

# MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

UTSPHSA's M.P.H. is a 45-credit-hour professional degree that prepares students to evaluate the needs for community health, develop innovative policies and programs, and ensure that recently established systems are strengthened and maintained. Upon the completion of this program, graduates will be equipped with the necessary skills to develop, articulate, and exhibit personal mastery in eight key areas related to public health. These areas include evidence-based approaches to public health, public health and health care systems, planning and management to promote health, policy in public health, leadership, communication, interprofessional and/or intersectoral practice, and systems thinking. Additionally, graduates will demonstrate an ability to communicate to understand and involve others, achieve results ethically, organize coalitions, advocacy groups, and other stakeholders, and participate in transformational systems thinking.

## Admissions Requirements

- A baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university in the United States or proof of an equivalent degree from a foreign institution.
- Official transcripts from each college/university currently and previously attended that reflect completed and in-progress coursework.
- Transcripts from institutions outside the United States submitted in the original language and evaluated by an approved organization of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES).
- International applicants whose native language is not English or those from countries exempted from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or the Duolingo English Test requirements must present evidence of proficiency in English by satisfactorily completing either the TOEFL with a minimum score of 84, the IELTS with a minimum score of 7.0, or a Duolingo English Test with a minimum score of 115. Scores on TOEFL, IELTS, and Duolingo tests taken more than two years before the date of application are unacceptable. A waiver of this requirement may be requested if the individual has graduated from a high school or a higher education degree program (associate degree or higher) in the United States or another country where English is the official language.
- Required immunizations, criminal background and sanction checks, and technical and additional requirements per UTSPHSA and/or UT Health San Antonio regulatory guidelines.
- Current resume or curriculum vitae (CV).
- Writing sample in response to prompts provided by the Admissions Committee.
- Personal statement on the applicant's approach to working in and with the community, affirmation of social justice, and health equity. The personal statement may be used to highlight areas of particular strength or challenges experienced by the applicant.
- Two letters of recommendation from professional, academic, or community sources highlighting the applicant's leadership skills, community service, the potential for success in the M.P.H. Program, and/or the likelihood of contributing to the field of public health.
- Interview with Admissions Committee.

## Degree Requirements

For the M.P.H., the program of study includes a minimum of 45 semester credit hours of required graduate courses, including foundational, concentration, elective, applied practice experience, and capstone or integrative learning experience courses. Within the 45 credit hours, students must also complete 3 credit hours of a supervised, hands-on, real-world public health practice outside of the classroom (i.e., Applied Practice Experience or Practicum), which requires a minimum of 180 hours of practical and real-world field experiences focused on local and regional public health central problems directly relevant to the public health workforce.

To graduate, students must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0, a minimum average of 3.0 in each concentration course, no more than one "C" in a foundational course, and no incomplete grades in any coursework.

All M.P.H. coursework must be completed within five years of enrollment in the program.

Fall		Credit Hours
PHEA 6001	Concepts in Public Health - From Person to Population	3
PHEA 6002	Perspectives and Decisions Through Public Health Data	3
PHEA 6004	Health Promotion and Health Behaviors	3
<b>Total Credit Hours:</b>		<b>9.0</b>
Spring		Credit Hours
PHEA 6003	Designing Public Health Inquiry: Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods	3
PHEA 6005	Health Policy and Public Health Advocacy	3
PHEA 6006	Introduction to Occupational and Environmental Health	3
<b>Total Credit Hours:</b>		<b>9.0</b>
Summer		Credit Hours
PHEA 6007	Leadership in Public Health	3
PHEA 6096	Seminar in Public Health	3
PHEA 6097	Applied Practice Experience-Practicum	3
<b>Total Credit Hours:</b>		<b>9.0</b>
Fall		Credit Hours
PHEA 6009	Public Health Systems Administration	3
PHEA 6010	Structural and Social Determinants of Health	3
PHEA 6011	Continuous Quality Improvement in Public Health	3
<b>Total Credit Hours:</b>		<b>9.0</b>
Spring		Credit Hours
PHEA 6013	Community Engagement and Health Communication	3
PHEA 6014	Global Health-Current Health Issues Facing Our World	3

PHEA 6098	Discovery-Based Paper or Project	3
PHEA 6099	Capstone Experience	3
<b>Total Credit Hours:</b>		<b>12.0</b>

### M.P.H Program Competencies

Students in the M.P.H. program are expected to have disciplinary-specific knowledge and abilities. Through the foundational curriculum, every M.P.H. student will receive training in 12 learning objectives and 22 foundational competencies established by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). Each M.P.H. student will acquire five concentration-specific competencies based on the chosen concentration. Every M.P.H. student will complete an Applied Practice Experience (to demonstrate attainment of at least five competencies, of which at least three must be foundational competencies) and an Integrative Learning Experience (to demonstrate synthesis and integration of one concentration competency and at least one foundational competency).

