PUBLIC HEALTH, MPH: COMMUNITY HEALTH EQUITY PROMOTION

The Community Health Equity Promotion 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 Certificates

- Interprofessional Graduate Certificate in Public and Population Health (https://catalog.uwm.edu/public-health/public-population-health-graduate-certificate/)
- Graduate Certificate in Maternal and Child Health (https://catalog.uwm.edu/public-health/maternal-child-health-graduate-certificate/)
- Graduate Certificate in Non-Profit Management (https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/public-nonprofit-administration/nonprofit-management-graduate-certificate/)

The Zilber College of Public Health (ZCPH) offers a Master of Public Health (MPH) with concentration in six tracks of study, a PhD in Public Health with a Concentration in Community and Behavioral Health Promotion, a PhD in Public Health with a Concentration in Biostatistics, a PhD in Environmental Health Sciences, and a PhD in Epidemiology.

Master of Public Health

The Master of Public Health (MPH) offered by the Zilber College of Public Health (ZCPH) is a professional master's degree program that provides students with a broad understanding of public health practice. Students in the MPH program can specialize in six distinct tracks of study: 1) Biostatistics, 2) Community Health Equity Promotion, 3) Environmental Health Sciences, 4) Epidemiology, 5) Public Health Policy and Management, and 6) Nutrition and Dietetics. The College also offers a coordinated MPH/MSW degree in collaboration with the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare.

Like most MPH programs, the ZCPH 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 ZCPH 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 six areas. Upon graduation students are prepared for positions in a range of public/population health and healthcare settings and/or for doctoral-level study.

Admission Requirements

Application Deadlines

Application deadlines vary by program, please review the application deadline chart (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/program-deadlines/) for specific programs. Other important dates and deadlines can be found by using the One Stop calendars (https://uwm.edu/onestop/dates-and-deadlines/).

Admission

An applicant must meet Graduate School requirements as well as the desired track of study requirements. The following steps must be met to be considered for admission to the MPH 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. 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?
4. International applicants must also meet admission standards set and monitored by UWM's Center for International Education.
5. MPH applicants (except those applying to the Nutrition and Dietetics track) must use SOPHAS (https://sophas.org/) to apply. Applicants must select the track to which they are applying: Biostatistics, Community Health Equity Promotion, Environmental Health Sciences, Epidemiology, or Public Health Policy and Management.
6. MPH Nutrition and Dietetics track applicants must use DICAS (https://help.liaisonedu.com/DICAS_Applicant_Help_Center/) to apply rather than SOPHAS.

*Students applying to the fully online MPH in Public Health Policy and Management must also respond to the following question: How will an online MPH in Public Health Policy and Management align with your current professional obligations and goals?

*Students applying to the MPH in Nutrition and Dietetics must also respond to the following question: Based on your personal background and life experiences, discuss how you can make a unique contribution to the field of public health, nutrition, and dietetics.

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 24-25 credit hours, including four credits for the Field Experience (3 credits) and Leadership in Public Health (1 credit) courses and a two-credit capstone seminar. In addition to the common core, students complete the required coursework in one of six specialization tracks (total program credits in parentheses): Biostatistics (46 credits), Community Health Equity Promotion (48-49 credits), Environmental Health Sciences (45 credits), Epidemiology (49 credits), Public Health Policy and Management (48 credits), or Nutrition and Dietetics (64 credits). Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better in order to progress through the program.

MPH Required Common Core Courses (24-25 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
PH 702	Introduction to Biostatistics	3
PH 703	Environmental Health Sciences	3
PH 704	Principles and Methods of Epidemiology	3
PH 705	Principles of Public Health Policy and Administration	3
PH 706	Perspectives on Community & Behavioral Health	3
PH 708	Health Systems and Population Health	3
PH 733	Overview of Qualitative Methods for Public Health [1]	1
PH 790	Field Experience in Public Health (See following section for details) [2]	3
PH 791	Leadership in Public Health	1
PH 800	Capstone in Public Health (See following section for details) [3]	2
Total Credits		**25**

1. Required for students in the Biostatistics, Environmental Health Science, Epidemiology, and Nutrition and Dietetics Tracks. Community Health Equity Promotion Track students who take a qualitative methods course and Public Health Policy and Management Track students would be exempt.
2. Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory; may be taken for 1, 2, or 3 credits in a given semester. A total of 3 credits is required.
3. Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory; completed in the final semester of study.

Field Experience

The Field Experience enables students to apply knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to public health problems in a community context. Students work with their Faculty Advisor and college staff to identify a placement that matches their public health interests and career goals. Possible placement settings include a local health department, state health department, non-profit agency, hospital system, or research institute. Students in the Nutrition and Dietetics track will be provided with specific placement(s) by the program. The experience is a mentored placement engaging both a faculty advisor and a site preceptor. Students complete at least two products as agreed upon with the site preceptor. This course is offered in the summer, fall, and spring semesters.

Students complete three credits (80 contact hours per one credit, 240 hours total) with the organization. The specified competencies, scope of work, and final products for the organization are defined in a learning agreement, which is signed by the student, preceptor, faculty advisor and course instructor. Students must demonstrate attainment of at least five competencies, three of which must be Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) MPH Foundational Competencies (see Field Experience Handbook), and two of which are identified from the track competency sets.

The following two CEPH MPH Foundational Competencies are required of all students:

#16. Apply leadership and/or management principles to address a relevant issue (may include creating a vision, empowering others, fostering collaboration, and guiding decision making).

