

Program Overview

The Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) degree prepares students for advanced careers in public health. It provides practical training in foundational public health knowledge and core competencies and teaches students how to assess, plan, and deliver public health programs. Graduates can pursue employment in public health departments, state and federal health agencies, nonprofit organizations, and other community health organizations. Students are prepared to sit for the Certified Health Education Specialist exam offered by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. and/or the Certified in Public Health certification offered by the National Board of Public Health Examiners.

Application Requirements

The items required for admission consideration are:

- completed online application
- \$55 nonrefundable application fee
- or
- \$90 nonrefundable application fee for applications with international credentials;
- baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited university (Non-U.S. degrees must be equivalent to a four-year U.S. Bachelor's degree. In most cases, three-year degrees are not considered. Visit our International FAQs (<https://www.gradcollege.txst.edu/international/faqs.html>) for more information.)
- official transcript from each institution where course credit was granted
- a 2.75 overall GPA or a 2.75 GPA in your last 60 hours of undergraduate course work (plus any completed graduate courses)
- statement of purpose (500 words, double-spaced, computer-generated) addressing the following:
 - Why public health is an interest area for you
 - How you will use a graduate degree in Public Health to reach your career goals
- two letters of recommendation from persons best able to assess the student's ability to succeed in graduate school
- resume
- GRE not required

Applicants should refer to the Graduate College website for additional information regarding the admission process.

Approved English Proficiency Exam Scores

Applicants are required to submit an approved English proficiency exam score that meets the minimum program requirements below unless they have earned a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited U.S. institution or the equivalent from a country on our exempt countries list (<http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/international/language.html#waiver>).

- official TOEFL iBT scores required with a 78 overall
- official PTE scores required with a 52 overall
- official IELTS (academic) scores required with a 6.5 overall and minimum individual module scores of 6.0

- official Duolingo Scores required with a 110 overall
- official TOEFL Essentials scores required with an 8.5 overall

This program does **not** offer admission if the scores above are not met.

Degree Requirements

The Master of Public Health (M.H.P.) degree with a major in Public Health (Epidemiology Concentration) requires 42 semester credit hours.

Course Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
PH 5335	Public Health Leadership	3
PH 5315	Applied Behavioral Statistics in Public Health	3
PH 5320	Foundations of Public Health	3
PH 5303	Social Determinants of Health	3
PH 5350	Advanced Public Health Program Planning and Evaluation	3
PH 5370	Applied Epidemiology	3
PH 5321	Advanced Health Behavior Theory	3
PH 5325	Ethical Principles in Public Health	3
PH 5331	Health Disparities	3
PH 5374	Global Public Health	3
Required Concentration Courses		
PH 5371	Epidemiology Practice and Principles	3
PH 5346	Public Health Research and Population Surveillance	3
PH 5301	Environmental Health Issues	3
Applied Project Courses		
Select 3 hours from the following		
PH 5302	Current Issues in Public Health	
PH 5360	Internship in Public Health	
PH 5347	Independent Study in Public Health	
Total Hours		42

Comprehensive Examination Requirement

All students must complete a comprehensive examination during their last semester in the program. The comprehensive exam will be evaluated by a committee of three faculty who are selected by the graduate program advisor. Students may choose to complete a written comprehensive examination or an oral comprehensive examination. The examination will cover content explored in the core PH courses in the major. Students must satisfactorily pass the comprehensive examination during their last semester in the program. If a student does not pass the examination, the student must retake the comprehensive examination during the next regular semester.

Students who do not successfully complete the requirements for the degree within the timelines specified will be dismissed from the program.

Courses Offered

Master's level courses in Health and Human Performance: PH (<http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/graduate/education/health-human-performance/public-health-epidemiology-mph/#PH>)

Public Health (PH)

PH 5199B. Thesis.

This course represents thesis enrollment for graduate students completing a Public Health thesis. Thesis credit is awarded upon successful completion of the required thesis hours and approval of the final manuscript. The thesis provides an opportunity to work with a faculty advisor to design and conduct an original research project that demonstrates integration of foundational public health knowledge and competencies, including data analysis, evidence-based reasoning, and professional communication, consistent with Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) expectations.

