

Pre-MPH/DrPH (Master/Doctor of Public Health) Advising Recommendations for Health Studies Majors

What is public health?

Public health encompasses work in health education, epidemiology, environmental health, health policy, global health, disaster preparedness, health communication, maternal and child health, health services administration, and many other areas. Learn more about the field on the American Public Health Association website (<https://www.apha.org/what-is-public-health>).

What is the typical educational pathway for public health practitioners?

A Master of Public Health (MPH) program is typically completed over two academic years, with the summer between those two years (or the summer after the second year) used to complete a full-time practicum with a public health agency or organization. Core courses taken during the first year of the program build skills in areas such as epidemiological and statistical analysis, health systems analysis, project management, program evaluation, health policy analysis, and leadership and communication. The second year of an MPH typically focuses on completion of a concentration in one practice area. A Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) is a 3-year program that equips individuals with an earned MPH (except in special circumstances) and several years of work experience in the field with advanced leadership skills. MPH and DrPH degrees are applied practice degrees, not research or clinical degrees, and both should be earned from universities that are accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).

What courses are required for admission to MPH programs?

There is no standard set of courses that must be taken prior to admission to an MPH program, but most schools recommend that applicants complete undergraduate courses in statistics (data science), the social sciences (such as psychology and sociology), the life sciences (biology and environmental science), and communication in addition to health-specific coursework.

Health Studies Major Curriculum

Required:

- HS 100 (Health Policy)
- HS 101 (Global Health)
- HS 250 (Epidemiology)
- DSST 189 (Statistics)
- HS 400 (Senior Capstone)

Courses selected to align with your interests:

- Health humanities
- Social health
- Health science
- Health-related elective 1
- Health-related elective 2

**The requirements for the HS major are updated for each catalog year. Please check your catalog year to confirm that you are on track to meet degree requirements.*

Sample recommendations:

- Interested in **health policy**? Take courses in health law (HS 240), health politics (PLSC 365), health sector analysis (MGMT 355), and climate change and health (ENVR 322).
- Interested in **health promotion**? Take courses in medical anthropology (ANTH 302), health psychology (PSYC 323), applied community health (LAIS 307), and nutrition (HS 305).
- Interested in **epidemiology**? Take skill-building courses in geospatial analysis (GEOG 260), mathematical modeling (MATH 304), and research methods in various fields.
- Interested in other areas? Talk to an academic advisor in the Health Studies department.