



Master of Public Health Curriculum

Philosophy

The Institute of Public Health is a multi-disciplinary, research-based institute, drawing upon the faculty of all six Georgia State University colleges, dedicated to advancing the health of the public through training, research and community service. The Institute of Public Health achieves this mission by applying existing scholarship within GSU to priority public health problems, particularly those that are aimed at reducing health disparities in urban settings. Training and research programs focus on both building the science base that underlies public health practice, as well as applying effective interventions that have been demonstrated to improve the public health. Academic and training efforts will emphasize the basic prevention sciences (e.g., emerging infectious diseases, immunology, virology, bioinformatics, genomics, and geographic sciences), as well as applied public health efforts (e.g., chronic disease prevention, health promotion, behavior change, program evaluation, health policy, public health ethics and law, health communications, community-based participatory research, and global health).

Objectives

The objectives of the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree program are to:

1. Prepare students to use multi-disciplinary skills to address contemporary public health problems.
2. Prepare students for positions of senior responsibility in public health practice, research, and training, particularly at the federal, state and local levels.
3. Train students to understand an “ecological approach” to public health, with emphasis on the linkages and relationships among the multiple determinants of health.
4. Train students to excel in reducing public health disparities, particularly in urban communities.
5. Advance public health sciences and our understanding of the causes and prevention of disease.

MPH Curriculum

The MPH program includes a minimum of 42 semester credit hours of study at the master’s level beyond the bachelor’s degree.

- 21 credit hours (seven courses) in core public health courses required of all students;
- 12 additional credit hours (generally four courses) in the student’s selected specialty track;
- at least 3 credit hours from a list of recommended electives designed to supplement the specialty track or the student’s research or career interests;
- 3 credit hours for a required practicum, internship or field placement; and
- at least 3 credit hours for a thesis or special capstone project.

Students must choose one of three tracks in public health (Prevention Sciences, Health Promotion and Behavior, and Health Management and Policy) from which the twelve credit hours are selected. The topic of the thesis or special project should correspond to the track selected. Required or elective courses may have prerequisites, or require permission of the instructor.

Effective Spring 2009

1. Required Core Courses

Students must complete 21 credit hours of required coursework listed below (all accredited MPH programs require courses in these seven areas). Semester hours are shown in parentheses after each entry.

PH7010	Foundations of Public Health Administration and Policy (3)
PH 7011	Epidemiology for Public Health (3)
PH7019	Public Health Research Methods (3)
PH7140	Social and Behavioral Dimensions of Public Health (3)
PH7150	Environmental Health (3)
PH7160	Introduction to the Healthcare System (3)
PH7017 or STAT7010	Biostatistics for Public Health (3)

2. **Specialty Tracks.** Twelve (12) hours of required coursework have been established to ensure that students achieve proficiency in the core competencies and skills related to each specialty track. Each track has specific requirements for completing those 12 credit hours.

- a. **Prevention Sciences (12 credit hours):** Scientific discovery is essential for protecting and improving the public health. The Prevention Sciences track is designed to provide students with the skills necessary to advance the understanding of disease etiology, occurrence, prevention, and detection in a manner that will benefit population health. The Prevention Sciences track draws from a variety of disciplines including, emerging infectious diseases, immunology, virology, biostatistics, bioinformatics, epidemiology, research methods, genomics, and geographic sciences.

Select two of the following three courses.

PH7270	Intermediate Epidemiology
PH7290	Case Studies in Epidemiology
PH7355	Prevention Methods and Modeling

Select two additional courses from the following list.

PH7014	Intro to HIV/STD
PH7275	Chronic Disease Epidemiology
PH7280	Infectious Disease Epidemiology
PH7600	Global Health
PH7265	Epidemiology & the Prevention of Violence
PH7521	Evaluation Research
PH7285	Social Determinants of Public Health (formerly Social Epidemiology)

- b. **Health Promotion and Behavior (12 credit hours):** Health promotion and disease prevention are key concepts in public health and provide the foundation for community participation as well as health behavior change. The Health Promotion and Behavior track draws from a variety of disciplines, including psychology, sociology, anthropology, communications, and ethics.

Select four from the following list.

PH7016	Introduction to Health Promotion
PH7020	Principles of Tobacco Control
PH7300	Urban Health
PH7500	Health Communication
PH7285	Social Determinants of Public Health (formerly Social Epi)
PH7521	Evaluation Research

PH7600 Global Health
PH7535 Intervention/Implementation Research

- c. **Health Management and Policy (12 credit hours):** The Health Management and Policy track draws upon a variety of disciplines, including health administration, health policy, public administration, business, public health law, health ethics and economics. Health management and policy is concerned with the administration and management of public, not-for-profit, and community-based health care organizations, formulating and implementing health care policy, analyzing the distribution of and access to health care services, financing, and reimbursement of health care services and evaluating quality and outcomes of health care services and programs.

The following two courses are required.

PH7170 Public Health Policy (*Required*)
PH7250 Health Care Finance (*Required*)

Select two additional courses from the following list.

PH7012 Health Planning and Program Development
PH 7130 Public Health Leadership, Law and Practice
PH 7180 Public Health Management
PH7600 Global Health
PH 7521 Evaluation Research
PH 7300 Urban Health

3. **Additional Electives**

All MPH students must take at least three (3) credit hours of approved electives relevant to their specialty track and career goals. The elective(s) may come from public health course offerings or from other courses offered by the university, based on consultation with the student's advisor, the graduate coordinator or the director of the Institute. Prior to degree completion, students may take additional electives to expand the knowledge base or enhance special skills.

4. **Practicum or Internship**

Students will take three (3) credit hours of a required practicum, internship, field placement or equivalent in the students' specialty field of study. Placements will be developed by the Institute of Public Health working in partnership with individual students. Students will need to complete 300 hours of field work.

5. **Thesis or Special Capstone Project**

Following completion of all coursework, students must complete at least three (3) credit hours for a master's thesis or a special capstone project meeting established program guidelines.