

Prospective Student Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What sets California State University, Fullerton's MPH program apart from other schools?

The MPH program provides a valuable link between the University and the community in a most important way, the public health of all citizens in Orange County. The CSUF program was the first accredited MPH program in Orange County, and has been successfully graduating outstanding students since 2004. The goals of the MPH mirror the University. In addition to ensuring the pre-eminence of learning, the MPH provides a high quality program that meets the evolving health needs of our students, our community and our region. The program's interdisciplinary nature fosters collaborations among members of different academic disciplines as well as between students and faculty. As a result, students have the opportunity to succeed not only in their academic studies but also as leaders in the community.

Q: What types of learning objectives should I expect as a student in the MPH program?

Students will learn to:

1. Become proficient in the knowledge areas that are integral to public health. These include: biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental health sciences, program planning and social and behavioral sciences.
2. Apply CEPH* approved public health competencies and collaborative models to solve public health problems.
3. Understand the influence of a multi-cultural society on health and behavior change.
4. Integrate public health knowledge and experience in a community or worksite setting.
5. Become proficient in research skills (i.e. research design, methods, analyses and reporting).
6. Apply leadership skills through coursework and experience in program planning, program design, implementation, administration and evaluation.

*CEPH, the Council on Education for Public Health, is an independent agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to provide accreditation to schools and programs of public health.

Q: I work in the day; will the program accommodate my needs?

Yes, the program is geared towards working professionals. All core (required) classes start at either 4:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. Electives vary on course schedule times and some electives are available as on-line options.

Q: How do I apply?

Graduate applications are available on-line at <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply>. Applications are for **Fall semesters only**. No students are admitted for the Spring semester. Use the Application Procedures form posted on the website as a checklist for department or Admissions Office requirements/requests.

Q: What is required for admission to the Master of Public Health program?

Students must apply to both the department and the university for admission. Minimum requirements for **admission to the university** are:



The minimum requirements for admission to master's and post baccalaureate studies at a California State University campus are in accordance with University regulations, as well as Title 5, chapter 1, Subchapter 3 of the California Code of Regulations. Specifically a student shall at the time of enrollment:

- Have completed a four year college course of study and hold an acceptable baccalaureate degree from an institution accredited by a regional accrediting association, or equivalent preparation as determined by appropriate campus authorities;
- Be in good academic standing at the last college or university attended;
- Have attained a grade point average of at least 2.5 in an acceptable earned baccalaureate degree or attained a grade point average of at least 2.5 in the last 60 semesters units (90 quarter units) attempted; (Department graduate programs may require a higher GPA.)
- Satisfactorily meet the professional, personal, scholastic, and other standards for graduate study, including qualifying examinations, as appropriate campus authorities may prescribe.
- For international students, all applicants, regardless of citizenship, whose native language is other than English are required to submit proof of English proficiency before an admissions decision can be made

For a complete list of requirements always refer to the Graduate Studies website at <http://www.fullerton.edu/graduate/prospectivestudents/>

After meeting the above criteria, **additional requirements for acceptance into the MPH program** include:

1. Official transcript(s) from all college work sent directly to the CSUF Office of Admissions.
2. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score.
Please send the GRE score to:
School Code: 4589
Department Code: 0616
3. Two letters of recommendation (completed via Cal State Apply).
4. A statement of purpose (300-500 words describing how the program relates to professional goals.
5. A current resume.
6. Completion of 3 units of statistics and/or research methods (appropriate courses include: statistics, epidemiology, research methods, calculus, etc.) with a grade **B** or better.
7. Appropriate educational background for the public health program.
8. A cumulative GPA of 2.7.
9. Paid or volunteer experience in public health, health education or related health area.
10. Interview upon request.

Q: Is the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) required for admission?

Yes, the GRE is required for admission to the MPH program. The general test of the GRE is the only standardized test accepted for the MPH application. GRE scores will be accepted until the application deadline.

Q: Is there a minimum GRE score required for admission?

No, there is no minimum score requirement.

Q: What are the degree requirements?

Forty-two units are required for the MPH degree; thirty-three units of coursework must be 500 level courses.

