Public Health

Required Courses

Why Choose Public Health?

Public health is the science and art of preventing illness and disease and promoting evidence-based health practices with the goal of improving the quality of life. It is concerned with threats to health based on population health analysis. The population in question can be as small as a handful of people, or as large as all the inhabitants of several continents. The dimensions of health can encompass a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, as defined by the United Nations World Health Organization (WHO). Public health incorporates the interdisciplinary approaches of epidemiology, biostatistics and a vast array of health services. A host of specialists including educators, journalists, researchers, administrators, environmental scientists, demographers, social workers, laboratory scientists and more, work to protect the health of the public. Public health professionals serve local, national and international communities in settings such as environmental health, occupational health, community health, behavioral health, health economics, public policy and insurance. Public health is a very rewarding field offering great personal fulfillment in serving others.

The FSU Master of Public Health (MPH) program focuses on the preparation of public health and health care practitioners to better serve the community’s health needs. Graduates of this program will be able to help improve the health status of the communities in which they live and work, most notably in the underserved, rural population areas. The theme of the FSU Public Health programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels is to address the need for an emphasis on “Public Health for Rural, Underserved Populations”.

Career Opportunities

With a Master of Public Health degree, one can work in the fields of health services administration, biostatistics, biomedical laboratory work, health and behavioral science education, environmental health, global health, nutrition, public health practice and program management, and epidemiology. Those with an MPH often work in public and private organizations, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Red Cross, American Cancer Society, federal health departments, food safety agencies, university systems in teaching and research, insurance companies, and pharmaceutical companies. Medical and health service managers (also called health care executives or health care administrators) plan, direct, and coordinate medical and health services.

In contrast to the entry level preparation of the graduate of the BSPH program, the MPH graduate is a member of the upper-level management team. Therefore, the MPH graduate should be able to perform advanced level job responsibilities of the public health professional.
Such job responsibilities differentiate the entry-level professional from upper-level management staff and include:

- Administration & Management of Programs and Staff
- Policy Development
- Grant Proposal Writing and Fund-Raising
- Budget Management
- Program Planning, Development and Assessment
- Research Design and Evaluation

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of labor Statistics, employment of health educators and community health workers is projected to grow 21 percent from 2012 to 2022, faster than the average for all occupations. Growth will be driven by efforts to improve health outcomes and to reduce health care costs by teaching people about healthy habits and behaviors and utilization of available health care services (source: http://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/health-educators.htm).

Depending on the area of public health practice, annual salaries can range from $40,000 to $160,000 (source: https://www.apha.org/what-is-public-health).

Admission Requirements

- Minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.00 scale in a bachelor degree from an accredited college or university.
- Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or equivalent taken within last 3 years (may be waived if applicant has a professional or academic degree in a relevant area).
- International applicants must submit a minimum paper or computer TOEFL score – Paper: 550; Computer: 213; TWE: 4 or TSE: 250.
- Completion of courses in the areas of mathematics, biology, chemistry, social sciences and statistics with minimal grades of “C”. These may be included in the undergraduate degree or taken prior to or concurrently in the MPH program.
- Personal statement of interest in public health.
- Three professional references.
- Professional resume.

Graduation Requirements

The Master of Public Health requires a minimum GPA of 3.0 or “B” or higher in all PUBH courses and no grade below “C” is acceptable for graduation. Degree requirements must be completed within a maximum of five years from the first enrollment in a graduate course following admission.

More Information

College of Health Professions
Ferris State University
200 Ferris Drive
Big Rapids, MI 49307
For more information about public health careers, programs and accreditation, please refer to the Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) website: http://www.aspph.org.

**ADA compliant checksheets are being developed for the 2019-2020 Catalog. If you would like to request an ADA compliant checksheet before the 19-20 catalog is published, please send your request to:** FSUCurriculum@ferris.edu