PUBLIC HEALTH MPH: COMMUNITY AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROMOTION

The Community and Behavioral Health Promotion (CBHP) track focuses on promoting the health of communities through innovative approaches to community engagement and collaborative practice. Coursework addresses theories and frameworks in social and behavioral science, evidence-based methods for program planning (including assessment) and implementation, and program evaluation. Students apply a social justice and equity-centered approach to public health training and practice. Methodological approaches address quantitative, qualitative, and community-engaged techniques.

Related Certificate


The Zilber School of Public Health offers a Master of Public Health (MPH), a Ph.D. in Public Health with concentrations in Biostatistics and Community and Behavioral Health Promotion, Ph.D. in Epidemiology, and a Ph.D. in Environmental Health Sciences.

Master of Public Health

The Zilber School of Public Health (SPH) offers a Master of Public Health (MPH), a professional master’s degree program with five distinct tracks of study. The MPH program provides students with a broad understanding of public health practice and allows specialization in Biostatistics, Community and Behavioral Health Promotion, Environmental Health Sciences, Epidemiology, or Public Health Policy and Administration.

Like most MPH programs, the Zilber SPH’s program imparts knowledge and skills in each of these core disciplines in public health, helping prepare all students to analyze information and consider solutions to public health problems using a social justice lens at the community, institutional, and societal levels. Courses have been designed to teach program- and track-level competencies as defined by Zilber SPH faculty. Program-level competencies reflect key public health skills including systems thinking, ethics, analytical methods, communications/informatics, diversity/culture, leadership, and professionalism. In addition, students engage in a specific track of study, gaining deeper competency in one of the five areas. Upon graduation students are prepared for positions in a range of population health settings and/or for doctoral-level study.

Application Deadlines

If at any time you are unsure about a published date or deadline (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/program-deadlines), call the Registrar’s Office at (414) 229-3800 or submit a contact form (http://uwm.edu/registrar/contact-us) online.

Admission

An applicant must meet Graduate School requirements plus as the desired track of study requires: the following program requirements to be considered for admission to the program. These materials will be considered in a holistic admissions process with special attention to ensure a diverse student body.

1. Three letters of recommendation from persons familiar with the applicant’s academic experience and potential for graduate work in public health.
2. CV or resume.
3. Score report from the General Test of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/admission/#gre), taken within the last five years.
4. The admissions committee may consider GMAT (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/admission/#gmat), LSAT, MCAT scores in place of GRE (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/admission/#gre) scores. Students requesting this or any other exception should apply in writing for consideration by the Applications Review Committee.
5. Address the following two Short Essay questions, limiting responses to no more than 500 words (approximately 250 words per question):
   - Describe how your professional, volunteer, and educational background has led you to seek a degree in Public Health.
   - How will your desired track of study help you reach your personal and professional goals in Public Health?
6. International applicants must also meet admission standards set and monitored by UWM’s Center for International Education.
7. MPH applicants must use SOPHAS (https://sophas.org) to apply. When applying applicants must select their track of which they are applying; Biostatistics, Community and Behavioral Health Promotion, Environmental Health Sciences, Epidemiology, or Public Health Policy & Administration.
8. Tracks may have additional admission requirements, which can be found here (http://uwm.edu/publichealth/faqs).

Faculty Advisor

Each student will be assigned a track-specific Faculty Advisor during Orientation week preceding the first semester. Faculty Advisors assist the student in the development of an individual Plan of Study designed to advance the career goals of the student and be consistent with the track curriculum. The Advisor plays an important role in connecting the Field Experience, Capstone, and career goals for each student.

UWM’s Zilber School recognizes the importance of a strong faculty advising program coupled with a sound system for monitoring student progress in all programs. Each semester, students are asked to assess their own progress through a required survey. They also complete a progress form together with their advisor. Feedback to students will be provided by 1) their faculty advisor in December during their advisor-student meeting and 2) a letter in May signed by their faculty advisor and program director confirming progress and noting any guidance for subsequent years, including plans and timetable for remediation when necessary.

Administrative offices of the Zilber School of Public Health have staff assigned on policies and procedures for admission, academic progression, and graduation. If deemed necessary, any student can petition to the Zilber SPH’s Office of Academic and Student Affairs for a reassignment of Faculty Advisor. Program track faculty will make every effort to accommodate requests to give all students opportunities for success in the program.
Credits and Courses

All students enrolled in the MPH program take a common set of core classes designed to give basic skills and knowledge of public health concepts. The core curriculum consists of at least 20 credit hours, including at least three credits Field Experience and a two-credit capstone seminar. In addition to the common core, students complete the required coursework in one of five specialization tracks: Biostatistics, Community and Behavioral Health Promotion, Environmental Health Sciences, Epidemiology, or Public Health Policy and Administration. The MPH degree varies from 42-44 credits depending on the track. Students must maintain a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.0 or better in order to progress through the program.

Unless noted, all courses are 3 credits.

MPH Required Common Core Courses (at least 20 credits)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PH 702</td>
<td>Introduction to Biostatistics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH 703</td>
<td>Environmental Health Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 704</td>
<td>Principles and Methods of Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 705</td>
<td>Principles of Public Health Policy and Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 706</td>
<td>Perspectives on Community &amp; Behavioral Health</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH 790</td>
<td>Field Experience in Public Health</td>
<td>1-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH 800</td>
<td>Capstone in Public Health</td>
<td>2</td>
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Community and Behavioral Health Promotion

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PH 701</td>
<td>Public Health Principles and Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 725</td>
<td>Theories and Models of Health Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 726</td>
<td>Community Health Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 727</td>
<td>Program Planning &amp; Implementation in Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 728</td>
<td>Program Evaluation in Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
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Methods “S” Electives

Select a minimum of 6 credits from the following:

- PH 729 Survey Research Methods in Public Health
- PH 776 Qualitative Approaches in Public Health Policy and Administration
- PH 831 Community Engagement and Participatory Research Approaches in Public Health

Electives

Select one of the following:

- PH 719 Social Justice in Public Health
- PH 740 Special Topics in Public Health
- PH 752 Public Health and Mental Health
- PH 999 Independent Study
- KIN 732 Physical Activity and Health Across the Lifespan