1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

PH 5299B. Thesis.

This course represents thesis enrollment for graduate students completing a Public Health thesis. Thesis credit is awarded upon successful completion of the required thesis hours and approval of the final manuscript. The thesis provides an opportunity to work with a faculty advisor to design and conduct an original research project that demonstrates integration of foundational public health knowledge and competencies, including data analysis, evidence-based reasoning, and professional communication, consistent with Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) expectations.

2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

PH 5301. Environmental Health Issues.

This course provides an in-depth examination of environmental health issues affecting the United States and global communities. The interconnections among human health, animal health, and ecosystem health are explored from an ecological and systems-based perspective. Emphasis is placed on analyzing environmental health policies, evaluating scientific research, and examining the roles of community partnerships and public health initiatives in addressing environmental exposures and associated health outcomes across various geographic, social, and regulatory settings.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PH 5302. Current Issues in Public Health.

This course emphasizes applied practice in public health by investigating and proposing evidence-based interventions for contemporary issues affecting public health on the local and national levels. Students collaborate with professionals in the field to assess organizational and/or community needs and develop public health projects. Attention will be paid to aligning experiences with the U.S. Healthy People 2030 goals and objectives and to the Core Functions of Public Health and the 10 Essential Public Health Services.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PH 5303. Social Determinants of Health.

This course examines social ecological conditions using public health frameworks and theories to analyze health outcome disparities across populations. Emphasis is placed on factors at the individual, interpersonal, organizational, community, and policy levels that influence quality of life. Topics include socioeconomic stability, education access and quality, health care access and quality, neighborhood and built environment, and social and community context. The course also explores the relationship between social determinants of health and national initiatives such as Healthy People 2030. Students engage with data and research to assess how social determinants shape population health outcomes.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PH 5305. Grant Proposal Writing in Public Health.

This course provides foundational instruction in developing grant proposals within the social sciences and public health contexts. Students examine the components of competitive proposals from concept development through submission. Instruction includes defining program goals and measurable objectives, identifying appropriate strategies and implementation plans, developing evaluation approaches, and preparing detailed budgets and budget justifications. Emphasis is placed on aligning proposals with funding priorities, using evidence to support program design, and applying structured proposal development processes.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PH 5310. History and Philosophy of Public Health Education and Promotion.

This course provides an analytical overview of historical milestones and philosophical contributions to public health, health education, and health promotion. Emphasis is placed on evaluating philosophical perspectives, comparing theoretical approaches, and examining how these frameworks have influenced professional practice across various settings. The course also examines historical and contemporary social, behavioral, and public health policy issues, with attention to how evolving social contexts, policy developments, and professional standards have shaped the public health discipline over time.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PH 5312. Writing for Public Health Professionals.

This course provides a systematic approach to improve technical and professional writing skills. Specifically, theory-based methods for establishing a productive writing habit, generating and editing text, and self-identifying and self-correcting writing problems are presented. Writing for and application of public health research are emphasized.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PH 5315. Applied Behavioral Statistics in Public Health.

This course focuses on introductory and intermediate statistical methods commonly used in public health practice and research. Emphasis is placed on selecting appropriate methods, interpreting results, and understanding the assumptions underlying common analyses. Students use SPSS statistical software to manage data, conduct statistical analyses, and interpret output using real-world datasets. The course covers application of statistical reasoning to evaluate research findings and support analytic decision-making in public health contexts.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PH 5320. Foundations of Public Health.

This course provides an in-depth examination of public health practice, past and present. Students study the organization, structure, and function of the United States public health system while analyzing how public health professionals use assessment data to understand population health trends. Emphasis is placed on evaluating public health programs and policies and understanding how the Core Functions of Public Health and the 10 Essential Public Health Services guide the delivery of services. Students engage in evidence-based inquiry and interpret institutional frameworks.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PH 5321. Advanced Health Behavior Theory.

