PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH)

Master of Public Health
Unit: School of Public Health and Information Sciences (https://louisville.edu/sphis/) (GH)
Program Website (https://louisville.edu/sphis/academics/mph-program/)
Academic Plan Code(s): See Concentration Requirements tab.

Program Information

Introduction
The Master of Public Health (MPH) degree program is designed to graduate students with skills in the core competencies in public health and additional competencies in one of the following concentrations: biostatistics, epidemiology, health policy, health promotion and behavioral sciences, or global public health.

Graduates of the MPH program are prepared for positions in the public health workforce, in health-related industries, and in academic organizations and for further professional or academic education.

Competencies
The MPH program has adopted the foundational competencies published by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH 2016 MPH Foundational Competencies (https://storage.googleapis.com/media.ceph.org/wp_assets/2016.Criteria.pdf)) and each MPH concentration has developed concentration-specific competencies.

The learning objectives for each core course in the MPH curriculum are mapped to these targeted foundational CEPH competencies and the learning objectives for courses offered in each concentration are mapped to the specific competencies developed for that concentration.

Concentrations
Concentrations are offered in each of the following areas of public health. Each concentration is designed to develop the competencies needed by a public health worker in the corresponding area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concentration</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biostatistics</td>
<td>Bioinformatics and Biostatistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
<td>Epidemiology and Population Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Policy</td>
<td>Health Management and System Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences</td>
<td>Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences</td>
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</tbody>
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Students are encouraged to declare their concentration at the time of application, though applications from students that do not declare a concentration are also accepted. For students declaring concentrations, the faculty in each concentration reviews applicants for acceptance. Applications from students that do not declare a concentration are reviewed for acceptance by the MPH Program Director.

Requirements for declaring concentrations in the MPH program after matriculation are:

• Undeclared students will need to identify to a concentration prior to November 15 of their first semester.
• The student must be in good standing in the MPH program.

Any undeclared student will first meet with the department chair or director of the concentration prior to declaring that concentration to determine if there are any additional criteria for admission to that concentration.

Accreditation
The School of Public Health and Information Sciences is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). For more information, see the School’s accreditation webpage (http://louisville.edu/sphis/accreditation/).

Accelerated Bachelor’s-MPH in Public Health
The accelerated degree program allows any qualifying undergraduate student to complete their undergraduate bachelor’s degree and the Master of Public Health (MPH) over a five year period. The first four years consist of undergraduate studies, including up to 15 credits of graduate level courses taken during the senior year, culminating in the award of a bachelor’s degree.

The fifth year, including the summer following graduation with a bachelor’s degree, consists of graduate coursework in public health, leading to completion of the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree. The Master of Public Health (MPH) degree program is designed to provide students with training in foundational MPH competencies as well as a specific area of concentration. MPH concentrations currently available for the accelerated program are:

• Epidemiology
• Health Policy
• Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences

MPH graduates are prepared for positions in the public health workforce, health-related industries, academic organizations, or for further professional or academic education.

The accelerated curriculum allows students to take a maximum of 15 credit hours of the Master of Public Health course work during their undergraduate studies.

For more information, please refer to the School of Public Health and Information Sciences Undergraduate Programs (https://louisville.edu/sphis/academics/bs-ba-public-health/bs-ba-in-public-health/) page.

Dual MPH in Health Policy - Masters in Health Administration
The dual MPH (Health Policy) - MSHA degree program facilitates development of advanced population and public health management professionals that may leverage knowledge and practices from both public health science and healthcare management domains to serve in leadership roles within public health institutions, federal-state-local agencies, and healthcare organizations. For more information about the dual program, please visit the program webpage (https://louisville.edu/sphis/departments/hmss/academics-1/dual-mph-in-health-policy-msha-program/).

Admission Requirements
The ideal candidate for admission to the MPH program has received the equivalent of a bachelor’s degree or higher, can comprehend and
communicate effectively in English, has the recommendations of at least three persons in a health-related or advanced education field, has performed satisfactorily on one or more standardized test, and is interested in pursuing a career in public health or a related field.

