

Master of Public Health, M.P.H.

The Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) is recognized as the primary professional degree in public health. The objective of Iowa's M.P.H. program is to provide education and practical training in public health to students who will be leaders in their respective communities. The program is appropriate for individuals who already have professional experience and/or training in public health as well as for those whose expertise lies outside of public health.

Students may earn the Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) as a single degree, or they may pursue one of several joint degree programs. The College of Public Health offers joint M.P.H./professional degree programs with the Carver College of Medicine and the Colleges of Law and Pharmacy. It also offers two programs in collaboration with the College of Veterinary Science at Iowa State University. See "M.P.H. for Practicing Veterinarians" and descriptions of the joint degree programs under Joint Degrees [p. 5] in this section of the Catalog.

In addition, the college collaborates with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to offer joint B.A. or B.S./M.P.H. programs for undergraduate students; see "Joint B.A. or B.S./M.P.H. Degrees" under Joint Degrees [p. 5] in this section of the Catalog.

The Master of Public Health program is offered by the College of Public Health; the degree is awarded by the Graduate College.

Requirements

The Master of Public Health requires 42-45 s.h. of graduate credit, depending on a student's choice of specialization. Students must choose one of six subprograms: community and behavioral health, epidemiology, occupational and environmental health, policy, practicing veterinarians, or quantitative methods.

Degree requirements include a core course in public health practice and in each of the five core disciplines of public health (epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental health, health policy and management, and social and behavioral sciences); a practicum; a set of content-specific required courses; and a set of content-specific electives. Students in the epidemiology subprogram must complete a bioscience course. A final written report with oral presentation or a poster presentation related to the practicum constitutes the final examination.

All M.P.H. students complete the course work listed under "Common Requirements." In addition, students complete the course work listed for their chosen subprogram.

Common Requirements

The following course work is required for all M.P.H. students. Students must earn a B-minus or higher in each core course. Students may repeat courses to achieve this standard.

Core Courses

All of these (18 s.h.):

BIOS:4120	Introduction to Biostatistics (students in the quantitative methods subprogram may substitute BIOS:5710)	3
CBH:4105	Introduction to Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	3
CPH:4101	Introduction to Public Health	3
EPID:4400	Epidemiology I: Principles	3
HMP:4000	Introduction to the U.S. Health Care System	3
OEH:4240	Global Environmental Health	3

Practicum

The practicum is a fieldwork experience in which students show proficiency in applying academic principles in community settings. There are many practicum opportunities for M.P.H. students locally, nationally, and internationally. The practicum is the capstone of the M.P.H. program.

Before they register for and begin the practicum, students must choose an approved topic and must complete most of their M.P.H. course work, including all of the six M.P.H. core courses. A final written report with an oral presentation or a poster presentation is required. The practicum constitutes the final examination for the M.P.H. degree.

CPH:7000	M.P.H. Practicum Experience	3
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Community and Behavioral Health Subprogram

The Master of Public Health with community and behavioral health subprogram requires 42 s.h. of graduate credit. The subprogram is offered by the Department of Community and Behavioral Health.

The subprogram prepares public health practitioners for a variety of positions related to community development, health program implementation, and health education. Students learn how to design, implement, and evaluate evidence-based interventions directed toward identified public health problems in populations.

A bachelor's degree in the social and behavioral sciences is good preparation for this program, but students come from a variety of educational backgrounds. Preference is given to applicants who have professional experience.

In addition to the M.P.H. course work listed under "Common Requirements" above, the community and behavioral health subprogram requires the following courses.

Community and Behavioral Health Subprogram Core

Students earn 12 s.h. in the required subprogram core.