This course examines major theoretical frameworks used to understand and analyze health behavior across research and practice settings. Emphasis is placed on critical comparison, practical application, and integration of individual, interpersonal, community, and systems-level theories relevant to public health. The course explores the role of theory in health behavior research, intervention development, and program implementation while examining the strengths, limitations, and application of commonly used theoretical approaches across various populations, public health issues, and professional practice contexts.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PH 5325. Ethical Principles in Public Health.

This course provides an in-depth analysis of ethical standards, principles, and behaviors related to the field of public health and public health education and promotion. Students explore different ethical perspectives, ethical frameworks for decision-making and analysis, and codes of ethics for the profession. Course content emphasizes the analysis of case studies and scenarios to support ethical reasoning and application. Emphasis is placed on learning how to apply, monitor, and demonstrate an understanding of ethical standards within public health practice and professional settings.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PH 5331. Health Outcome Disparities.

This course examines patterns in population health outcomes and factors associated with variation across communities. Students analyze population-level data, interpret health trends, and evaluate evidence that informs public health programs and policies. Emphasis is placed on data interpretation, critical appraisal of research, and analytical reasoning. Through applied assignments, health outcome patterns are analyzed, the strength of available evidence is assessed, and potential strategies relevant to the population health outcomes are examined. The course also emphasizes stakeholder perspectives, ethical considerations, and effective communication of findings to inform decision-making in various public health settings.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PH 5335. Public Health Leadership.

This course examines leadership and management principles essential to public health practice, including organizational dynamics, staffing, budgeting, program administration, communication, and evaluation. Students explore leadership frameworks and ethical considerations across public health systems and organizational settings while analyzing real-world challenges that influence decision making. By the end of the course, students develop the ability to evaluate leadership approaches and create practical strategies to support effective management and organizational performance in public health contexts.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PH 5345. Public Health Issues in Human Sexuality.

This course provides an in-depth study of sexual health across the lifespan with a focus on public health principles and ecological influences. Students explore body systems, disease prevention strategies, policies related to sexual health, educator preparation and training, curriculum approaches, global perspectives, and approaches used in sexual health education. Emphasis is placed on evaluating sexual health education practices, analyzing factors that influence decision making, and interpreting information and resources relevant to the planning and implementation of sexual health instruction.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PH 5346. Public Health Research and Population Surveillance.

This course examines applied research methods and population surveillance approaches used in public health, with emphasis on study design, data collection, and interpretation for research and program evaluation. Students explore quantitative and qualitative methodologies commonly used in social and behavioral sciences and public health practice and assess their relevance to population health problems. By the end of the course, students develop the ability to analyze public health data, evaluate research designs, and create evidence-informed research plans to support decision making in public health settings.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PH 5347. Independent Study in Public Health.

This course provides students the opportunity to engage in an independent study project focused on a public health topic of individual interest or professional relevance. Under the supervision of a faculty member, students design and complete a research or applied experience that aligns with an approved learning plan. Projects may involve literature analysis, methodological development, applied practice activities, or other public health inquiry. The course supports individualized learning and development of competencies through structured academic guidance. It may be repeated once for credit with approval of the Program Coordinator and a different topic emphasis. Prerequisites: Instructor approval.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

PH 5348. Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

This course provides an overview of the etiology of communicable and noncommunicable diseases, with an emphasis on public health initiatives and health promotion activities related to disease incidence and impact at both the individual and population levels. Disease patterns are examined across the lifespan, with attention to variation in causes and prevention approaches across age groups. The course also emphasizes application of scientific evidence to the critical assessment of health-related information presented across various media platforms.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PH 5350. Advanced Public Health Program Planning and Evaluation.

This course examines the use of Intervention Mapping to analyze social ecological influences on population health within the context of public health program planning. Emphasis is placed on applying epidemiological data and behavioral theory to inform development of health education and health promotion initiatives. Core concepts include needs assessment, theory- and evidence-informed strategy selection, partnership and coalition development, implementation planning, and formative, process, and outcome evaluation approaches relevant to population-based public health programs.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PH 5360. Internship in Public Health.

This course consists of a 200-hour supervised internship that provides structured professional experience in public health settings. Students engage with organizations serving a variety of populations and complete a project developed in collaboration with the internship site. The experience emphasizes application of public health principles within practice environments, including program planning, implementation, evaluation, and professional collaboration. Internships are approved and supervised by the Program Coordinator or assigned faculty in accordance with program requirements. Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 20 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

PH 5370. Applied Epidemiology.