The requirements for admission to the MPH program are:

- Bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution or its equivalent
- Recommended minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- If a candidate's primary language is not English, one of the following:
  - Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam with a minimum score of 79 (after conversion for test type), official IELTS scores of at least 6.5 overall band score from the academic module exam or official Duolingo overall score of 105.
  - Degree from an accredited U.S. institution

Applicants must apply through the Centralized Application Service for Public Health, SOPHAS (https://sophas.org/).

An application is considered after the following requirements have been received:

- Three letters of recommendation written within the last twelve months.
- Official transcripts of all degrees.
- One-page personal statement written by the applicant that is a clear, substantive description of his or her goals in public health, noting any professional or research experience.
- GRE scores are not required for the following MPH concentrations: Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences, Health Policy, and Epidemiology.
- GRE scores are required for the MPH concentration in Biostatistics.
- International applicants: Foreign credential evaluation of all degrees from non-U.S. institutions. Please contact the MPH program prior to completing this requirement.
- Students applying with a concentration in Health Policy must be interviewed by the HMSS Health Leadership Committee.

**Application Deadline**

Fall semester – March 1 (International applicants). Applications are accepted on a rolling basis for domestic students. Domestic students are encouraged to apply no later than 30 days prior to the start of the fall semester.

Spring semester – Applications are not accepted.

Summer semester – Applications are not accepted.

For information on the application process, please contact:

**MPH Program**

School of Public Health and Information Sciences
University of Louisville
485 East Gray Street
Louisville, KY 40202

sphismph@louisville.edu

Phone: (502) 852-3289

Fax: (502) 852-3294

**Faculty Advisor**

On matriculation, each student is assigned a faculty advisor and is requested to meet at least twice each semester with his or her advisor.

If a student is admitted to a specific concentration, the director of the concentration will assign a specific faculty member as advisor. If students are admitted to the program as undeclared, the MPH program director will serve as their advisor. Undeclared students admitted to a specific concentration by the end of the first semester will be assigned a faculty advisor by the director of the concentration.

The faculty advisor serves as academic practicum advisor, academic mentor, and counselor on career and employment opportunities, professional development, and opportunities beyond graduate school.

**Program Requirements**

The MPH curriculum consists of core courses, concentration courses in one of the areas of public health, completion of a practicum experience, and completion of an integrating experience. The core courses are generally completed prior to taking concentration courses, the integrating experience, and the practicum.

Full-time students are expected to complete the program and graduate in two years. Part-time students are required to complete the program and graduate within six years.

**Coursework**

42-48 total credit hours:

- Twelve (12) credit hours of core courses
- Four (4) credit hours of Practice Experience
- Two (2) credit hours of Integrative Experience
- 24-30 credit hours of concentration coursework

Students must successfully complete core, concentration, practicum, and integrating experience coursework with a minimum GPA of 3.0.

**Academic Standing**

To maintain good academic standing in the MPH program, students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher for all coursework in the program. A student must be in good academic standing in order to receive the degree.

Any MPH student with a program cumulative GPA below 3.0 will be placed in probationary status. Any student who remains in probationary status for two consecutive terms may be considered for dismissal from the program.

**MPH Coursework**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHMS 501</td>
<td>Introduction to Public Health Practice and Administration</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHPB 501</td>
<td>Introduction to Public Health Behavior</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHEP 501</td>
<td>Introduction to Epidemiology</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHST 500</td>
<td>Introduction to Biostatistics for Health Sciences I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHPH 677</td>
<td>Public Health Practice Experience 1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHPH 678</td>
<td>Public Health Practice Experience 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHPH 679</td>
<td>Public Health Practicum Experience 3</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Public Health (MPH)

Integrative Experience  
PHPH 698  Public Health Integrative Learning Experience  

Concentration Coursework  24-30
See Concentration Requirements for specific coursework and a two-year (full-time) Plan of Study

Minimum Total Hours  42-48

Concentration courses (minimum 24 credit hours)
All students seeking an MPH degree in the School of Public Health and Information Sciences must take a minimum of 24 credit hours in their selected concentration. For a detailed description of coursework for each of the concentrations, click on "Concentration Requirements" in the menu above.

