

## 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
- \$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
- Three letters of recommendation from persons best able to assess the student’s ability to succeed in graduate school
- Resume

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#wavier>).

- 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 (Health Policy & Management Concentration) requires 42 semester credit hours.

## Course Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Required Core Courses</b>		
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
HA 5356	Policy Development in Healthcare Arena	3
HA 5640	Administrative Practicum	6
or PH 5660	Internship in Public Health	
HA 5346	Strategic Management and Marketing for Healthcare Organizations	3
HA 5316	Healthcare Financial Management II	3
HA 5321	Healthcare Law and Policy	3
HA 5334	Data-Guided Healthcare Decision-Making	3
HA 5362	Healthcare Organizational Behavior, Theory, and Leadership	3
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>42</b>

Master’s level courses in Health and Human Performance: PH (p. 1) & HA (p. 3)

## Courses Offered

### Public Health

#### PH 1310. Foundations of Personal Health.

This course provides an introduction to personal health and wellness topics including nutrition, mental health, sexual health, and physical fitness with an emphasis on health trends and health behaviors.

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

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**TCCN:** PHED 1304

#### PH 1320. Introduction to Public Health.

This course provides students a basic understanding of U.S. and global public health systems. Students are also introduced to various public health settings, specific careers in public health, and public health certifications.

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

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PH 2338. Substance Use and Abuse.**

This course explores the impact of substance use and abuse on personal, public, and population health. Course content includes current statistics and information on substance use and abuse issues and substance prevention interventions with a focus on public health prevention strategies.

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

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**TCCN:** PHED 1346

**PH 2340. Community Health.**

This course acquaints students with issues, trends, developments, and principles in community health. The course also provides an overview of selected topics, such as epidemiology, community organization, and program planning. Corequisite: PH 1320 with a grade of "C" or better.

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

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PH 3301. Environmental Health.**

This course is an examination of the ecological impact resulting from contemporary sociopolitical action and its resulting influence on human health.

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

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PH 3315. Statistics in Public Health.**

This course emphasizes analysis and interpretation of health-related data. Descriptive and inferential statistics (including measures of central tendency and variability, estimation, ANOVA, and regression) will be used to understand factors associated with current health-related issues. (WI) Prerequisites: MATH 1312 or MATH 1315 or MATH 1317 or MATH 1319 or MATH 1329 or MATH 2321 or MATH 2417 or MATH 2471 with a grade of "C" or better.

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

**Course Attribute(s):** Writing Intensive

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PH 3321. Health in the School Setting.**

This course offers a foundation in health methods and activities to provide resources for the elementary and secondary school teacher. Provides an overview of current school health issues: Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child model, mental health, personal health, family life, substance abuse, and violence in the school setting.

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

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PH 3330. Inclusion and Diversity in Women's Health.**

This course is designed to explore the health care concerns unique to women and to provide students with opportunities to create strategies to improve women's health. Particular attention will be given to issues that affect women in under-served populations and how to more effectively serve their needs.

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

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PH 3348. Prevention of Disease.**

This course provides an overview of the etiology of communicable and chronic diseases with special emphasis on health promotion activities to reduce the incidence of disease in communities and society.

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

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PH 3350. Consumer Health.**

This course focuses on consumer health and decision making with regard to the selection of health products and services. Students will learn how to effectively evaluate health information with emphasis on consumer literacy, public policy, and consumer products and services.

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

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PH 3360. Issues in Human Sexuality.**

The course provides a study of human sexuality as a lifelong process of acquiring information and forming healthy attitudes, beliefs, and values regarding sexuality. Human sexuality's impact on personal and public health will be explored.

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

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PH 3370. Epidemiology.**

This course introduces students to epidemiological concepts including determinants of health and patterns of disease in populations, population health descriptive techniques, use of health indicators and secondary data sources. Students will focus on epidemiology in community health assessment and program evaluation, and development of public health strategies and policy. Prerequisite: MATH 1312 or MATH 1315 or MATH 1317 or MATH 1319 or MATH 1329 or MATH 2321 or MATH 2417 or MATH 2471 or HON 2302A or HON 2302B and with a grade of "D" or better.