This course introduces students to foundational epidemiological concepts, including determinants of health, patterns of disease in populations, population health descriptive techniques, the use of health indicators, secondary data sources, and disease reporting systems. Emphasis is placed on measures used to assess epidemiological risk and distribution, as well as interpretation of population-level data. Students also examine the foundations of epidemiologic reporting and the role of epidemiology in describing and monitoring population health trends across various populations.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PH 5371. Epidemiology Practice and Principles.

This course provides an examination of epidemiologic practice and principles, with attention to how population-level patterns of health and disease are measured, evaluated, and interpreted. Students will study key concepts such as exposure assessment, outcome measurement, and the design of observational and experimental epidemiologic studies. Emphasis is placed on calculating and interpreting disease rates, measures of frequency, and measures of association used in public health research. Throughout the course, students analyze the strengths and limitations of different epidemiologic methods and consider how these tools support evidence-based decision-making across a range of public health contexts.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PH 5374. Global Public Health.

This course focuses on principles of international health across global populations by analyzing how social determinants of health influence differences in health outcomes, infectious diseases, reproductive health and nutrition, noncommunicable diseases, mental health, and injury prevention. Emphasis is placed on exploring epidemiological burdens of global disease, as well as the process of assessing, planning, implementing, and evaluating prevention strategies. Students explore roles of public health practitioners collaborating with providers of health services to various populations.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PH 5376. Health Promotion in the Workplace.

This course examines evidence-based approaches to workplace health promotion, with emphasis on needs assessment, program design, implementation, and evaluation across organizational settings. Students analyze worksite environments and employee health data to inform intervention strategies grounded in health behavior theory. By the end of the course, students develop the ability to evaluate workplace health initiatives and create practical, theory-informed programs that support healthy behavior change in occupational contexts.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

PH 5399A. Thesis.

This course represents thesis enrollment for graduate students completing a Public Health thesis. Thesis credit is awarded upon successful completion of the required thesis hours and approval of the final manuscript. The thesis provides an opportunity to work with a faculty advisor to design and conduct an original research project that demonstrates integration of foundational public health knowledge and competencies, including data analysis, evidence-based reasoning, and professional communication, consistent with Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) expectations.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

PH 5399B. Thesis.

This course represents thesis enrollment for graduate students completing a Public Health thesis. Thesis credit is awarded upon successful completion of the required thesis hours and approval of the final manuscript. The thesis provides an opportunity to work with a faculty advisor to design and conduct an original research project that demonstrates integration of foundational public health knowledge and competencies, including data analysis, evidence-based reasoning, and professional communication, consistent with Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) expectations.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

PH 5599B. Thesis.

This course represents thesis enrollment for graduate students completing a Public Health thesis. Thesis credit is awarded upon successful completion of the required thesis hours and approval of the final manuscript. The thesis provides an opportunity to work with a faculty advisor to design and conduct an original research project that demonstrates integration of foundational public health knowledge and competencies, including data analysis, evidence-based reasoning, and professional communication, consistent with Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) expectations.

5 Credit Hours. 5 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

PH 5660. Internship in Public Health.

This course consists of a 400-hour supervised internship that provides structured professional experience in public health settings. Students engage with organizations serving a variety of populations and complete a project developed in collaboration with the internship site. The experience emphasizes application of public health principles within practice environments, including program planning, implementation, evaluation, and professional collaboration. Internships are approved and supervised by the Program Coordinator or assigned faculty in accordance with program requirements. Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

6 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 40 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

PH 5999B. Thesis.

This course represents thesis enrollment for graduate students completing a Public Health thesis. Thesis credit is awarded upon successful completion of the required thesis hours and approval of the final manuscript. The thesis provides an opportunity to work with a faculty advisor to design and conduct an original research project that demonstrates integration of foundational public health knowledge and competencies, including data analysis, evidence-based reasoning, and professional communication, consistent with Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) expectations.

9 Credit Hours. 9 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit