

2025-26

## PUBLIC HEALTH

Degree Offered: Master of Public Health



### Program Description

This program allows students the flexibility to pursue graduate coursework online. It provides active learning opportunities through online technologies and interactive methods. Students may choose full or part-time study but should plan to complete the program within 5 years. The curriculum focuses on public health practice and consists of four core courses, six additional required courses, two elective courses, a field placement experience, and a capstone project. Assignments require the application of theoretical concepts to practical situations through case analysis and experiential activities.

### Admission Requirements

In addition to the general [Graduate School admission requirements](#), this program has no additional specific requirements.

### Credits Required to Graduate

42 credits

### Required Courses

**PUBH 18155 Public Health Theory & Practice.** *3 credits.*

This course provides an overview of various theories in public health, as well as, how public health theories can be applied in individual, interpersonal, and community settings. The course will highlight various factors that contribute to public health, including biological, family, ethnic and cultural, and community stressors that affect health and well-being. The course will provide an overview of translating research into public health practice.

**PUBH 18160 Racial and Ethnic Inequalities in Health.** *3 credits.*

Health disparities and health inequities remain a major social and public health problem in the US. Despite enormous health care expenditures and the remarkable medical, technological, and public health strides made in the past few decades, the challenge and burden of differences in health among specific population groups, that are either avoidable or unjust, persist. Thus, a better understanding of health disparities and inequities among racial and ethnic groups is needed.

This course will provide students with an in-depth introduction to health disparities and health inequities as they pertain to specific populations in the US that have been historically disadvantaged and systematically deprived of opportunities to achieve optimal health. The course material will also include an overview of the social determinants of population health. We will: i) consider historical and contemporary debates in conceptualizing race and ethnicity (ii) examine the burden of racial and ethnic disparities in the U.S. (iii) identify and examine some of the social determinants of health and drivers of health inequity and (iv) examine theoretical and practical challenges of developing innovative strategies to eliminate health disparities and

achieve health equity. The ultimate goal of the course is to help students develop the skills needed to examine individual and systemic root causes of inequities and apply knowledge and theory of health disparities and health inequities in designing health services and program and policy interventions aimed at achieving health equity.

**PUBH 18165 Principles of Public Health Data and Epidemiology. 3 credits.**

The Principles of Public Health Data and Epidemiology course examines public health data and epidemiological concepts, including foundations of epidemiology, practical applications of public health data and epidemiology, core measures in public health, descriptive epidemiology, sources of data, study designs and data analysis, communicating data, informatics, disease transmission and prevention, morbidity and mortality, screening tests, infectious disease causation, environmental health, and social, behavioral, and psychosocial epidemiology. The course emphasizes practical application of concepts and skills learned related to accessing, analyzing, and communicating public health data. The course provides the student with an understanding of the distribution and determinants of health and disease in population groups and supports learning in many other courses in the MPH program.

**PUBH 18203 Public Health Administration. 3 credits.**

Public health professionals require administrative skills at many levels, from managing personnel and health programs, to making and advocating for organizational and policy decisions regarding the distribution of society's scarce public health resources. This is a survey course designed to introduce 1) Local Public Health - the structure, functions, and financing of public health within the context of the U.S. healthcare system and its health policies; 2) Targeting Resources and Implementing Programs - the planning, implementation, and evaluation of programs to improve health; and 3) Funding Public Health - principles of effective finance, budgeting, grant-writing, and management strategies. In addition to tutorials, readings and case studies, students will complete assignments that are aligned with their own communities, organizations, and professional roles.

**PUBH 18204 Public Health Analytics. 3 credits.**

The overall goal of the course is to provide the students with an opportunity to delve into public health analytics by managing, analyzing, interpreting, synthesizing, and disseminating data and research findings. In addition, students will read, critically reflect, actively discuss, and write on public health research analytics. The materials in this course provide a basis for understanding concepts and applications critical to public health in the context of applied research. The students will develop knowledge and training in the areas of research, analysis, and data management in quantitative and qualitative public health research. is a required course for students matriculated in the Master of Public Health or Certificate in Public Health programs. The overall goal of the course is to provide the students with an opportunity to read, critically reflect, actively discuss, and write on public health research analytics. The materials in this course provide a basis for understanding concepts and applications critical to public health in the context of applied research. The students will develop knowledge and training in the areas of research, analysis, and data management.

**PUBH 18209 Community Health Assessment and Improvement. 3 credits.**

This course provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the community health assessment and improvement planning process, focusing on achieving health equity. Students will learn to systematically assess community health needs and assets using both quantitative and

qualitative data. The course emphasizes identifying priority health concerns and developing data-driven plans to address unmet needs. Students will also explore the role of social, economic, behavioral, and environmental factors that influence health outcomes, and understand the importance of multisector collaboration, community engagement, and evidence-based interventions. By the end of the course, students will be equipped to apply the Mobilizing for Action Through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) framework, driving positive health outcomes and enhancing public health in their communities.

**PUBH 18223 Public Health Policy. 3 credits.**

This public health policy course engages students to understand, analyze, evaluate, and advocate for health policies. The course includes a textbook and other impactful readings, recorded lectures by expert faculty, and weekly evening Zoom class discussions (or Brightspace or emailed answers to questions). Students write a policy essay and opinion editorial for faculty review and the opportunity to revise and resubmit.

