

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

PUBLIC HEALTH

Public health is the practice of helping members of society live healthier, longer lives by promoting healthy lifestyles through education and community engagement. More specifically, public health improves the general health of communities by monitoring the spread of diseases and supporting initiatives – both clinical and policy-oriented – to prevent disease and disability. Practitioners are educated in a wide array of academic and vocational fields, and they often collaborate on interprofessional teams to achieve goals.

THE PROGRAM

The Master of Public Health is a professional degree designed for graduates and employees in health-related fields who hold a bachelor's degree or higher in their field of practice. In addition to completing the core course work, students in the program specialize in American Indian Public Health, Management of Infectious Diseases or Community Health Sciences. For more information on these specializations, visit www.ndsu.edu/publichealth.

MISSION STATEMENT AND GOALS

Promote health and well-being in diverse populations with an emphasis on American Indian and other underserved populations by providing educational, practical and research opportunities for public health professionals.

INSTRUCTION. The PH program will prepare public health graduates with a sound knowledge and skills base in public health.

RESEARCH. The PH program will engage in high-quality research that leads to advances in public health.

SERVICE. The PH program will provide service through community engagement and collaboration to meet the public health needs of North Dakota and the Northern Plains.

LEADERSHIP. The PH program will build capacity of the existing public health workforce and act as a catalyst for leadership development, continuing education and innovation among the public health workforce.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students must hold a bachelor's degree from an educational institution of recognized standing.

Students must have adequate preparation in a field related to public health and show potential to undertake advanced study, research and practical training. GRE test scores (waived for students who have already earned a doctoral degree from U.S. accredited institution), previous experience and past academic performance are benchmarks for potential. Fields related to public health include, but are not limited to, biology; microbiology; health, nutrition and dietetics; health psychology and pre-med.

A student's undergraduate and graduate (if applicable) cumulative GPA must be 3.0 or higher. All graduate applicants must demonstrate academic-level proficiency with the English language before they will be considered for admission.

Applicants must submit a portfolio that contains a letter of intent for pursuing the Master of Public Health, an official transcript(s), letters of reference and a description of relevant work experience. Apply at www.ndsu.edu/gradschool.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The Master of Public Health degree is an interdisciplinary program with a minimum of 42 credits.

Foundational courses consist of 18 credits and are available through distance education.

At least 18 credits in an area of specialization

A practicum related to public health for three credits

A master's paper related to public health for three credits

SAMPLE CURRICULUM

Fall:	Credits
PH 731 Biostatistics.....	3
PH 741 Social and Behavioral Sciences in Public Health.....	3
PH 704 Public Health Management and Policy.....	3
Spring:	
PH 745 Community Health Leadership.....	3
PH 751 Epidemiology.....	3
PH 720 Environmental Health for Public Health Professionals.....	3
Can be taken summer, fall or spring:	
PH 789 Master's Paper.....	3
PH 794 Practicum.....	3
18 credits within a specialization	

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The American Public Health Association predicts a shortage of 250,000 workers by 2020. Currently, 25 percent of government public health workers are eligible to retire. Salary ranges for individuals with a Master of Public Health degree are \$40,000 - \$80,000, with discipline-specific health professionals such as physicians, nurses and pharmacists at an even higher wage. www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_stru.htm

PUBLIC HEALTH CAREERS

- Behavioral scientist
- Consultant
- Director of operations for public health offices
- Emergency management specialist
- Epidemiologist
- Extension agent
- Grant coordinator
- Health educator
- Health care manager
- Hospital administrator
- Infection control officer
- Medical and health service manager
- Microbiologist
- Non-profit executive director
- Policy analyst
- Public health officer
- Research associate
- Social and community service manager
- Water quality investigator

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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