



COMMUNITY HEALTH SCIENCES

This specialization prepares public health leaders to engage in assessment, intervention and evaluation for population health improvement at the individual or community level. It prepares students to work with diverse communities, address social determinants of health and use data to inform community-based programs to improve population health. The subject matter explores contemporary health promotion in conjunction with interprofessional health teams and health care systems for individuals, groups, organizations and communities using a policy, systems and environmental approach.

The program is appropriate for health care professionals, educators and professionals in Extension education and human and social services.

Upon completion of the Community Health Sciences specialization, students are encouraged to obtain certifications such as Certified in Public Health (CPH) or Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES). Graduates pursue careers within health care or community organizations to prevent and manage high-burden health problems, such as chronic diseases.

Admission into the specialization requires sufficient academic course work or experience in health sciences, community health, health education, a health profession, psychology or social sciences. Applicants should address their education and work experience qualifications in their letter of application.

The 18-credit specialization curriculum is described below.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN COMMUNITY HEALTH SCIENCES (42 CREDITS)

Specialization core courses

- PH 711: Integrating Primary Care and Public Health..... 3 credits
- PH 725: Promoting Health through Policy, Systems, and Environment..... 3 credits
- PH 700: Preventing and Managing Chronic Illness..... 3 credits
- PH 722: Applied Community Health... 3 credits

General community health

6 credits of electives

Elective courses

In addition, choose six credits from the list of courses at nds.edu/publichealth/curriculum/progelectives.

OPTIONAL SUBPLAN

American Indian public health subplan

Health policy and the federal government’s trust responsibility to provide health services to American Indian and Alaska Natives are often misunderstood among many health leaders. The Native population has the highest rates of death due to diabetes, cancer, infant mortality, unintentional injuries and suicide. Risk factors and social causes of the disparities include such things as high rate of smoking, substance abuse, poverty, poor nutrition and historical trauma. Students will learn how to work specifically with American Indian populations to improve health.

Subplan courses:

- PH 772: American Indian Health Equity 3 credits
- PH 774: Research and Evaluation in Tribal Communities..... 3 credits

For more information and to apply to the Master of Public Health program, visit www.ndsu.edu/publichealth.