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

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PH 3374. Global Health.**

This course focuses on principles of international health in global populations. Students explore roles of health educators collaborating with providers of health services to diverse populations.

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

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PH 3376. Worksite Health Promotion.**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to worksite health promotion. The focus of the course is on planning, implementing, and evaluating worksite health promotion programs. The course addresses other contemporary health issues, policies, and considerations that affect worksite health promotion.

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

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PH 4100. Professional Development in Public Health.**

This course provides the opportunity for students to obtain a community or public health promotion internship and to actively participate in professional development activities including conferences, development of resumes and interaction with health professionals. If a student is planning to complete an internship, this course must be completed during the semester immediately prior.

**1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PH 4331. Health Disparities.**

This course explores social determinants of health and health disparities in the U.S. and globally. Students explore past and existing public health initiatives to address health disparities in various U.S. and global communities.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PH 4335. Public Health Leadership.**

This course allows students to develop discipline-specific leadership skills and a personal leadership philosophy which will help in managing public health and health promotion programs. Topics include leadership philosophy, staffing, programming, budgeting, public relations, facilities, and evaluations.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**  
**Course Attribute(s):** Writing Intensive  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PH 4336. Health Behavior Theory.**

This course introduces students to health behavior theory, including cognitive, operant, and social theories of motivation and behavior, behavior change theory, social marketing, and social ecology. Students will also learn about the role of behavior theory in health promotion practice and public health interventions. (WI) Prerequisites: PH 1320 and PH 2340 both with grades of "C" or better.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**  
**Course Attribute(s):** Writing Intensive  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PH 4347. Independent Study in Public Health.**

This course is designed for undergraduate students who display potential for independent research in public health. Students work individually with faculty to develop an independent research study/project in public health. Open on an individual basis by arrangement with the division chair. May be repeated for credit with different 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:** Standard Letter

**PH 4360. Internship in Public Health.**

This part-time internship involves the application of public health concepts to a community or public health setting. Students participate in the work of a health organization/agency and complete a semester-long project. A minimum of 200 contact hours is required. (WI) Prerequisite: PH 4100 with a grade of "C" or better and a minimum 3.0 major GPA and departmental approval. Corequisite: PH 4640 with a grade of "C" or better.

**3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 20 Lab Contact Hours.**  
**Course Attribute(s):** Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Writing Intensive  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PH 4640. Public Health Program Planning and Evaluation.**

Students apply professional knowledge and skills to the development of public health programs. Topics include needs assessment, data gathering techniques, instrument design, data and statistics, and the interpretation, reporting, and application of findings for program development. Cultural competency and communication are covered. (WI) Prerequisite: PH 1320 and PH 2340 both with grades of "C" or better. Corequisite: PH 4336 with a grade of "C" or better.

**6 Credit Hours. 6 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**  
**Course Attribute(s):** Writing Intensive  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**PH 4660. Internship in Public Health.**

This internship involves the application of public health concepts to a community or public health setting. Students participate in the work of a health organization/agency and complete a semester-long project. A minimum of 400 contact hours is required. (WI) Prerequisites: PH 4100 and PH 4640 both with grades of "C" or better and a minimum 3.0 major GPA and departmental approval.

**6 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 40 Lab Contact Hours.**  
**Course Attribute(s):** Writing Intensive  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**Health Administration****HA 5111. Topics in Health Administration.**

This course includes an in-depth study of a singular topic, or a related problem being encountered by practicing managers in the rapidly changing healthcare industry. Special emphasis is placed on the topic's current relevance and its utilitarian value. This course may be repeated for credit with a different topic area.

**1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**  
**Course Attribute(s):** Exclude from 3-peat Processing  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**HA 5191. Program Competencies Assessments and Integrative Experience Preparation.**

This course prepares students for the end-of-program, final integrative comprehensive exam to assess students' program competencies. Students complete the final integrative comprehensive exam and prepare for an effective transition from the classroom setting to the contemporary healthcare organization work environment.