Required Core Competency Courses (24 units)

HESC 500 Issues in Public Health (3 units)
HESC 501 Advanced Methods in Epidemiology (3 units)
HESC 508 Statistical Methods in Health Science (3 units)
HESC 510 Research Methods in Health Science (3 units)
HESC 515 Advanced Environmental Health (3 units)
HESC 524 Public Health Administration (3 units)
HESC 535 Advanced Study in Program Planning and Evaluation (3 units)
HESC 540 Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (3 units)

Internship

HESC 550 Graduate Internship (6 units)

Per our accreditation with the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), each student is required to complete 240 hours of internship. Students may begin the internship after completing all Core Competency Courses and two (2) electives. Usually students begin their internship in the spring semester of year 2. More details can be found under the Requirements section; subject to change.

Electives (9 to 12 units)

Selected from approved electives list provided to students

Culminating Experience

HESC 597 Project (3 units)
HESC 598 Thesis (3 units), or
Comprehensive Examination (0 units, must take additional 3 unit elective)

Q: How long will it take to complete the MPH program?

The Master of Public Health program can be completed in 2 years if students enroll in 9 units each semester and 6 units during the summer between year 1 and year 2. Two Core Competency courses (HESC 515, HESC 524) are **offered during the summer only**.

Q: Do you require summer course work?

Yes. Two Core Competency courses (HESC 515, HESC 524) are **offered during the summer only**. Most students enroll in these courses the summer between year 1 and year 2. If you choose not to take courses during the summer of the first academic year you are enrolled, you will have to wait to take them the summer of the next academic year. For example, if you began your MPH in Fall 2018, most students would enroll in HESC 515 and HESC 524 during Summer 2019. If you choose not to enroll in Summer 2019, then you will have to wait until Summer 2020 to take the courses. You cannot receive your MPH degree until you have completed all Core Competency courses, internship, electives and the culminating experience.

Q: How often do summer courses meet?

Since time is compressed in the Summer session, classes meet three times a week, after 4pm. The courses do not overlap. One course is taught in Summer session A (5 weeks, usually starting late May or beginning of June) and the other in Summer session B (5 weeks, usually starting early July).

Q: What other work is needed besides the Core Competency requirements?

In addition to Core Competency requirements students will take internship, approved elective courses and choose a culminating experience.

Internship

HESC 550 Graduate Internship (6 units). The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) requires 240 hours of internship. Students may begin the internship after completing all Core Competency courses and two (2) electives. Usually students begin their internship in the spring semester of year 2. More details can be found under the Requirements section.

Electives

Students will work with a faculty to select 9-12 units of electives to support career areas in health promotion and disease prevention, environmental and occupational health and safety, or gerontological health. These career tracks allow students to select unique combinations of courses appropriate for their professional objectives.

Culminating experience

Students will choose one (1) of the following: HESC 597 Project (3 units), HESC 598 Thesis (3 units), or Comprehensive Exam (0 units). Students who choose the comprehensive examination must complete an additional adviser-approved course (3 units) to meet the 42 unit degree requirement.

Q: Can you tell me more about the health promotion and disease prevention, environmental and occupational health and safety, and gerontological health advisory tracks?

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Track

This practitioner oriented program addresses behavioral theory, communication and motivation processes, community intervention strategies, strategies for dealing with multicultural populations, and evaluation procedures for community health promotion and primary prevention. Graduates are prepared to:

- Assess individual and community health needs;
- Plan effective health education and health promotion programs;
- Conduct health education and health promotion research;
- Manage and supervise health education programs in a variety of settings.

Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety Track

The environmental and occupational health and safety career track provides students with the necessary scientific and public health background to protect the general public and workers from adverse effects caused by exposure to harmful agents in air, water, soil, food and consumer products. Graduates are prepared to:

- Recognize safety and health hazards in the workplace;



Characterize exposures to airborne chemicals, noise and other occupational hazards;
Recommend personal protective equipment, engineering controls and management controls for safety and health hazards.
Function as a safety and health professional within a management structure, including working with managers, labor representatives, occupational health physicians and nurses, ergonomists and industrial engineers.

Gerontological Health Track

The gerontological health career track provides students with the opportunity to develop in-depth understanding of human aging in society as they prepare for professional practice within the field of public health gerontology. Gerontological knowledge, skills, and attitudes related to developing, implementing, and evaluating community based health programs for older populations are addressed. Graduates may be involved in:

Providing direct services to older adults;
Planning and managing health and social service programs;
Advocating the need for services, resources, and health policies for older adults;
Evaluating community programs for the elderly.

Q: Do 300-level courses count toward the Master's Degree?

