

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The University of Kentucky Master of Public Health (MPH) is a practice-focused graduate degree for people who are committed to building healthier populations. Our MPH trains aspiring public health leaders to advance and safeguard the health and wellness of their communities and beyond.

Our nationally-ranked program provides the skills you need to create what's possible: a world with less human suffering, stronger communities, and health equity for all.

MPH at UK is fully accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).

4

CONCENTRATIONS

42-43

CREDIT HOURS

Online

OPTION AVAILABLE

SCAN QR CODE
FOR MORE INFO



Environmental Health Concentration



If you have a passion for improving public health by reducing chemical exposures, engaging communities in problem-solving, planning for climate-related health impacts, or pursuing environmental justice, consider applying to the MPH concentration in Environmental Health. Environmental health practitioners strive to protect people and communities from physical, chemical, biological, and even structural factors that exist outside the body but contribute to disease and poor health outcomes.

As an Environmental Health concentrator, you will work with faculty who share their expertise in environmental epidemiology, occupational and environmental medicine, toxicology, children's environmental health, injury prevention, environmental health communication, community-engaged research and citizen science, and environmental health literacy and promotion.

By learning strategies to assess, reduce, control, and communicate about environmental hazards, students who pursue the Environmental Health concentration prepare themselves for careers in local and state health departments, federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. From investigating potential threats to developing health-protective recommendations to implementing and evaluating evidence-based solutions, our graduates are positioned to interpret data that can help tackle today's most pressing challenges.



Epidemiology Concentration

If you have a passion for understanding and identifying factors associated with disease and how to prevent disease, consider applying to the MPH concentration in Epidemiology. The epidemiology concentration will empower you for success in various roles within public health agencies, academic research institutions, healthcare organizations, and local, state, and federal government.

As an Epidemiology concentrator, you'll learn from a curriculum that blends theoretical foundations of the methods of the discipline with current scientific content from sub-specialties in the field including cancer, cardiovascular disease, infectious disease, and occupational and environmental epidemiology. There's a strong emphasis on the development of the core methodologic and analytic skills for understanding and practicing the discipline to understand disease patterns, distributions, and determinants. Through a practicum experience, you'll have the opportunity to apply skills learned in the classroom to real-world public health issues.

Guided by a faculty advisory committee, the capstone project will integrate your knowledge and skills into real world project that will demonstrate your competence and understanding of the application of the epidemiologic approach. Enhancing your critical thinking and research skills through study of biostatistics, environmental health practices, models of health behavior, and public health leadership are foundational to having a well-rounded public health education. In addition, you'll learn broader public health principles and practices which will enhance your ability to work within multidisciplinary teams and appreciate the complexity of evolving public health challenges and current approaches to addressing them.



Health Behavior Concentration

If you have a passion for understanding and measuring how behavior impacts health, addressing health disparities, or implementing health promotion and disease prevention programs, consider applying to the MPH concentration in Health Behavior. Practitioners who specialize in health behavior work to assess and address social determinates of health, health inequities, and individual factors that impact community health outcomes.

As a Health Behavior concentrator, you will learn how to identify, plan, adapt, implement, and evaluate sustainable evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention programs. You'll be able to communicate and disseminate health promotion program methods and outcomes while examining and interpreting evidence in support of those programs.

In addition, you will gain a deep understanding of the complex role the social determinants of health play in impacting community health outcomes, and develop skills to address health inequity through community-based public health work.



Health Management & Policy Concentration

If you have a passion for building healthier populations, consider applying to the MPH concentration in Health Management & Policy. Health management and policy practitioners strive to be changemakers and work in various public health organizations and services.

Building from a foundational understanding of public health and the public health system, the Health Management & Policy concentration provides training in the management functions of planning, organizing, leading, and controlling. Through the choice of electives, you'll be able to tailor your program to include training in how to develop, implement, and evaluate policy. This combination of management and policy is a critical component to a successful career in public health management.

In addition, you'll be able to evaluate how multiple service delivery and financing systems interact in shaping health and wellbeing on a population level along with how to apply the tools associated with the management functions of planning, organizing, leading, and controlling.



The Master of Public Health program includes field hours working in a real-world public health setting.

This practicum experience generally is completed over the summer term but may be completed in the spring or fall if circumstances require. Practicum sites include a variety of governmental and non-governmental organizations and programs that apply public health concepts in their work.



As the final requirement for the MPH degree, students must complete an integrative learning experience (ILE).

Through the ILE, students apply the knowledge and skills they have developed in the program by tackling a concentration-specific challenge. While ILE projects range from research and evaluation to science translation and communication, the goal is the same: ILE students demonstrate that they have developed the necessary competencies to be today's public health leaders.



WHY POPULATION HEALTH?

The health of populations has impacts far beyond the traditional public health system. Healthcare delivery now requires managing the health of populations — skills which have not traditionally been a part of the training of clinicians. This certificate program will introduce those skills and transform the way you approach healthcare. It is also a useful learning experience for managers from any industry meeting the challenges of maintaining a healthy workforce.

Available 100% online, this 12-credit hour certificate program provides a valuable credential for those seeking to join or advance in the public health workforce. Graduates are prepared for a wide array of career opportunities in population health practice in local or state health departments. Comprising of courses from our Master of Public Health (MPH) degree, it is your pathway to obtain a credential much sooner and for less cost. Complete the certification and add value to your career, or complete the certification and move one step closer towards obtaining your MPH degree.



LEARN MORE



Student Public Health Association

The Student Public Health Association (SPHA) at the University of Kentucky College of Public Health is dedicated to supporting the College's mission and vision through advancing sound public health policy, highlighting public health opportunities, and increasing awareness of the challenges that public health professionals face.

SPHA hosts regular meetings with peers and guest panelists, facilitates community engagement events and student activities, and offers a variety of opportunities for students to engage with practicing public health professionals.