Concentration Requirements  

Concentration in Biostatistics  
Academic Plan Code(s): PH__MPHBIO  
42 total credit hours, made up of the following:

Twelve (12) credit hours of MPH core coursework  
Four (4) credit hours of Practice Experience  
Two (2) credit hours of Integrative Experience  
24 credit hours of required courses in Biostatistics  

The Biostatistics concentration is not available for completion by accelerated MPH students.

Year 1  
Fall  
PHMS 501  Introduction to Public Health Practice and Administration  3  
PHPB 501  Introduction to Public Health Behavior  3  
PHEP 501  Introduction to Epidemiology  3  
PHST 500  Introduction to Biostatistics for Health Sciences I  3  

Hours  12  

Spring  
PHST 501  Introduction to Biostatistics for Health Sciences II  3  
PHMS 641  Data Mining I  3  
PHEP 627  Introduction to Survey Research  3  
PHPH 677  Public Health Practice Experience 1  1  

Hours  12  

Year 2  
Fall  
PHEP 602  Introduction to Epidemiologic Methods  3  
PHEP 609  Epidemiology of Cardiometabolic Disease  2  
PHEP 620  Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology  3  
PHPH 678  Public Health Practice Experience 2  1  

Hours  9  

Spring  
PHEP 607  Epidemiology of Cancer  2  
PHEP 655  Emerging Issues in Epidemiology  3  
One of the following:

PHEP 666  Master's Independent Study in Epidemiology and Population Health  3  
PHPE Selective (see list below)  3  
PHPH 679  Public Health Practicum Experience 3  2  
PHPH 698  Public Health Integrative Learning Experience  2  

Hours  12  

Minimum Total Hours  45

1  Epidemiology Electives: Availability of the following courses will vary each year as epidemiology selectives with consideration to faculty workloads:

- PHEP 606 Genetic and Molecular Epidemiology  
- PHEP 613 Epidemiology of Aging and Disability  
- PHEP 624 Methods in Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology  
- PHEP 626 Introduction to Social Epidemiology  
- PHEP 611 Nutritional Epidemiology

Concentration in Epidemiology  
Academic Plan Code(s): PH__MPHEPI  

- Accelerated BA in Public Health-MPH: PHBAMPHEPA  
- Accelerated BS in Public Health-MPH: PHBSMPHEPA  
- Accelerated BA/BS-MPH for non-Public Health majors: PHMPHEPA

Students concentrating in the MPH Epidemiology Program will be required to fulfill a minimum of 45 credit hours including the following:

Twelve (12) credit hours of MPH core coursework  
Four (4) credit hours of Practice Experience  
Two (2) credit hours of Integrative Experience  
24 credit hours of required courses in Epidemiology  
Three (3) credit hours (maximum) of either: a) an epidemiology selective 1 or b) an independent study (i.e., PHEP 666) 2

Year 1  
Fall  
PHMS 501  Introduction to Public Health Practice and Administration  3  
PHPB 501  Introduction to Public Health Behavior  3  
PHEP 501  Introduction to Epidemiology  3  
PHST 500  Introduction to Biostatistics for Health Sciences I  3  

Hours  12  

Spring  
PHST 501  Introduction to Biostatistics for Health Sciences II  3  
PHEP 627  Survey Research Methods  3  
PHEP 604  Epidemiology of Infectious Disease  2  
PHEP 616  Disease Surveillance and Health Statistics  3  
PHPH 677  Public Health Practice Experience 1  1  

Hours  12  

Year 2  
Fall  
PHEP 602  Introduction to Epidemiologic Methods  3  
PHEP 609  Epidemiology of Cardiometabolic Disease  2  
PHEP 620  Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology  3  
PHPH 678  Public Health Practice Experience 2  1  

Hours  9  

Spring  
PHEP 607  Epidemiology of Cancer  2  
PHEP 655  Emerging Issues in Epidemiology  3  
One of the following:

PHEP 666  Master's Independent Study in Epidemiology and Population Health  3  
PHEP Selective (see list below)  3  
PHPH 679  Public Health Practicum Experience 3  2  
PHPH 698  Public Health Integrative Learning Experience  2  

Hours  12  

Minimum Total Hours  45

1  Epidemiology Electives: Availability of the following courses will vary each year as epidemiology selectives with consideration to faculty workloads:

- PHEP 606 Genetic and Molecular Epidemiology  
- PHEP 613 Epidemiology of Aging and Disability  
- PHEP 624 Methods in Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology *  
- PHEP 626 Introduction to Social Epidemiology  
- PHEP 611 Nutritional Epidemiology
• PHEP 615 Foundations of Global Maternal and Child Health *
• PHEP 625 Child Health & Development *

2 PHEP 666 Master’s Independent Study in Epidemiology and Population Health may be taken as an optional course for MPH Epi-concentration students who wish to supplement their learning experience via independent research with a faculty member. Enrollment is limited to three (3) credit hours for an MPH student.