To be included in the degree, courses must be a 400- or 500-level. Students may take 300- level courses, but these are not counted towards meeting the 42 unit degree requirement.

Q: What about transferring from other schools?

If approved by the graduate adviser, graduate students may transfer a limited amount of transfer course work (as electives) from other universities to their Study Plans. See the "Graduate Regulations" section of the CSUF catalog for transfer requirements. Or refer to the Graduate Studies website at www.fullerton.edu/graduate

Q: How do I know if the courses are transferable?

Core Competency courses are not transferable at this time. All 30 units must be taken at CSUF.

Certain electives may be transferable. During the first semester of the program, make an appointment to meet with the Graduate Advisor. Come to the meeting with a copy of your transcripts, the course description from the university catalog and course syllabus.
Generally, the courses are NOT transferable if: (1) the courses have been used to complete (a) general education requirements, (b) bachelor's degree requirements, (c) graduate degree requirements, (2) they are not within your five (5) year limit, (3) they are not graduate level or upper division, (4) you earned below a "B."

Q: How long do I have to finish the Master of Public Health program?

Five (5) years, beginning with the semester of the earliest course on your study plan. When individual circumstances warrant, this time limit may be extended to seven (7) years by filing a petition with the Office of Graduate Studies. The Graduate Advisor and the Office of Graduate Studies must both give prior approval for extending the time limit for the degree.

Please consult the Office of Graduate Studies website at www.fullerton.edu/graduate for a more

detailed explanation.

Q: What type of leadership positions should I expect to acquire with my Master of Public Health?

- Government Agencies: local, state, federal, and international (various health-related departments, environmental and occupational agencies);
- Hospitals and Health Care Institutions: health maintenance organizations, residential care to community improvement programs;
- Not-for-profit Organizations such as national, state and local voluntary agencies; and
- Private Corporations providing wellness/health & safety programs for employees.

Q: What are some specific topics I could study with my Master of Public Health?

Some topics include but are not limited to:

- AIDS
- Cancer
- Career Opportunities in Public Health
- Children's Health
- Chronic Disease and Disorders
- Community Health, Health Promotion, and Advocacy
- Epidemiology
- Environmental and Occupational Health
- Food Safety and Issues
- Governmental Health Agencies
- Health Services Research
- Injury and Violence Prevention
- International Resources
- Mental Health
- National and Professional Health Organizations
- Reproductive Health
- Resource Locators
- Schools of Public Health
- Social Marketing
- State and Local Health Departments
- Tobacco Control and Prevention
- Traffic Safety
- Upcoming Public Health Events
- Additional Public Health Resources

A: What is the difference between public health and clinical health professions?

While public health is comprised of many professional disciplines such as medicine, dentistry, nursing, optometry, nutrition, social work, environmental sciences, health education, health services administration, and the behavioral sciences, its activities focus on entire populations rather than on individual patients. Public health professionals monitor and diagnose the health concerns of entire communities and promote healthy practices and behaviors to assure our populations stay healthy. Communities need public health all of the time in order to stay healthy.

A: What are some examples of public health issues dealing with populations?

- Assures our drinking and recreational waters are safe

- Prevents pollution of our air and land through enforcement of regulatory controls and management of hazardous wastes
- Eradicates life threatening diseases such as smallpox and polio
- Controls and prevents infectious diseases and outbreaks such as measles, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and the Ebola virus
- Reduces death and disability due to unintentional injuries through the formulation of policies designed to protect the safety of the public, such as seat belt and worker safety laws
- Facilitates community empowerment to improve mental health, reduce substance abuse and social violence
- Promotes healthy lifestyles to prevent chronic diseases such as cancer, heart disease and obesity
- Educates populations at risk to reduce sexually transmitted diseases, teen pregnancy and infant mortality
- Assures access to cost-effective care
- Evaluates the effectiveness of clinical and community-based interventions

**Adopted: Fall 1994, Source: Public Health Functions Steering Committee, Members (July 1995): American Public Health Association• Association of Schools of Public Health• Association of State and Territorial Health Officials• Environmental Council of the States• National Association of County and City Health Officials• National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors• National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors• Public Health Foundation• U.S. Public Health Service --Agency for Health Care Policy and Research• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention• Food and Drug Administration• Health Resources and Services Administration• Indian Health Service• National Institutes of Health• Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health• Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration*