Public Health

Undergraduate Minor

Master of Public Health
- MPH with Environmental Health Concentration
- MPH Professional Option

Joint Graduate Degrees – MPH/MPA and MPH/HMS

Graduate Certificates

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Office Location: PAC 309

Departmental Vision and Mission

Vision: The UIS MPH program is committed to a vision of Healthy Communities where each generation experiences a greater quality of life throughout the life-span.

Mission: The MPH program strives to provide world class public health education in the United States and globally, preparing competent public health professionals, to improve health, prevent disease, reduce health disparities, and enhance quality of life through education, scholarship, and service.

To accomplish this mission the department has the following four goals:

Goal 1: The MPH program provides educational experiences that meet the needs of the public health profession by preparing students for successful careers.

Goal 2: The department attracts and retains a competent and effective cadre of faculty.

Goal 3: The department promotes, conducts, and disseminates scholarly research locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.

Goal 4: The department promotes and participates in community engagement and public health practice.

The department offers two options for graduate-level study in public health: a generalist MPH degree (MPH) with a strong interdisciplinary foundation for practice in public health, and an MPH with a concentration in Environmental Health (MPH – EH) within which a student may choose to emphasize preparation in risk assessment, emergency preparedness, or environmental health policy. The department also offers a professional option for physicians and others with earned doctorates and two options for joint study degrees: Master of Public Health with a Master of Public Administration (MPH/MPA) and Master of Public Health with a Master of Human Services (MPH/HMS). The curriculum is designed to provide students with the academic background necessary to meet core competencies in environmental and public health as published on the Public Health Department website (www.uis.edu/publichealth/). The MPH with a concentration in Environmental Health is an accredited curriculum through the National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council (EHAC). All degrees offered by the department may be completed on campus or may be taken entirely online.

The Master’s Degree

- MPH General
- MPH Environmental Health Concentration
- MPH Professional Option

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 an advisor to assist with academic planning. Thereafter, students may choose an advisor from department faculty. Students must prepare an educational plan before registering for courses in order to map out progress through the degree consistent with career and personal goals. Students are not allowed to register until this educational plan is approved.

Grading Policy

Students must maintain a B (3.0) or better cumulative average during their course of study. A maximum of eight hours of C (2.0) grades is applicable to the degree (grades of C- or lower are not accepted), provided that a minimum GPA of 3.0 is reached at time of graduation and an approved Student Petition form is on file in the Office of Records and Registration. Courses taken on a CR/NC basis will not count toward the degree. Only pre-approved 400-level courses are permitted for use toward the degree.

NOTE: Students also should refer to the campus policy on Grades Acceptable Toward Master’s Degrees section of this catalog.

Degree Requirements

The degree of study must be declared at the time of application. Students in the general MPH or MPH – EH take 48 semester hours of course work. The MPH/MPA joint degree requires that students complete 66 hours of course work. The MPH/HMS joint degree requires that students complete 68 hours of course work. The professional MPH requires students to complete 36 semester hours of course work. Students must reapply to change their degree option.

Required Core Courses for all MPH Degrees

All degrees offered by the MPH department require that students complete 28 hours of core courses, including a four hour internship.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MPH 503</td>
<td>Biostatistics for the Health Professional</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH 506</td>
<td>Community Health Research</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH 511</td>
<td>Foundations Of Epidemiology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH 521</td>
<td>Environmental and Occupational Health</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH 531</td>
<td>Public Health Policy and Administration</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH 561</td>
<td>Community Health Education</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH 581</td>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 28

Master’s Closure

Students in all degree programs offered through the department take a comprehensive written examination based on a case study with questions designed to test students’ ability to integrate the knowledge and skills they have gained from the core curriculum. A student takes the public health comprehensive exam during his/her last semester of study. If the last semester falls during the summer...
semester, a student may request to take the comprehensive exam during the prior spring semester with a Student Petition form. A student must complete all core courses (except the internship) prior to taking the comprehensive exam, but may take the exam concurrently with electives or the internship during the last semester of study. The student must successfully complete the exam within one year after completing course work for the degree. Students who do not successfully complete the examination during their final semester of study must enroll in MPH 583 (zero credit hours, one billable credit hour) each regular semester (fall/spring) until they pass the exam. Students must pass the exam within one year of completing course work with a maximum of three consecutive attempts.

All degrees offered by the department may be completed on campus or may be taken entirely online.

- MPH/HMS Joint Degree (68 hours)
- MPH/MPA Joint Degree (66 hours)

**Graduate Certificates**

The Public Health Department offers five graduate certificates for specialized study in public health. These certificates, all of which are available either on-campus or online, may be taken by either degree or non-degree seeking students (except as noted below) interested in advanced preparation in:

- Community Health Education
- Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security
- Environmental Health
- Epidemiology
- Environmental Risk Assessment

Students interested in a graduate public health degree with an environmental health emphasis must apply for the MPH with a concentration in Environmental Health (MPH-EH), and are ineligible for the graduate certificate in environmental health.

These competency-based graduate certificates are designed to provide opportunities for continuing education for health professionals without formal public health training, for those interested in life-long learning, and for mid-career professionals. Certificate course work may be taken by either a non-degree seeking student or in conjunction with other graduate work. Course work may be applied to the MPH general degree or the MPH degree with a concentration in Environmental Health. Similarly, students in the MPH degree programs may apply course work toward obtaining one or more of the certificates; however, students in the general MPH or MPH–EH degrees are ineligible for the environmental health certificate. Students currently enrolled as MPH majors must file an application with the Office of Admissions to pursue a graduate certificate. There is no additional fee for enrolled MPH majors to apply for a graduate certificate program.

**Entrance Requirements**

The program requires formal application for admission to the University (accompanied by official transcripts) followed by review of the application by faculty of the Department of Public Health.

The department faculty will provide academic advising to certificate students.

Individuals who have bachelor’s degrees from accredited colleges and universities are eligible to apply to the certificate programs. A background in the biological sciences demonstrated by transcript credit of at least three semester hours is required, along with a strong science background desirable. Admission will be based on a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0- point scale, or a 2.75 or better with documentation of substantial professional experience in the field of the certificate.

Individuals wanting to apply the certificate work to a graduate degree in public health must also meet all entrance requirements for degree study (refer to the Master’s in Public Health section of this catalog). In addition, they must formally apply for admission to the graduate degree.

**Fees and Completion**

Students completing certificate course work must submit a completed education plan for signature of the advisor and the department chair. Students must complete the certificate course work with a B (3.0) or better average. One C (2.0) grade per certificate may be applied if a student has received a final GPA of at least 3.0 for certificate course work.

In addition to tuition, there is a $25 fee at the time of certificate completion to cover administrative costs. The administrative fee will be charged at the time the student applies for graduation.