#19. Communicate audience-appropriate (i.e., non-academic, non-peer audience) public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation.

Students choose their third Foundational Competency.

Students enrolled in the Nutritional and Dietetics track will be required to demonstrate attainment of select competencies from the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) during Field Experience in Public Health. Nutrition and Dietetics students will be required to meet the 3-credit requirement for Field Experience in Public Health in one semester and complete additional field experience program requirements in food systems management and medical nutrition therapy.

In addition, students take the one-credit Leadership Public Health course. This course is designed to give students the opportunity to apply three specific CEPH MPH Foundational Competencies related to the Field Experience. The Field Experience setting provides students with opportunities to integrate these competencies through their projects, observe professionals in their organizations and the community, and learn important skills in these three areas. The required competencies are:

#16. Apply leadership and/or management principles to address a relevant issue (may include creating a vision, empowering others, fostering collaboration, and guiding decision making).

#17. Apply negotiation and mediation skills to address organizational or community challenges (among parties with conflicting interests and/or different desired outcomes).

#21. Integrate perspectives from other sectors and/or professions to promote and advance population health (direct engagement between student[s] and individual[s] in a sector or profession other than public health to complete a task or solve a problem).

Students fulfill these competencies with readings and through a series of activities including case studies or scenarios/role playing exercises. Assessments for the leadership, negotiation and interprofessional team competencies include participation in the sessions and written papers. The Leadership in Public Health course is offered in the summer and fall semesters. All four Field Experience and Leadership course credits may be taken in one semester or spread out over two semesters.

Capstone

The capstone requires students to integrate the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom, Field Experience, and/or lab into some aspect of professional public health practice. The capstone project is an opportunity for students to synthesize and demonstrate public health competencies. Capstone projects can vary by track and usually include analysis of information and data. The projects also include a comprehensive literature review as required by track.

Students work with their Faculty Advisor to write a project proposal the semester prior to the capstone reflecting the student's interests and career goals. Students then implement the project during their final semester of the program. The project has both written paper and oral presentation components.

Community Health Equity Promotion Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
PH 700	Structures of Inequality and Population Health	3
PH 725	Theories and Models of Health Behavior	3
PH 726	Community Health Assessment	3
PH 727	Program Planning & Implementation in Public Health	3
PH 728	Program Evaluation in Public Health	3
Electives (see table below)		**9**
Total Credits		**24**

Electives

Code	Title	Credits
Select two of the following courses:		**6**
PH 729	Survey Research Methods in Public Health	3
PH 776	Qualitative Approaches in Public Health Policy	3
PH 831	Community Engagement and Participatory Research Approaches in Public Health	3
Select one of the following courses:		**3**
PH 719	Social Justice in Public Health	3
PH 730	Overview of Children with Special Health Care Needs	3
PH 740	Special Topics in Public Health:	1-3
PH 752	Public Health and Mental Health	3
PH 820	Maternal and Child Health Foundations, Policy and Practice	3
PH 999	Independent Study	1-3
Other courses as approved by advisor.		

Additional Requirements

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. If deemed necessary, any student can petition to the Zilber 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 MPH Program.

Thesis

Not required. See capstone for similar culminating experience.

Comprehensive Examination

Not required. See capstone for similar culminating experience.

Time Limit

The student must complete all degree requirements within seven years of initial enrollment.

Public Health MPH: Community Health Equity Promotion Learning Outcomes

Master of Public Health students in the Community Health Equity Promotion Track can expect to:

1. Demonstrate a broad knowledge and understanding of community and behavioral health theories and their application to health promotion and prevention.
2. Apply relevant theories, concepts, and models from the social and behavioral sciences to public health research and practice.
3. Design public health programs, including their implementation and evaluation components.
4. Design a plan to assess community-level public health needs and assets.
5. Assess social and behavioral factors influencing the health of individuals and communities.
6. Apply qualitative and quantitative methods to the assessment of public health problems, the articulation of community strengths, and the evaluation of prevention and intervention programs.
7. Identify and apply evidence-based approaches to the development and implementation of social and behavioral science interventions.
8. Demonstrate the capacity to effectively explain and discuss planning, implementation, and evaluation of public health programs.

Public Health MPH Learning Outcomes

All MPH students in UWM's Zilber College of Public Health can expect to:

1. Explain the foundational principles and historical perspectives that shape the field of public health.
2. Describe how multiple determinants, including socioeconomic, biological, behavioral, and environmental, and the interrelations among these determinants shape population health and health inequities.
3. Integrate principles of social and environmental justice within public health practice and research.
4. Employ ethical principles and protocols in public health practice and research.
5. Implement approaches to public health practice and research that recognize the social, cultural and environmental circumstances of individuals, communities and populations.
6. Utilize appropriate quantitative and/or qualitative methods in public health practice and research.
7. Apply interdisciplinary theories, research methods and best practices to address public health issues and promote population health.
8. Collect, synthesize and critically analyze information and data to identify and address public health issues and inform interventions.
9. Practice professionalism; demonstrated by integrity, respect, transparency, sound judgment, and constructive interactions with colleagues, community members, stakeholders and the public at large.
10. Demonstrate leadership and partnership skills that foster and support collaborations across diverse communities, settings and sectors.
11. Communicate effectively about public health issues with diverse audiences using a variety of strategies and modalities.
12. Advocate for the public's health and health equity.

Accelerated Program Option

This program is offered as part of an accelerated graduate program. For more information, see Accelerated Graduate Degrees (https://catalog.uwm.edu/opportunities-resources/accelerated-graduate-degrees/).