**1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**  
**Grade Mode:** Credit/No Credit

**HA 5199B. Thesis.**

This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding.

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

**Grade Mode:** Credit/No Credit

**HA 5299B. Thesis.**

This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding.

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

**Grade Mode:** Credit/No Credit

**HA 5300. Healthcare Organization and Delivery.**

This course includes an overview and comparison of the organization and delivery of health services focusing on the history, development, and current delivery by organizations in the continuum of care. Through the course, students acquire foundational knowledge and management applications pertaining to governance, policy, organizational structures, stakeholders, research, and patient-centered care.

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

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**HA 5301. Healthcare Administration Research Methods.**

A study of research methodology as it pertains to healthcare administration. Included are hypothesis forming, designing research, and the collection, manipulation and analysis of data. Knowledge of numeracy and statistics is essential.

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

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**HA 5303. Healthcare Analytics and Information System Management.**

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to information systems management for healthcare organizations, with a focus on incorporating analytics for informed decision-making. It covers the determination of information required by whom, design of information flows, procurement of information systems technology resources, assurance of information security, and management of systems integration. Students gain skills in leveraging analytics for insights and trend analysis, optimizing technology solutions, and addressing the unique challenges of healthcare data management.

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

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**HA 5304. Healthcare Financial Management I.**

This course introduces selected financial management concepts and practices in healthcare organizations. It is a broad introduction to important financial theories, tools, issues, and terminology. Throughout the course, students apply financial management concepts in practical assignments related to health insurance and reimbursement methods, basic managerial accounting, interpretation of healthcare financial statements, cost and profit analysis, departmental and service-line costing and pricing, and planning and budgeting.

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

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**HA 5311. Trends in Healthcare Administration.**

This course offers students an in-depth study of a singular trend or related problem experienced by practicing managers in the rapidly changing healthcare industry. Special emphasis is placed on the selected topic's current relevance and its utilitarian value. Examples of trends can include processes or problems occurring in a specific delivery setting; ethical issues; emerging policy, regulation, or law implications; supply chain; and total quality management. This course may be repeated for credit with a different subject area.

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

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

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**HA 5316. Healthcare Financial Management II.**

This course builds on the concepts covered in Financial Management I and emphasizes development and application of analytical, statistical, and mathematical competencies pertaining to time value analysis, risk and return concepts, debt and equity financing, cost of capital, capital budgeting, project risk analysis, lease financing and working capital management.

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

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**HA 5321. Healthcare Law and Policy.**

This course addresses legal issues pertaining to health services as they relate to providers and consumers within the healthcare system. It covers the legal issues surrounding the relationship of patients, providers, and healthcare institutions and examines managerial and clinical ethics as they relate to the provision of health services. The course also addresses policy issues at state and national levels, including how to analyze policies and facilitate policy development, from the perspective of various stakeholders. Students evaluate changing healthcare policy paradigms and decision points.

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

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**HA 5325. Healthcare Quality and Operations Improvement.**

This course instructs the concepts of quality management in health care integrating quality improvement tools using continuous process improvement methodologies. Students learn to translate healthcare quality management theory, concepts, and knowledge into practice by applying statistical methods and analysis to eliminate defects, reduce waste, and deliver excellent patient/client experiences. Students gain familiarity with the quality standards required by federal and private organizations.

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

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**HA 5334. Data-Guided Healthcare Decision-Making.**

This course provides the foundation of quantitative reasoning with data evidence and emphasizes the critical nature of the group decision-making process. The course defines the scope and limitations of decision-making. The role of uncertainties in decision-making are illustrated with examples from health care. The adverse outcomes and their consequences in healthcare decisions are explored. The concepts and tools of decision-making trees are applied to improve the quality of decisions. Students practice identifying and rectifying root causes to mitigate risks of adverse outcomes.

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

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**HA 5335. Public Health for Healthcare Administrators.**

This course includes an examination of the ten essential services of public health and the role of the healthcare manager in disease prevention and improvement of the community's health, as well as public health surveillance. Students apply the core public health functions as a framework to contextualize public health issues. Students gain experience and practice identifying sources of data and examining peer-reviewed literature.