Theory

This course:

CBH:5220	Health Behavior and Health Education	3
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Community and Society

One of these:

CBH:5235	Community-Based Participatory Research	3
CBH:6230	Health Equity, Disparities, and Social Justice	3

Intervention

One of these:

CBH:6205	Designing and Implementing Interventions	3
CBH:6220	Health Communication Campaigns	3

Methods

One of these:

CBH:5305	Evaluation: Approaches and Applications	3
CBH:5310	Qualitative Research for Public Health	3
CBH:5420	Communicating with the Community	3
CBH:6335	Research Methods in Community and Behavioral Health	3

Community and Behavioral Health Electives

Students must take an additional 9 s.h. of elective community and behavioral health course work or, with the approval of their advisor, they can select course work in another area. In addition, once the 12 s.h. of required community and behavioral health credit is met, students may take any of the other courses as electives. The following is a list of suggested elective courses.

CBH:3102	Medical Anthropology	3
CBH:3150	Media and Health	3
CBH:4140	Feminist Activism and Global Health	3
CBH:5230	Public Health Issues in Overweight Management	3
CBH:5435	Substance Abuse Prevention and Early Intervention	3
CBH:5440	Prevention and Early Intervention of Mental Health Disorders	3
CBH:6115	Ethnographic Field Methods	3
CBH:6210	Health Communication	3
CBH:6405	Global Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health	3
CBH:6410	Special Topics	arr.
CBH:6415	Independent Study in Community and Behavioral Health	arr.
ANTH:6141	Medical Anthropology and Social Theory	3
GEOG:3505	Foundations of GIS	3
HMP:6360	Nonprofit Organizational Effectiveness I	3
URP:6253	Designing Sustainable and Healthy Cities	3
URP:6260	Transportation Policy and Planning	3
URP:6400	Sustainable Development: The Kerala Experience	3

Epidemiology Subprogram

The Master of Public Health with epidemiology subprogram requires 42 s.h. of graduate credit. The subprogram is offered by the Department of Epidemiology.

The subprogram focuses on fundamental epidemiological concepts and methods and provides training in the use of public health data and methods for disease assessment and in methods for evaluating the need and outcome of programs and interventions. Graduates of the program work in public health departments and other health care settings.

Epidemiology subprogram students are required to attend departmental seminars and journal club. They also must present one scientific poster at an international, national, regional, state, university, or departmental poster session.

In addition to the M.P.H. course work listed under "Common Requirements" above, the epidemiology subprogram requires the following courses.

Epidemiology Subprogram Core

All of these (14 s.h.):

EPID:5241	Statistical Methods in Epidemiology	4
EPID:5540	Surveillance Mechanisms and Applications: Cancer and Other Registries	2
EPID:5580	Public Health Laboratory Techniques	1
EPID:5600	Introduction to Epidemiology Data Management and Analysis	3
EPID:6400	Epidemiology II: Advanced Methods	4

One of these (2-3 s.h.):

EPID:4450	Public Health Data	2
EPID:4990	Practicing Evidence-Based Public Health	3

Bioscience—one of these (3-4 s.h.):

PATH:5270	Pathogenesis of Major Human Diseases	3
PATH:8133	Introduction to Human Pathology for Graduate Students	4

Students who already have completed a course equivalent to one of the bioscience courses, PATH:5270 Pathogenesis of Major Human Diseases or PATH:8133 Introduction to Human Pathology for Graduate Students, may substitute an additional elective.

Epidemiology Electives

Additional approved elective course work must be taken to complete the 42 s.h. total required for the M.P.H. At least 3 s.h. of elective credit must be earned in courses offered by the Department of Epidemiology (prefix EPID) or in one of the following biostatistics courses.

BIOS:6210	Applied Survival Analysis	3
BIOS:6310	Introductory Longitudinal Data Analysis	3

Occupational and Environmental Health Subprogram

The Master of Public Health with occupational and environmental health subprogram requires 42 s.h. of graduate credit. The subprogram is offered by the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health.

The subprogram provides students with a broad perspective on public health and career preparation for a variety of professional positions in occupational and environmental health. Public health experience provides desirable background for this subprogram.

In addition to the M.P.H. course work listed under "Common Requirements" above, the occupational and environmental health subprogram requires the following courses.

Occupational and Environmental Health Subprogram Core

Students earn 13 s.h. in the required subprogram core.

Students take OEH:5010 Occupational and Environmental Health Seminar three times: twice for 0 s.h. and once for 1 s.h. If completing the M.P.H. in a one-year course of study, OEH:5010 is taken two times: once for 0 s.h. and once for 1 s.h.

All of these (4 s.h.):		
OEH:5010	Occupational and Environmental Health Seminar	0-1
OEH:5620	Occupational Health	3
Three of these (9 s.h.):		
OEH:4510	Injury and Violence Prevention	3
OEH:5410	Occupational Safety	3
OEH:5710	Environmental Toxicology	3
OEH:6110	Rural Health and Agricultural Medicine	3
OEH:6510	Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology	3
CPH:3500	Global Public Health	3

Occupational and Environmental Health Electives

Students can earn the remainder of credit for their degree in elective courses (8 s.h.) offered by a department in the College of Public Health. Courses offered by departments in other colleges at the University of Iowa can be applied toward a degree with approval of a student's advisor.

Faculty expertise in areas related to occupational and environmental health can assist students in their endeavors. Sample plans that outline how elective courses can be combined with required courses in a focused plan of study are as follows.

Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology		
OEH:4260	Global Water and Health (elective)	3
OEH:5530	Interpreting Occupational and Environmental Health Research (elective)	2

OEH:6510	Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology (required course)	3
OEH:6520	Injury Epidemiology (elective)	3
EPID:6400	Epidemiology II: Advanced Methods (elective)	4

Global Environmental Health		
OEH:4260	Global Water and Health (elective)	3
OEH:5710	Environmental Toxicology (elective)	3
CPH:3500	Global Public Health	3

Injury and Violence Prevention		
OEH:4510	Injury and Violence Prevention (required course)	3
OEH:4530	Global Road Safety (elective)	3
OEH:6520	Injury Epidemiology (elective)	3
OEH:6530	Epidemiology of Occupational Injuries (elective)	3-4

Occupational Health		
OEH:4310	Occupational Ergonomics: Principles (elective)	3
OEH:5410	Occupational Safety (required course)	3
OEH:6420	Industrial Hygiene Fundamentals (elective)	3
OEH:6430	Assessing Physical Agent Hazards (elective)	3

Rural Health and Safety		
OEH:5410	Occupational Safety (elective)	3
OEH:6110	Rural Health and Agricultural Medicine (required course)	3
OEH:6120	Current Topics in Agriculture and Rural Health (elective)	0-1
OEH:6420	Industrial Hygiene Fundamentals (elective)	3
OEH:6520	Injury Epidemiology (elective)	3

Policy Subprogram

The Master of Public Health with policy subprogram requires 45 s.h. of graduate credit. The subprogram is offered by the Department of Health Management and Policy.

The subprogram offers course work and applied learning experiences that prepare students for careers in health policy analysis, system and organizational planning, and program evaluation. Graduates of the program find positions in federal, state, and local government; professional associations; and private agencies. Varied academic backgrounds are appropriate preparation for this program, including business, liberal arts and sciences, and the health professions.

In addition to the M.P.H. course work listed under "Common Requirements" above, the policy and administration subprogram requires the following courses.

Policy Subprogram Core

All of these:		
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HMP:5610	Health Policy	3
HMP:5611	Contemporary Issues in Health Policy	0-1
HMP:5650	Health Policy Analysis	3
HMP:6610	Legal Aspects of Healthcare	3
HMP:6750	Seminar in Health Policy	3

Policy Electives

At least 12 s.h. chosen from these:

HMP:5310	Healthcare Quality Management	2-3
HMP:5410	Health Economics I	3
HMP:5450	Health Insurance and Managed Care	3
HMP:5750	Medicare and Medicaid Policy	3
HMP:6710	Federalism and Health Policy	3
LAW:8562	Health Law	3
POLI:3100	American State Politics	3

Practicing Veterinarians Subprogram

The Master of Public Health for practicing veterinarians requires a minimum of 42 s.h. of graduate credit. The program is presented through a collaboration between the University of Iowa College of Public Health and the College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University and is offered primarily by distance learning. It enables students to prepare for new career opportunities and equips them to respond to public health challenges such as zoonotic diseases, food security and foodborne illnesses, bioterrorism, and environmental health.

Students participate in two summer institutes, one on each campus during consecutive summers (two weeks in May and June); the rest of the program is Internet-based, so students may complete requirements at times that fit their schedules. Specific courses are required each semester of the program.

In addition to the M.P.H. course work listed under "Common Requirements" above, the practicing veterinarians subprogram requires the following courses.

Practicing Veterinarians Subprogram Core

All of these (21 s.h.):

CPH:6700	Public Health Emergency Preparedness for Veterinarians and Other Public Health Disciplines	2
EPID:5200	Principles of Public Health Informatics	3
EPID:5300	Food Safety	3
EPID:5320	Exotic and Emerging Diseases of Animals	1
EPID:5470	Applied Veterinary Epidemiology/Biostatistics	3
EPID:5550	Diagnostic Microbiology for Epidemiology	3
EPID:5570	Zoonotic Diseases	3
OEH:6110	Rural Health and Agricultural Medicine	3

Quantitative Methods Subprogram

The Master of Public Health with quantitative methods subprogram requires 42 s.h. of graduate credit. The subprogram is offered by the Department of Biostatistics.

The subprogram is designed to train public health professionals who can provide leadership in the analysis of public health data and the design of studies for public health investigations. It is intended for individuals who are interested in public health and who have quantitative ability but not advanced mathematics training.

Applicants to the subprogram must meet all M.P.H. admission requirements; see Admission [p. 6] in this section of the Catalog. They also should have a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 3.00 and should have completed the following math and computer science course work: single variable calculus and matrix algebra, satisfied by one semester of calculus equivalent to AP Calculus AB and a high school algebra course involving matrices; and elementary computer programming instruction in any commonly used modern programming language (e.g., Python, Java, C++). Individuals who are admitted to the subprogram without having met all of these requirements must satisfy unmet requirements during their first semester of enrollment in the program.

In addition to the M.P.H. course work listed under "Common Requirements" above, the quantitative methods subprogram requires the following courses.

Quantitative Methods Subprogram Core

All of these (8-9 s.h.):

BIOS:5120	Regression Modeling and ANOVA in the Health Sciences	3-4
or BIOS:5720	Biostatistical Methods II	
BIOS:5510	Biostatistical Computing (when topic is programming with R or programming with S)	2
BIOS:6110	Applied Categorical Data Analysis	3
or BIOS:5730	Biostatistical Methods in Categorical Data	

Quantitative Methods Electives

Electives (13-14 s.h.) may be chosen from the following list for may include any related course approved by the student's advisor.

BIOL:4213	Bioinformatics	4
BIOS:6210	Applied Survival Analysis	3
BIOS:6310	Introductory Longitudinal Data Analysis	3
BIOS:6610	Statistical Methods in Clinical Trials	3
BIOS:7600	Advanced Biostatistics Seminar	0-3
STAT:3100	Introduction to Mathematical Statistics I	3
STAT:3101	Introduction to Mathematical Statistics II	3

