers the roles of Congress, the regulatory agencies, and the courts in defining and implementing environmental mandates. See LES 419, POS 419, ENS 419.

MPH 428 Laboratory Science in Public Health (2 Hrs.)

Provides an understanding of laboratory science as it applies to public health. Topics include the history and role of the public health laboratory, tests and procedures used in monitoring the health of the population and the organization of the laboratory, water and air quality, food preparation and sanitation, waste disposal, vector control, and appropriate personnel standards.

MPH 445 Crosscultural Perspectives on Health (4 Hrs.)

Relationships between health and human culture, including health of prehistoric humanity, traditional and non-Western medical systems and how they heal, and problems faced by health-care professionals as they provide care to cultural and ethnic groups from various healing traditions. See SOA 445.

MPH 503 Biostatistics for the Health Professional (4 Hrs.)

Provides a general overview of statistical methods commonly used in the collection and analysis of health research data. Topics include descriptive statistics, basic concepts of probability, statistical inference, analysis of variance (ANOVA), correlation, regression, distribution free methods, and introduction to use of a statistical soft-

ware. Emphasis is on understanding and applying statistical concepts intuitively to the interpretation of health research data. A working knowledge of algebra is required.

MPH 506 Community Health Research (4 Hrs.)


Emphasizes the practical application of community health research to enhance the practice of public health. Public health practitioners engaging in administration, policy analysis, program development, and service coordination must be able to assess the needs of populations served and must be able to design and implement programs to meet those needs and evaluate program outcomes. The objective is to provide practical experience necessary for students to skillfully apply a variety of research methods and protocols, data collection, and analysis and interpretation skills to needs assessment and evaluation in public health. Prerequisite: MPH 503.

MPH 508 Program Evaluation for Health Managers (4 Hrs.)

General and specific grounds for evaluating health care programs, including concept of a program, analysis of evaluation models, program measurement, causality in program evaluation, internal and external evaluation, process and outcome evaluation, and evaluation strategies. Use of experimental design, quasi-designs, and case studies. Prerequisite: MPH 506.

MPH 511 Foundations of Epidemiology (4 Hrs.)

Introduction to epidemiological concepts and methods. Meaning and scope of epidemiology and the uses of mor-



idity, mortality, and other vital statistical data in the scientific appraisal of community health. See ENS 561.

MPH 512 Epidemiology of Chronic Diseases (4 Hrs.)

Presents a population-based perspective of the distributions and determinants of major chronic diseases, particularly cardiovascular diseases and cancer, in the United States and worldwide. The underlying objective is to identify and review methods of control and preventive measures for each of these diseases. Prerequisite: MPH 511, or permission of instructor.

MPH 513 Environmental Epidemiology (4 Hrs.)

History, principles, and uses of epidemiology for understanding and control of health and disease in relation to humankind's environment. Prerequisite: MPH 511, or permission of instructor.

MPH 514 Analytical Epidemiology (4 Hrs.)

Presents the fundamental concepts, principles, and methods of observational epidemiologic research. Practical issues in the design, conduct, and analysis of epidemiologic studies, as well as theoretical issues in the analysis and interpretation of research findings will be discussed. Intended for students interested in epidemiologic research. Prerequisites: MPH 511, or permission of instructor. See ENS 562.

MPH 515 Infectious Disease Epidemiology (4 Hrs.)

Examines the epidemiology of selected infectious diseases

including sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and food-borne diseases. The conceptual background of epidemiologic methods will be applied to understanding the natural history, prevention, and control of these diseases. The role of routine surveillance of infectious diseases and the epidemiology of outbreak investigations will be discussed. Prerequisite: MPH 511, or permission of instructor.

MPH 521 Environmental and Occupational Health (4 Hrs.)

Recognition, analysis, and control of major environmental and occupational diseases and issues. Examines policy, law, economics, politics, and liability as they relate to environmental and occupational health. Prerequisites: MPH 503 and MPH 511.

MPH 525 Public Health Assessment (4 Hrs.)

Examines health-based environmental and occupational safety levels, how they are derived, how they are used to protect public health, and how decisions based on them are communicated to the public. Prerequisite: MPH 521.

MPH 527 Environmental Risk Assessment (4 Hrs.)

Introduction to the many aspects of risk assessment, the relationship between risk assessment and public policy and the perception of risk. Students will be expected to work out elementary problems in risk and exposure assessment. See ENS 521.