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

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**HA 5346. Strategic Management and Marketing for Healthcare Organizations.**

This capstone course builds upon analytical skills needed for making evidence-based strategic and marketing decisions. It covers the strategic planning/management process in the competitive healthcare industry including the assessment of both the external and internal environments and alignment of an organization's strengths and weaknesses with external threats and opportunities. The study of marketing functions, principles, and concepts as they relate to the healthcare delivery system is also included. Students develop skills by analyzing a real healthcare organization and recommending strategic and marketing decisions.

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

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**HA 5355. Emerging Trends in Healthcare Human Resources.**

This course identifies, analyzes, and suggests strategies for managing emerging human resource trends with a focus on the healthcare industry. Course emphasis includes responding to and providing leadership in the key human resource functions of employment, compensation, benefits, employee relations, leadership and staff development, and succession planning.

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

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**HA 5356. Policy Development in Healthcare Arena.**

Prospective healthcare administrators analyze changing healthcare paradigm to determine decision-points where policies can be affected. Course allows students to apply existing skills to real world policy issues at state and national levels and to analyze policy development from numerous stakeholders' viewpoints.

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

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**HA 5362. Healthcare Organizational Behavior, Theory, and Leadership.**

This course provides a foundation and conceptual framework for understanding and navigating healthcare organizational behavior, grounded in the study of organizational, management, leadership, motivation, teaming, and cultural theories, drawing from the behavioral and social sciences. Students learn and practice applied skills in communication, motivation, leadership, teaming, collaboration, facilitation, negotiation, decision-making, change and conflict management through an experiential-learning project.

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

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**HA 5371. Marketing of Health Services.**

A study of marketing functions and principles as they relate to the healthcare delivery system. Analysis of marketing concepts such as market segmentation, marketing planning, marketing audit, marketing positioning, and marketing mix will be discussed.

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

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**HA 5375. Healthcare Accounting.**

An introduction to financial accounting in healthcare with an emphasis on the preparation of non-profit financial statements for healthcare service organizations, control procedures for healthcare entities, and accounting issues unique to the healthcare industry. This course does not earn graduate degree credit.

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

**Course Attribute(s):** Exclude from Graduate GPA|Leveling

**Grade Mode:** Leveling/Assistantships

**HA 5399A. Thesis.**

This course represents students' initial thesis enrollment. No thesis credit is awarded until students have completed the thesis in Health Administration 5399B. Graded on a credit (CR), progress (PR), no-credit (F) basis.

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

**Grade Mode:** Credit/No Credit

**HA 5999B. Thesis.**

This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding.

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

**Grade Mode:** Credit/No Credit

**HA 5399B. Thesis.**

This course represents students' continuing thesis enrollments. Students continue to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Graded on a credit (CR), progress (PR), no-credit (F) basis.

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

**Grade Mode:** Credit/No Credit

**HA 5450. Administrative Field Placement.**

A one-semester, full-time field experience which allows students to apply their foundational didactic education by means of rotations, experiences, and projects in a healthcare organization. This course is graded on a credit (CR), no-credit (F) basis. Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

**4 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 20 Lab Contact Hours.**

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

**Grade Mode:** Credit/No Credit

**HA 5599B. Thesis.**

This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding.

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

**Grade Mode:** Credit/No Credit

**HA 5640. Administrative Practicum.**

This course includes a one semester, part-time field experience designed for students with prior healthcare management or leadership experience, working full-time in healthcare. The practicum provides a broader and more in-depth focus on students' exposure to special projects. This course is graded on a credit (CR), no-credit (F) basis. Prior Learning Experience Credit is available upon admission with supportive documentation for five or more years of healthcare management or leadership experience. Prior Learning Assessment is directly assessed by the Faculty Admission Committee, using application documentation.

**6 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 20 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Credit/No Credit

**HA 5840. Administrative Field Placement.**

A one-semester, full-time field experience which allows students to apply their foundational didactic education by means of rotations, experiences, and projects in a healthcare organization.

**8 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 40 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Credit/No Credit