**PUBH 18230 Community Health Program Planning. 3 credits.**

*Recommended: 18203 Public Health Administration and 18209 Community Health Assessment and Improvement.*

This Community Health Program Planning course is designed to prepare learners to apply public health knowledge and skills in a community-based setting. Program planning skills are an essential competency of both public health practitioners and public health administrators and thus are a critical component of the MPH curriculum. Building on the foundation in health improvement program planning obtained in the Public Health Administration course, this course will increase the depth and breadth of learners' knowledge and skills through a theoretical and application-based curriculum.

**PUBH 18260 Community Health Program Evaluation. 3 credits.**

The Community Health Program Evaluation course examines the basic topics related to community health program evaluation including systems thinking and program evaluation; the levels of program evaluation process; qualitative and quantitative measures; data management tools; data analysis methods; quality management; and other contextual issues, including a focus on equity, surrounding program evaluation. This course will incorporate the use of assigned readings, group projects, peer evaluation, online discussions, written assignments, and exams to foster knowledge of material presented in the course, as well as application-based learning in evaluation of community health.

**PUBH 18268 Leadership for the Public's Health. 3 credits.**

Leadership for the Public's Health 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.

**PUBH 18279 Field Placement Preparation. 1 credit.**

*Prerequisites: 18165 Principles of Public Health Data and Epidemiology, 18203 Public Health Administration, 18204 Public Health Analytics, 18155 Public Health Theory and Practice; all required coursework in the Master of Public Health program besides 18280 Field Placement and 18297 MPH Capstone Project recommended.*

This course will provide students with the foundation for the MPH Field Placement course, a required applied practice experience within the MPH program. In the Preparation course, students will connect with public health organizations and arrange their specific Field Placement projects. The course will highlight principles of human subject research as well as community-academic partnerships and will help students apply these principles in the development of their projects. Students will also begin ideation and planning toward their final culminating experience in the program, Capstone.

**PUBH 18280 Field Placement.** 1-5 credits.

*Prerequisites: All required coursework in the Master of Public Health program besides 18297 MPH Capstone Project recommended.*

This is a planned, supervised and evaluated applied practice experience that is designed to enhance and complement the student's educational development by providing practical experience in public or private organizations that address significant public health issues. Working with a site preceptor and faculty advisor, the student will develop at least two products for the site that demonstrate competency attainment and are relevant to their public health area of interest. Students will continue to plan their Capstone project as well.

**PUBH 18297 Capstone Project.** 3 credits.

*Prerequisites: All other MPH coursework.*

The Capstone Project or Integrative Learning Experience is a culminating experience that requires the students to synthesize and integrate knowledge acquired in coursework and other learning experiences and apply theory and public health principles in the development of a master's paper on significant public or community health issue or topic.

## **Elective Courses**

**PUBH 18101 Foundations of Public Health.** 3 credits.

This is a required course for all students enrolled in the MCW MPH dual degree program and is offered as an elective to all other currently admitted MPH students. This course provides an overview of various theories and practices in public health, as well as how public health theories and practices can be applied to the health of populations. Using the public health system as a framework, the course will address core foundational aspects of public health, public health history, 21st century public health practices, the interrelationship between law, government, and public health, and an introduction to public health emergency preparedness and response. The course will also address health determinants and health equity in the practice of public health.

**PUBH 18115 Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.** 3 credits.

This course is designed to prepare students to promote health and to prevent disease and injury using a variety of methods. It emphasizes an ecological approach addressing behavior, environment, and healthcare at levels from the individual to social policy. The content is designed for use in diverse settings, including health departments; healthcare; workplaces, schools, and other institutions; policymaking/advocacy; and non-governmental organizations. Students will assemble their own model HP/DP plan for a population and health problem of their choosing. The course will address underlying models informing HP/DP; risk and protective factors and surrogate indicators like biomarkers; population assessment; theories of health behavior and health education; locating evidence-based practices; addressing environmental and policy aspects of HP/DP; community engagement, disparities and health equity; HP/DP in healthcare; ethical issues: information and communication

technologies; and emerging opportunities in HP/DP including personalized and computer-augmented health promotion.

**PUBH 18150 Public Health Law and Ethics.** *3 credits.*

The Public Health Law & Ethics course examines the use of law and ethics as tools for public health and considers how they interact with the ethical principle of justice, which underlies all of law. The course assesses law and ethics in public health through an exploration of how governmental authority applies to the population and how the law addresses conflicts that arise when government power affects individuals' rights. The course focuses in particular on the challenge of applying public health law and ethics in a changing legal and social landscape while aligning public health and the law with health justice and equity.

**PUBH 18215 Infectious Diseases.** *3 credits.*

The Infectious Diseases course will emphasize the practice of public health in the following areas of infectious diseases: surveillance, outbreak investigation and control, and prevention and policy.

**PUBH 18232 Introduction to Population Health Management.** *3 credits.*

This population health management course engages students to understand, analyze, evaluate, and contribute to population health management. The course includes a textbook and other impactful readings, recorded lectures by expert faculty, and weekly evening Zoom class discussions (or Brightspace or emailed answers to questions). Students write an essay for faculty review and the opportunity to revise and resubmit.

**PUBH 18241 Health Communications.** *3 credits.*

This course is designed to explore the ways that communication impacts people's health and wellbeing, as well as their understanding of health-related topics. The course will cover multiple levels of communication, different communication channels, and the use of diverse communication media and technologies.

**PUBH 18295 Reading and Research.** *1-3 credit(s).*

An independent study course, under public health faculty guidance, to pursue reading and research in an area of specific student interest.

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