

# PUBLIC HEALTH

master of public health – environmental health concentration

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND ADMINISTRATION

This degree program concentration prepares graduates as competent public health practitioners who understand the connection between public health and an increasingly threatening environment. The curriculum emphasizes the risks of pollution and climate change, as well as the impact of politics and environmental policy-making on our collective health. You'll leave with an understanding of the risks facing our society and a commitment to improve our future.

## ADVANTAGE UIS

- **Generalist and specialist.** Even our students focusing on environmental health must take 24 hours of core courses that provide a foundation in over-arching public health issues such as occupational health, community health education, and public health policy. We believe all of our graduates should be able to see the big picture.
- **MPH Club.** Join this group of like-minded students to network and learn what it's like to work together to effect change. The MPH Club organizes the Annual Public Health Awareness Day at UIS.
- **Faculty expertise.** Our professors are Ph.D.s, M.D.s, and experts in a myriad of areas from epidemiology to environmental risk to health economics.

Our MPH-Environmental Health Concentration is fully accredited by the National Environmental Health Sciences and Protection Accreditation Council. It is the only such accredited master's program in Illinois and one of only eight in the nation.



**Job Security.** The word “bioterrorism” has forever altered our view of the world and has heightened public awareness of the role of public health agencies in protecting citizens. Expect to be in high demand. The majority of our students are employed within two months of graduation.

**Multi-tasking.** Our departments of Public Health and Public Administration have an articulation agreement that allows students to obtain a master's degree with a joint degree (MPA/MPH) in Public Health and Public Administration.

## What can I do with this degree?

Our graduates work in areas such as epidemiology, environmental health, risk assessment, safety and injury control, and environmental health planning. They work at local, state, and national environmental and public health agencies, research firms, consulting firms, international agencies, and in government. Many students go on to earn the Ph.D. or accept fellowships with organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

### Recent employers include:

*Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Illinois Department of Public Health  
Maine Department of Public Health  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Local health departments  
Environmental health consulting firms*



## Wise Words

Whitney A. Cassens, MPH '02  
Director of Health Protection  
Adams County Health Department  
Quincy, IL



“The greatest assets of the UIS Master of Public Health (MPH) program are the faculty and fellow students with actual public health work experience. No textbook can teach the real life knowledge and skills they bring to the table. These same individuals are also able to provide insight into public health at a local, state, federal, and even international level, which is invaluable.”



**The doctor is in.** 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. The option requires completion of 24 hours of core courses, including an internship, and 12 hours of general electives.

The goal of the public health department is to prepare graduates to be competent public and environmental health practitioners. 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 specializing in environmental health must deal with myriad issues: food safety, safe drinking water, solid waste management, pest control, exposure to chemicals and physical agents, indoor and ambient air quality, risk assessment and communication, and emergency preparedness.

**Faculty** Kathy DeBarr, Mark Edgar, Shahram Heshmat, Sharron LaFollette, Jim Veselenak

**Emeritus faculty** Remi Imeokparia, Michael Quam

**Associated Emeritus faculty** William Martz

**Adjunct faculty** Phillip Davis, Janak Koirala, Nancy Parsons, Gary Robinson, Laura Quillian Rogers, Ken Runkel, Ross Silverman

### Entrance Requirements

Applicants must submit an admission application and transcripts from previous college-level academic work to the UIS Office of Admissions. As a second part of the admissions process, applicants must submit to the department 1) an essay outlining professional goals and identifying past academic work and/or employment related to these goals; 2) three completed recommendation forms from employers, professional peers, or educators; and 3) 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, completed a 300-level or higher biostatistics or statistics course within the last three years and received a B or better grade, and completed a minimum of 30 semester hours in the natural sciences at the baccalaureate level or higher.

### Major Requirements

The master of public health degree – environmental health concentration – offers students three elective concentrations (see below). All students are required to complete 48 semester hours of course work, 24 hours of which are required core courses, including a four-hour internship.

