Public health is an essential function of modern society. It is, in the words of the Institute of Medicine, “What we as a society do collectively to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy.”

The UIS Department of Public Health prepares students to become productive members of the public health community to help accomplish the Healthy People vision of healthy people in healthy communities at the local, state, national, and international levels.

Program goals include:

- Prepare students with analytical skills, cultural competence, scientific knowledge and understanding of social justice necessary for practicing the core functions of public health: assessment, policy development, and assurance.
- Build public health capacity through instruction and service to the university, community, and profession.
- Work within the teacher-scholar model focusing on translating research into evidence-based public health practice.
- Work toward social justice to improve health equity and eliminate disparities through a diverse public health workforce represented by faculty and student diversity.

Admission Requirements

You must apply to the UIS Graduate School and to the Master of Public Health program. Commence both steps simultaneously for complete expedited consideration.

To be eligible for full admission to the Master of Public Health program applicants must have:

- Earned a baccalaureate degree with a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- GRE exam scores report
- Three referrals submitted in accordance with department procedures
- Submission of MPH Academic Essay

Students who are missing any of these prerequisites may be eligible for conditional enrollment. All conditions must be completed within the first year of enrollment.

You must also apply directly to the MPH Program Office.

As you fill out the MPH form, be prepared to list the names AND email addresses of three academic or professional people. MPH will send an email to those people explaining the referral procedure. You will also be asked to complete a short Academic ESSAY (NOT a Personal Goals Statement).
Degree Requirements

MPH Required Core Courses (all 4-credit hours):

- MPH 503 Biostatistics for the Health Professional
- MPH 506 Community Health Research
- MPH 511 Foundations of Epidemiology
- MPH 521 Environmental and Occupational Health
- MPH 531 Public Health Policy and Administration
- MPH 561 Community Health Education
- MPH 581 Internship

Closure Requirement: Comprehensive Exam

The closure experience is a comprehensive written examination based on an applied case study designed to test the student's ability to integrate the knowledge gained from the five general core courses. Students are expected to take the comprehensive exam during their final semester of coursework. A student may repeat the exam twice, but must successfully complete the exam within one year after completing course work for the degree. Students who are not taking other courses in the degree program must enroll in MPH 583 (zero credit hours, one billable hour) until they pass the exam.

MPH Approved Electives (all 4 credit hours):
Choose at least one course from each category

Emerging Issues Category

- MPH 471 Emerging Diseases
- MPH 478 Crisis in Environmental Health
- MPH 526 Risk Management and Communication
- MPH 535 Public Health in the Policy Arena
- Advanced Epidemiology
- MPH 512 Epidemiology of Chronic & Infections Diseases (prereq. MPH 511)
- MPH 514 Analytical Epidemiology (prereq. MPH 511)

Analytical Tools Category

- MPH 508 Program Evaluation for Health Managers (prereq. MPH 506)
- MPH 575 Economics for Policy Analysis
- ENS 404 Fundamentals of GIS

Social Determinants Category

- MPH 402 Food and Health
- MPH 408 Addictions
- MPH 441 Human Well Being

Official degree requirements are available in the UIS catalog at www.uis.edu/uiscatalog

Program Contacts

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