MPH 531 Public Health Policy (4 Hrs.)

Examines policy development in public health, its relation to the scientific fields that provide a foundation for

policy, the political and economic factors that generate policy issues and the forces that constrain the decision-making process.

MPH 535 Public Health in the Political Arena (4 Hrs.)

Examines the influence of politics on public health policy and practice. Presents a professional approach to engaging the political process at the local, state, and national levels.

MPH 536 Contemporary Issues in Public Health (4 Hrs.)

An Internet-intensive course to explore new ideas and approaches to public health. The instructor will select the first book of the semester and students will make the rest of the selections from an instructor-compiled list. Students will have opportunities for self-selection, personal growth as public health professionals, and development of skills that will help them effectively articulate their position on a number of topics.

MPH 538 Seminar in Public Health Policy (2 Hrs.)

History and current status of major policy areas in public health examined through group discussions, individual/group research papers, and student presentations. Prerequisite: MPH 531.

MPH 545 Sociocultural Aspects of Health (4 Hrs.)

Medical sociological and anthropological framework for analyzing and understanding the health status of American society, social structure and social value, special is-

sues in health and medical care, and various models of health, life styles, and impact on health.

MPH 551 Public Health Administration (4 Hrs.)

Considers contemporary public health issues; the role of the public health manager; and fundamentals of public health program development, implementation, and evaluation. Application of management theory and skills to the administration of public health programs and facilities.

MPH 556 Leadership and Human Resource Management in Health Care Institutions (4 Hrs.)

Dilemmas health care managers encounter in managing large numbers of professional people, beginning with personnel policy and organizational strategy. Forces the student to struggle in a practical way with personnel and leadership issues that top management staff face in health care organizations. Concepts and techniques useful for managers in improving effectiveness of human resources through leadership skills, job design, job analysis, selection, job evaluation, compensation, supervision, communication, training, and development are examined as management tools. Based on the premise that every manager is dependent on his/her people and their competence, spirit, and support and that a manager bears responsibility for the well-being of those people. Prerequisite: MPH 551.

MPH 561 Community Health Education (4 Hrs.)

Theoretical foundations of health education; skills re-

quired to communicate effectively with various audiences in the community.

MPH 571 Health Care Organization (4 Hrs.)

Overview of the organization and financing of health services in the United States. Emphasizes the historical, political, social, and economic roots of the organization of the U.S. health care system. Overview of the history of hospitals, the development of the medical and nursing professions and scientific knowledge; health politics and policy decisions that structured the U.S. system; the organization and financing of alternative delivery systems, mental health, and long-term care services. Considers contemporary issues in health care related to ethics, rural health care, malpractice, funding for health services, technology assessment, uncompensated care, and the expanded roles of midlevel practitioners. Considers future options in organizing and financing health services from the study of health services research, state initiatives, and systems of other countries.

MPH 575 Health Economics (4 Hrs.)

Introduces the theory, methods, and applications of economic evaluation in the health context. Provides a coherent framework within cost-benefit analysis for the different methods of economic evaluation. Students learn to develop an understanding of the theoretical foundations of economic evaluation, to critically examine economic evaluations, and to carry out different topics of economic evaluations.

MPH 577 Financial Management of Health Care Organizations (4 Hrs.)

Internal and external financial environments of health

care institutions. Covers areas of working-capital management, decision criteria for investment, and long- and short-term financing. Prerequisite: ACC 311.

MPH 581 Internship (1 to 4 Hrs.)

Under faculty guidance, students are placed in a public health setting relevant to their specific needs and interests. Experiences may focus on research, planning, or administrative activities in the delivery of health services. Prerequisite: Completion of at least 24 hours of core courses.

MPH 582 Independent Research Project (1 to 4 Hrs.)

An individual project to demonstrate ability to formulate, investigate, and analyze a problem in a practice setting. Students choose a topic with the advice and approval of the faculty members who agree to supervise and evaluate the students' work.

MPH 583 Comprehensive Exam (1 Hr. Audit)

Encourages students to maintain contact with the department and allows them to use campus facilities such as the library and computer laboratories while preparing to take the department's master's degree closure exercise – the comprehensive examination. This course is required only if students do not complete their comprehensive exams during their last semester of study for the MPH degree. **Note:** Continued registration is required until the exam is passed.