### CEPH Foundational Public Health Knowledge

#### Profession & Science of Public Health

- LO 1. Explain public health history, philosophy, and values.
- LO 2. Identify the core functions of public health and the 10 Essential Services
- LO 3. Explain the role of quantitative and qualitative methods and sciences in describing and assessing a population's health.
- LO 4. List major causes and trends of morbidity and mortality in the U.S. or other communities relevant to the program.
- LO 5. Discuss the science of primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention in population health, including health promotion, screening, etc.
- LO 6. Explain the critical importance of evidence in advancing public health knowledge.

#### Factors Related to Human Health

- LO 7. Explain the effects of environmental factors on a population's health.
- LO 8. Explain biological and genetic factors that affect a population's health.
- LO 9. Explain behavioral and psychological factors that affect a population's health.
- LO 10. Explain the social, political, and economic determinants of health and how they contribute to population health and health inequities.
- LO 11. Explain how globalization affects the global burdens of disease.
- LO 12. Explain an ecological perspective on the connections among human health, animal health, and ecosystem health (e.g., One Health).

### M.P.H. Foundational Competencies

#### Evidence-based Approaches to Public Health

FC 1. Apply epidemiological methods to settings and situations in public health practice.

FC 2. Select quantitative and qualitative data collection methods appropriate for a given public health context.

FC3. Analyze quantitative and qualitative data using biostatistics, informatics, computer-based programming, and software, as appropriate.

FC4. Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy or practice.

#### Public Health & Health Care Systems

FC 5. Compare the organization, structure and function of health care, public health and regulatory systems across national and international settings.

FC 6. Discuss the means by which structural bias, social inequities and racism undermine health and create challenges to achieving health equity at organizational, community, and systemic levels.

#### Planning & Management to Promote Health

FC 7. Assess population needs, assets and capacities that affect communities' health.

FC 8. Apply awareness of cultural values and practices to the design or implementation of public health policies or programs.

FC 9. Design a population-based policy, program, project or intervention.

FC 10. Explain the basic principles and tools of budget and resource management.

FC 11. Select methods to evaluate public health programs.

#### Policy in Public Health

FC 12. Discuss the policy-making process, including the roles of ethics and evidence.

FC 13. Propose strategies to identify stakeholders and build coalitions and partnerships for influencing public health outcomes.

FC 14. Advocate for political, social or economic policies and programs that will improve health in diverse populations.

FC 15. Evaluate policies for their impact on public health and health equity.

#### Leadership

FC 16. Apply leadership and/or management principles to address a relevant issue.

FC 17. Apply negotiation and mediation skills to address organizational or community challenges.

#### Communication

FC 18. Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors.

FC 19. Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation.

FC 20. Describe the importance of cultural competence in communicating public health content.

#### Interprofessional and/or Intersectoral Practice

FC 21. Integrate perspectives from other sectors and/or professions to promote and advance population health.

#### Systems Thinking

FC 22. Apply a systems thinking tool to visually represent a public health issue in a format other than a standard narrative.

#### **Concentration – Public Health Practice and Administration**

The Public Health Practice and Administration concentration is designed to prepare students to lead and administer public health programs and interventions. Students will gain the skills and knowledge needed to evaluate and implement public health policies and programs. Students will master skills in evidence-based leadership and management practices, principles, and practices of managing public health systems, and systems approaches to improve the quality of public health services.

#### Competencies – Public Health Practice and Administration Concentration

- Create a strategic plan or evaluate a strategic planning process in a public health setting.
- Construct a budget and evaluation framework to monitor budget performance and identify key trends or patterns in resource allocation.
- Formulate a plan to manage teams, allocate resources, and develop partnerships for a given public health program or intervention.
- Design or modify an evidence-based ethical, legal, or regulatory standard or practice to improve the quality of public health services provided in an organization.
- Evaluate a strategy for quality improvement of a public health program or intervention that addresses the specific health needs of a vulnerable population.