STAT:3210	Experimental Design and Analysis	3	CPH:6700	Public Health Emergency Preparedness for Veterinarians and Other Public Health Disciplines	2-3
STAT:4100	Mathematical Statistics I	3	EPID:5200	Principles of Public Health Informatics	3
STAT:4101	Mathematical Statistics II	3	EPID:5300	Food Safety	3
STAT:4200	Statistical Methods and Computing	3	EPID:5470	Applied Veterinary Epidemiology/Biostatistics	3
STAT:4520	Bayesian Statistics	3	EPID:5550	Diagnostic Microbiology for Epidemiology (offered by distance education)	3
STAT:5100	Statistical Inference I	3	EPID:5570	Zoonotic Diseases	3
STAT:5101	Statistical Inference II	3	EPID:6550	Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases (offered by distance education)	3
STAT:6540	Applied Multivariate Analysis	3	OEH:4510	Injury and Violence Prevention (offered by distance education)	3
STAT:6560	Applied Time Series Analysis	3	OEH:6110	Rural Health and Agricultural Medicine	3

Joint Degrees

Joint B.A. or B.S./M.P.H. Degrees

The College of Public Health collaborates with undergraduate programs to offer joint bachelor's degree/Master of Public Health programs for undergraduate students who would like to earn an M.P.H. degree. The joint programs permit students to count a limited amount of credit toward the requirements of both degrees, enabling them to begin the study of public health before they complete the bachelor's degree. Undergraduates can pursue a M.P.H. degree in the following subprograms: community and behavioral health, epidemiology, occupational and environmental health, policy, or quantitative methods. Undergraduate students work with their undergraduate advisor and the College of Public Health Undergrad to Grad (U2G) coordinator to determine eligibility.

Undergraduate students must apply to each of the programs. Students should consult with their undergraduate major advisor and their College of Public Health U2G coordinator. For more information, visit Undergrad to Grad (U2G) on the Master of Public Health website.

Joint M.P.H./D.V.M.

The joint Master of Public Health/Doctor of Veterinary Medicine is offered by the University of Iowa College of Public Health and the College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University. It requires a minimum of 42 s.h. in addition to the requirements of the D.V.M. degree (see College of Veterinary Medicine in the Iowa State University catalog). The program prepares students for work as state veterinarians, as college and university faculty members, in local and state departments of public health, in the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, in state agricultural departments, and for public health positions in the military.

Separate application to each degree program is required; applicants must be admitted to both programs before they may be admitted to the joint degree program. For M.P.H. admission requirements, see Admission [p. 6] in this section of the Catalog.

The joint M.P.H./D.V.M. requires the following course work.

M.P.H. Common Requirements

Students must complete courses listed as "Common Requirements" (core courses and practicum) under Master of Public Health Requirements [p. 1] in this section of the Catalog.

M.P.H. Electives

Students must earn at least 9 s.h. from the following courses.

Joint M.P.H./J.D.

The joint Master of Public Health/Juris Doctor requires a minimum of 42 s.h. of graduate credit in addition to the requirements of the J.D. degree. The program helps students develop special expertise in public health legal issues. It is designed to train qualified students for leadership roles in both the public and private sectors. Separate application to each degree program is required; applicants must be admitted to both programs before they may be admitted to the joint degree program.

The joint M.P.H./J.D. requires the following course work.

M.P.H. Common Requirements

Students must complete courses listed as "Common Requirements" (core courses and practicum) under Master of Public Health Requirements [p. 1] in this section of the Catalog.

M.P.H. Electives

Students earn 9 s.h. in elective courses chosen from one of the following public health areas: aging studies; biostatistics; community and behavioral health; epidemiology; global health; health policy; maternal, child, and family health; nutrition and exercise; or occupational and environmental health. Students choose electives in consultation with their advisors in the College of Law and the College of Public Health.

J.D. Requirements

Students in the joint M.P.H./J.D. program must complete the curriculum of the J.D. program; see the Juris Doctor (College of Law) in the Catalog. Students must be enrolled in the College of Law to take College of Law courses.

Joint M.P.H./M.D.

The joint Master of Public Health/Doctor of Medicine requires a minimum of 42 s.h. of graduate credit in addition to the requirements of the M.D. degree. Students who complete the program enjoy expanded career opportunities and are well prepared to apply the principles of medicine and public health in their work. Separate application to each degree program

is required; applicants must be admitted to both programs before they may be admitted to the joint program.