*Availability subject to coordination with Global Health Concentration. Non-epidemiology courses also may be selected pending program and instructor permissions; all courses offered by SPHIS are pre-approved except those required for the MS or PhD in Epidemiology (PHEP 618, PHEP 621, PHEP 622, PHEP 623, PHEP 701, PHEP 702, PHEP 750, PHEP 778) for which both program and instructor permission will be required for enrollment.

Concentration in Health Policy

Academic Plan Code(s): PH_-_MPHHPC

• Accelerated BA in Public Health-MPH: PHBAMPHHPA
• Accelerated BS in Public Health-MPH: PHBSMPHHPA
• Accelerated BA/BS-MPH for non-Public Health majors: PHMPHHPA

48 total hours, made up of the following:

Twelve (12) credit hours of MPH core coursework
Four (4) credit hours of Practice Experience
Two (2) credit hours of Integrative Experience
21 credit hours of concentration coursework
9 credit hours of Health Policy elective coursework

The Health Policy concentration is not available for completion by accelerated MPH students.

Concentration in Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences

Academic Plan Code(s): PH_-_MPHHKC

• Accelerated BA in Public Health-MPH: PHBAMPHHKA
• Accelerated BS in Public Health-MPH: PHBSMPHHKA
• Accelerated BA/BS-MPH for non-Public Health majors: PHMPHHKA

45 total hours, made up of the following:

Twelve (12) credit hours of MPH core coursework
Four (4) credit hours of Practice Experience
Two (2) credit hours of Integrative Experience
27 credit hours of concentration coursework

Recommended Health Policy Electives*

• PHMS 685 Health Operations & Management Science
• PHMS 615 Introduction to Health Systems
• PHPB 705 Policy to Advance Health Equity
• URBS 661 Public Management
• URBS 653 Urban Policy Analysis
• PHMS 700 Introduction to Health Services Research*
• PHMS 708 Population Health and Health Disparities*
• PHMS 715 Health Policy Research*
• SOC 618 Qualitative Research Methods*

*Students interested in pursuing the PhD in Public Health Sciences-specialization-health-management-policy/) should align their health policy electives with PhD courses to save up to nine (9) credit hours in the doctoral program.
### Program Requirements

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHMS 501</td>
<td>Introduction to Public Health Practice and Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHPB 501</td>
<td>Introduction to Public Health Behavior</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHEP 501</td>
<td>Introduction to Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Year 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHPB 612</td>
<td>Health Communication: Theory and Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>PHPB 614</td>
<td>Public Health Intervention Design, Implementation, and Sustainment</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>PHPB 635</td>
<td>Health Promotion Policy Development</td>
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<td>Public Health Practice Experience 1</td>
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<td>Year 3</td>
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<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHMS 505</td>
<td>Governance and Management of Healthcare Organizations (elective #1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHMS 680</td>
<td>Health Management Leadership Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHMS 681</td>
<td>Population Health Quantitative Methods (elective #2)</td>
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<td>PHMS 682</td>
<td>Population Health Information Management</td>
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<td>PHMS 683</td>
<td>Healthcare Quality Management</td>
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<td>PHPH 678</td>
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<td>PHPMS 691</td>
<td>MSHA Practicum Experience II</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
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<td>PHPB 611</td>
<td>Community-Centered Engagement and Assessment</td>
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<td>PHMS 684</td>
<td>Project Management for Population Health</td>
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<td>PHPH 679</td>
<td>Public Health Practicum Experience 3</td>
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<td>PHPMS 692</td>
<td>MSHA Practicum III</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHPMS 698</td>
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