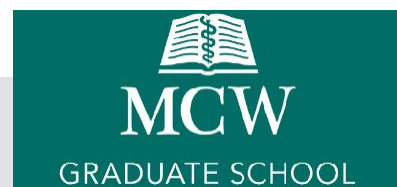


2025-26

## PUBLIC HEALTH

Degree Offered: Doctor of Public Health



### Program Description

This is the first online DrPH program in Wisconsin designed to prepare experienced public health practitioners with the competencies needed to lead community health improvement efforts. The program is a cohort model in that the students will work together over the course of three years. This will enable the students to work on problems together, and to challenge one another in an environment built on trust. Forty-six credits encompass applied course work culminating with successful defense of the dissertation. The curriculum is a "hybrid" in that synchronous and asynchronous online learning will occur in addition to three summer visits for on-campus learning. Training will be self-directed, faculty and dissertation advisor guided, and cohort influenced. Academic relationships and community partnerships developed through this program will support success in the short term and over the course of a career.

### Admission Requirements

In addition to the general [Graduate School admission requirements](#), this program has additional specific requirements.

A master's degree from an accredited school or program in public health, a master's degree in a related field, a doctoral degree, or a professional degree (e.g., MD, JD, PharmD). Students without a master's degree in public health from an accredited school of public health or program will be required to complete an online core public health course prior to the start of the first semester of the program.

At least three years of post-graduate experience in public health, healthcare, or a related field with management or leadership responsibilities is required.

Students must commit to attend three onsite summer visits and participate in synchronous sessions at designated times.

### Credits Required to Graduate

46 credits

### Required Courses

**28106 Introduction to Community Engagement.** *3 credits.*

The course is designed to prepare students to apply translational knowledge and skills in community-based settings. Involving and collaborating with community in bi-directional manner are vital concepts to improving public health and the health of communities. This course provides students with the foundation for understanding communication engagement (CE) and community engagement in research (CEnR), based on principles of community-based participatory research (CBPR).

**28150 Research Theory.** *3 credits.*

This is a required course for students matriculated in the Doctor of Public Health program. The overall goal of the course is to provide the students with an opportunity to gain the

foundational knowledge needed to develop a personal theory of research within public health. The materials in this course will provide the basis of this understanding and apply it to issues within public and community health. Please note that this syllabus is subject to further change or revision, as needed, to realize best the educational goals of the course and competencies of the program.

**28151 Data Collection and Analysis. 3 credits.**

This is a required course for students matriculated in the Doctor of Public Health program. The overall goal of the course is to provide the students with an opportunity to read, critically reflect, actively discuss, and write on the research methods and analyses related to public health, including quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods approaches. The materials in this course provide a basis of understanding concepts, theories, and applications critical to public and community health in the context of applied research. The students will develop knowledge and training in research, analysis, and data management.

**28152 Executive and Organizational Leadership. 3 credits.**

Executive and Organizational Leadership takes a broad look at leadership within public health practice. An introduction to theoretical and evidence-based research is applied to a wide range of public health leadership crises and challenges. Learners will apply knowledge and personal experiences to newly focused leadership understanding through application to practice. Leadership theory and research will connect to personal leadership critical reflection, political acumen, and peer mentorship in creation of a professional development plan/leadership credo.

**28153 Executive Communication in Public Health. 3 credits.**

This course is designed to explore the ways that communication impacts people's health and well-being, as well as their understanding of health-related topics by bridging theory and practice of interpersonal, organizational, and mass communication (including digital media). The use of communication strategies to inform and influence individual, community and policy level decisions that impact health will be discussed with an emphasis on cultural competency skills in order to understand, respond, and work with diverse audiences.

**28160 Public Health Research Study & Design. 3 credits.**

The overall goal of the course is to provide students with an opportunity to identify features of public health research and apply those features to areas of interest by the student. The materials in this course provide a basis of understanding concepts, theories, and applications critical to public and community health.

**28170 Public Health Applied Research. 3 credits.**

The overall goal of the course is to provide the students with an opportunity to read, critically reflect, actively discuss, and write on the issues related to public health. The materials in this course provide a basis of understanding concepts, theories, and applications critical to public and community health in the context of applied research. The students will develop knowledge and training the area of research and data management.

**28201 Public Health Practice I: Building a Foundation for Public Health. 3 credits.**

Building a Foundation for Public Health: This course is required for students matriculating in the Doctor of Public Health program. The overall goal of the course is to provide the students with an opportunity to read, critically reflect, actively discuss, and write on the issues related to public health. The materials in this course provide a basis for understanding concepts, theories, strategies, and applications critical to public and community health.

**28202 Public Health Practice II: Building Community Partnerships and Coalitions. 3 credits.**

The overall goal of the course is to provide the students with an opportunity to read, critically reflect, actively discuss, and write on the benefits of building community partnerships and coalitions. The materials in this course provide a basis of understanding concepts, theories, and applications critical to public and community health.

**28203 Public Health Practice III: Strategies to Eliminate Health Disparities. 3 credits.**

The overall goal of the course is to provide the students with an opportunity to read, critically reflect, actively discuss, and write on the issues related to and that contribute to health disparities. The materials in this course provide a basis of understanding concepts, theories, and applications critical to public and community health and a means for designing solutions.

**28301 Doctoral Seminar. 1 credit.**

This a student-centered, weekly seminar for students matriculating in the Doctor of Public Health Program. The seminar will consist of several types of activities: 1) presentations on content areas by faculty, community organizations, and community and academic partners in collaboration, 2) sessions focused on issues of professional development, 3) sessions focused on specific research skills or methods, 4) workshop and discussion sessions that provide students with a forum for engagement and collaboration around issues of mutual concern, 5) student presentations. A total of 6 credit hours of this course are required for graduation.

**28390 Dissertation Preparation. 1-9 credits.**

*Prerequisite: All required DrPH courses.*

This is an independent study course that allows students the opportunity to independently work on their dissertation topic and complete their research prior to the defense of their dissertation. The number of credits the student selects determines the number of hours per week that must be dedicated to working on the Dissertation Preparation plan. The student is responsible for finding a faculty member willing to work with the student; together, they will establish learning goals, deliverables, resources, timeline, and mechanism for feedback.

**28399 Doctoral Dissertation. 1 credit.**

*Prerequisite: All required DrPH courses.*

After successfully completing all other coursework, the student must complete a field-based doctoral dissertation that is designed to influence programs, policies, or systems applicable to advanced public health practice. The practice-oriented dissertation must address a research question of the student's design and result in the production of a high-quality written product that demonstrates synthesis of foundational and concentration-specific competencies. Prior to writing the dissertation, the student will develop a dissertation proposal that must be approved by the committee. At the completion of the dissertation, the student will submit the dissertation to the committee at least 30 days prior to the dissertation defense. The student is required to enroll in 10 credits for the dissertation.

**Applied Practice Experience. 0 credits.**

DrPH students are required to engage in an applied practice experience in which they are responsible for completion of at least one project that is meaningful for an organization and to advanced public health practice. Relevant organizations may include governmental, non-governmental, non-profit, industrial, and for-profit settings. The applied practice experience may be completed within a student's own work setting. The deliverable must contain a reflective component that includes the student's expression of personal and/or professional

reactions to the applied practice experience. The student will develop a plan under the guidance of the program staff, director, and faculty advisor.

### **Required Courses as Needed**

**28003 Doctoral Dissertation Continuation.** *0 credits.*

This course is available for students to take only after completing the required 10 credits of doctoral dissertation if additional time is needed to continue dissertation work.

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