The joint M.P.H./M.D. requires the following course work.

M.P.H. Common Requirements

Students must complete courses listed as "Common Requirements" (core courses and practicum) under Master of Public Health Requirements [p. 1] in this section of the Catalog.

M.P.H. Electives

Students earn 9 s.h. in elective courses chosen from one of the following public health areas: biostatistics, community and behavioral health, epidemiology, health communication, health policy, occupational and environmental health.

Students choose electives in consultation with their advisors in the Carver College of Medicine and the College of Public Health.

M.D. Requirements

Students in the joint M.P.H./M.D. program must complete the curriculum of the M.D. program; see Doctor of Medicine (Carver College of Medicine) in the Catalog.

Joint M.P.H./Pharm.D.

The joint Master of Public Health/Doctor of Pharmacy requires 42 s.h. of graduate credit in addition to the requirements of the Pharm.D. degree. The program helps students develop expertise in public health related to pharmacotherapy, health promotion, disease prevention, and medication safety.

Graduates of the program may work in areas of interest common to pharmacy and public health, such as spread and treatment of disease, community health, and immunology; bioterrorism, terrorism, and preparedness; genetics; insurance; managed care; family and juvenile health; and protection of special populations. Employment opportunities are available in hospitals and clinics and with health care providers; private practice; insurance and managed care organizations; local, county, state, and federal government; public health governmental agencies; and colleges and universities.

Separate application to each degree program is required; applicants must be admitted to both programs before they may be admitted to the joint degree program.

The joint M.P.H./Pharm.D. requires the following course work.

M.P.H. Common Requirements

Students must complete courses listed as "Common Requirements" (core courses and practicum) under Master of Public Health Requirements [p. 1] in this section of the Catalog.

M.P.H. Electives

Students select electives totaling 9 s.h. from one of the following public health areas: biostatistics, community and behavioral health, epidemiology, health communication, policy, or occupational and environmental health. Electives are chosen in consultation with the student's advisors in the Colleges of Pharmacy and Public Health.

Pharm.D. Requirements

Students in the joint M.P.H./Pharm.D. program must complete the curriculum of the Pharm.D. program; see Doctor of Pharmacy (College of Pharmacy) in the Catalog. Students

must be enrolled in the College of Pharmacy in order to take College of Pharmacy courses.

Admission

Applicants to the M.P.H. program must apply through the Schools of Public Health Application Service (SOPHAS) and then set up a University of Iowa account and pay the UI supplemental fee. Applicants must submit scores on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) General Test, LSAT, DAT, VCAT, GMAT, or another professional placement exam; scores must be at or above the median scores for test takers applying to similar programs. For detailed application information, visit Prospective Graduate Students on the Master of Public Health website.

Applicants to the M.P.H. program must have successfully completed one semester each of college algebra and biology.

Applicants whose first language is not English and who do not hold a baccalaureate or more advanced degree from an accredited university in the United States, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada (excluding Quebec), English-speaking Africa, Australia, or New Zealand must score at least 100 (Internet-based) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Applicants who score 81-99 (Internet-based) are required to take English fluency courses. Applicants who score below 81 are not considered for admission.

Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations of the Graduate College.

Students may enter the M.P.H. program in fall and summer. Application deadline for fall entrance to the M.P.H. program is April 15; application deadline for summer entrance is April 1.

Application deadline for the M.P.H. for practicing veterinarians is March 1.

Application deadline for Undergrad 2 Grad (U2G) is February 1.

Students may enter the M.P.H. joint programs in fall, spring, and summer. Contact the individual joint programs for deadline information.

Financial Support

A limited number of tuition scholarship awards are available each year for M.P.H. students. For information on financing education through jobs, grants, and loans, contact the University's Office of Student Financial Aid.

Career Advancement

For more information about careers in public health, visit [This is Public Health](#) online.