

## **Non-traditional Doctoral/Master's Degree Programs**

### **Rehabilitation Science PhD/Master of Public Health (PhD/MPH) Program**

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The College of Public Health and Health Professions has a long-standing commitment to treatment and rehabilitation of individuals with chronic diseases and disabilities. Adding a public health, population-based set of skills to the research training in this PhD program produces a uniquely-qualified researcher. Individuals who complete this program are in exceptional positions to conduct research that will contribute to cutting-edge paradigm shifts and to inform health policy decisions that affect chronic diseases and disabilities. The PhD/MPH program involves collaboration among four departments and the MPH program in the College of Public Health and Health Professions.

#### **Hallmarks of the program**

- Up to 30 credits of MPH coursework may be shared with the PhD program, with approval of the PhD committee
- Nine credits of PhD courses may be applied to the MPH
- Students have the flexibility to select an in-depth concentration in the MPH program or to choose the Public Health Practice concentration, which allows selection of courses from two or more concentration areas.
- Up to 15 credits of MPH core courses may be taken online.
- Nine credits of PhD courses may be applied to the MPH

#### **Program description**

Rehabilitation Science PhD/MPH plans of study are developed for each student individually, taking into account the public health competencies to be achieved and the manner in which MPH courses will be integrated into the four years of course and laboratory work normally required for the PhD. Students in the PhD program may take MPH courses concurrent with their PhD courses.

Nine credits of appropriate PhD coursework may be applied to requirements in the 48-credit MPH program. The 9 credits selected from the PhD curriculum must be approved by the MPH program upon the recommendation of the student's supervisory committee. Conversely, the PhD program may accept up to 30 credits of approved masters-level coursework towards the requirements of the PhD.

Students must meet graduation requirements for both programs. These requirements may be found at: <http://rehabsci.php.ufl.edu/> and <http://www.mph.ufl.edu/programs/masterspublichealth.htm>).

#### **Application**

Applicants must meet admission requirements for, and be accepted by, both programs in order to be admitted into the PhD/MPH program. Students may apply to both programs simultaneously, or they may enter one degree program and apply to the other after beginning the first program. However, the sequencing of applications and acceptances is important. Since the PhD program is much smaller than the MPH, students usually begin their PhD studies and confer with Rehabilitation Science faculty mentors and MPH faculty before applying to the MPH program. After acceptance into the MPH, Nontraditional Doctoral/Master's Degree Program forms are completed and submitted to the Graduate School for classification as a collaborative program student. Appropriate forms (1 and 2) for nontraditional doctoral/master's degree programs may be found at <http://gradschool.rgp.ufl.edu/pdf-files/nontraditional-degree-form.pdf>.

The nontraditional degree program is not open to students who have already earned one of the two degrees.

### **MPH concentrations**

Students must choose from one of the six MPH concentrations: Biostatistics, Environmental Health, Epidemiology, Public Health Management and Policy, Public Health Practice, or Social and Behavioral Sciences. Please visit <http://www.mph.ufl.edu/concentrations/> for a description of each concentration.

### **Supervisory committee**

To facilitate student progress in the non-traditional program, the graduate supervisory committee is comprised of the Rehabilitation Science faculty mentor, other faculty members as required by the PhD program, and one MPH faculty member. The MPH faculty member chairs the committee for MPH-related requirements, such as the internship and culminating experience.

### **MPH internship requirement**

The concepts presented via MPH coursework are integrated and assimilated through an internship, which provides an opportunity for each student to apply his or her knowledge in a practice setting. A wide range of settings and opportunities may be suitable for an internship. Each internship is individually tailored to assure competence in general MPH and concentration-specific skills and to meet student goals, concentration criteria, and the needs of the agencies involved. The internship is usually completed near the end of the program, and always includes a special project that serves as the basis for a final oral and written report. The internship and the special project must be approved by the student's supervisory committee chair.

### **MPH culminating experience**

Students attain depth in public health knowledge and skills by selecting one core area for their concentrations. They obtain a broad knowledge base of public health issues and perspectives through the MPH core courses and electives. The concepts presented in these courses are integrated and assimilated through the internship, which provides an opportunity for each student to apply his or her knowledge in the real world of public health. Students may engage in many activities during an internship. However, each

student must have one special project which serves as the basis for a major paper and a presentation. These final activities of the MPH program are intended to encourage students to understand their projects in the larger context of public health as a cross-disciplinary field and in relation to the competencies expected of all MPH graduates. Student presentations are scheduled on one or two Public Health Days near the end of fall, spring and summer semesters. The written paper and oral presentation constitute a culminating experience for the MPH.

**Contact us!**

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