### Required Core Courses

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 and Administration 4 Hrs.  
MPH 561 Community Health Education 4 Hrs.  
MPH 581 Internship 4 Hrs.  
or PAD 461-464 Internship

**Total 24 Hrs.**

### Required Environmental Health Core

MPH 449 Environmental Toxicology 4 Hrs.  
MPH 527 Environmental Risk Assessment 4 Hrs.

**Total 8 Hrs.**

### 1. EH Generalist Option

EH concentration electives – may specialize by taking all credit hours within a category or generalize by sampling from several categories listed below. (12 hours)

#### Risk Assessment

MPH 526 Risk Management and Communication 4 Hrs.  
MPH 528 Risk Assessment: Air, Land and Water 4 Hrs.  
MPH 529 Risk Assessment Practicum 4 Hrs.

#### Research Tools

MPH 508 Program Evaluation for Health Professionals 4 Hrs.  
MPH 514 Analytical Epidemiology 4 Hrs.  
MPH 522 Analytical Tools for Environmental Sciences 4 Hrs.  
MPH 575 Economics for Policy Analysis 4 Hrs.  
ENS 404 Fundamentals of GIS 4 Hrs.  
ENS 503 Advanced GIS Applications 4 Hrs.

#### Policy, Administration and Management

MPH 403 Emerging Diseases 4 Hrs.  
MPH 419 Environmental Law 4 Hrs.  
MPH 428 Laboratory Science in Public Health 2 Hrs.  
MPH 478 Crisis in Environmental Health 4 Hrs.  
MPH 484 Air Quality Policy 4 Hrs.  
MPH 486 Solid & Hazardous Waste Policy 4 Hrs.  
MPH 536 Contemporary Issues in Public Health 2 or 4 Hrs.  
ENS 485 Environmental Policies: Water Quality 4 Hrs.  
Additional elective inside or outside concentration 4 Hrs.

### 2. Environmental Health – Risk Assessment Option (graduate certificate)

MPH 526 Risk Communication & Management 4 Hrs.  
MPH 528 Risk Assessment: Air, Land and Water 4 Hrs.  
MPH 529 Risk Assessment Practicum 4 Hrs.  
MPH 575 Economics for Policy Analysis 4 Hrs.

### 3. Environmental Health – Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Option (graduate certificate)

MPH 526 Risk Management and Communication 4 Hrs.  
PAD 533 Program Evaluation (May substitute MPA 508) 4 Hrs.

Additional electives (8 hours) taken from approved list.

### Graduate Certificates

The Public Health Department offers five graduate certificates for specialized study in public health. These certificates may be taken by either degree or non-degree seeking students interested in advanced preparation in:

- Community health education (20 Hrs.)
- Emergency preparedness and homeland security (20 Hrs.)
- Environmental health (16 hrs.)
- Epidemiology (18 Hrs.)
- Environmental Risk Assessment (16 hrs.)

These competency-based graduate certificates are designed to provide continuing education opportunities for professionals without formal public health training, for mid-career professionals, and for those interested in life-long learning. Applicants include degree-seeking and non-degree seeking health professionals, and professionals interested in enhancing their competencies and/or skills in these areas of specialty.

### Visit our website for more information on

- Advising
- Grading policies
- Closure exercise
- Financial Assistance
- Internship
- Joint MPH/MPA degree option
- MPH Professional Option

### To view course descriptions

[www.uis.edu/uiscatalog](http://www.uis.edu/uiscatalog)

### CONTACT INFORMATION

#### Public Health

(217) 206-6301 or [rachelle.nancy@uis.edu](mailto:rachelle.nancy@uis.edu)

#### Website

[www.uis.edu/publichealth](http://www.uis.edu/publichealth)

Office of Admissions  
(217) 206-4847  
or Toll free (888) 977-4847  
[admissions@uis.edu](mailto:admissions@uis.edu)  
[www.uis.edu/admissions](http://www.uis.edu/admissions)

**IMPORTANT!** — Information effective fall 2007. Subject to change without notice. The information is not to be considered final, nor does it constitute a contract between the student and UIS. See [uis.edu/uiscatalog](http://uis.edu/uiscatalog) for current program requirements.

