

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Master of Public Health (MPH) program is offered in four different formats: a traditional 48-credit MPH program, an accelerated 36-credit MPH for qualified health professionals, a combined bachelor's to master's degree MPH program and collaborative programs with doctoral degrees. In each format, concentrations in each of the five core areas of public health are available: biostatistics, environmental health, epidemiology, health management and policy, and social and behavioral sciences. The MPH curricula have been designed to meet current developments in the field of public health, CEPH accreditation criteria (we hope to seek accreditation in 2008), and the College's mission, goals and objectives. The major characteristics of the 48-credit MPH curriculum are:

- One course in each of the five core areas of public health for a total of 15 credits
- One-credit Seminar in Contemporary Public Health Issues
- 12 – 27 credits in a core area of concentration
- Up to 12 credits of public health electives
- A 6-9-credit special project, which may be a research project or an internship
- Special project presentation

Summaries of requirements and elective options for each concentration are on the following pages.

Students attain a depth of 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 five core courses, their electives, and the special project. There are two culminating experiences in the curriculum: 1) the special project provides an opportunity for each student to apply his or her knowledge in a real world practice or research setting, and 2) the special project presentation is intended to encourage students to understand their projects in the larger context of public health as a cross-disciplinary field.

The 36-credit program for working professionals is designed to be completed on either a full or part-time basis. All professional students must complete 15 credits of core public health course work, 15-18 credits in a concentration area, and 3-6 credits of a public health project. Candidates for this program must possess a terminal degree in their fields.

The combined bachelor's to master's MPH degree is designed for seniors at the University of Florida. Students in a combined program complete 15 credit hours of graduate level public health course work during their undergraduate senior year. These credits count toward both the bachelors program and the MPH. They replace 15 credits of required college and/or general electives. To accrue the 15 credit hours, students may complete the five core courses, or they may mix core and concentration courses in an organized, goal-directed plan of study. The remaining 33 credits required for the MPH are completed after acceptance to the Graduate School and the Public Health Program. Students in a combined degree program may come from various undergraduate majors.

The College also offers two non-degree opportunities in public health. A 15-credit public health minor allows undergraduate students to acquire public health knowledge and skills that are complementary to their chosen career paths, while pursuing their original degrees. A 15-credit public health certificate is for working professionals, graduate or professional students who cannot or do not desire to complete a degree program. Both the minor and the certificate programs have the same curriculum and course options. Students may choose to take all 15 credits in the five core courses or they may tailor their plans of study to include one 3-credit core course, 9 credits in the concentration area of that selected core and 3 final credits in that same area or another concentration.

Key Contacts for MPH Students

MPH students declare a concentration area when they apply to the program. Upon enrollment, they track through the approved concentration area of their choice. Each concentration has a coordinator who is responsible for overseeing programs of study for all students in his/her area. Working from the templates provided in the next section of this handbook, students consult with the Assistant Director of Public Health Programs to draft a plan of study and then finalize the plan with the concentration coordinator.

Who to contact when you

Need advice on courses or the general curriculum, selection and planning, career planning, and special projects	Assistant Director or Concentration Area Coordinator
Need help scheduling and registering	Program Assistant
Need help finding forms or dealing with other bureaucratic issues	Program Assistant
Other program issues	Program Director

Contact information for these individuals is below:

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All questions regarding your financial aid status should be directed to:	Mike Menefee, Assistant Director of Student Financial Affairs, Room G208 HPNP, 352-273-6202, mmenefee@ufl.edu
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