

# PUBLIC HEALTH

Degree:	Master of Public Health
Certificates:	Environmental Health, Health Care Ethics, Infection Control, Medical Informatics, Emergency Management, Occupational Safety and Health
School:	Allied Health and Life Sciences Building 58, Room 79 (850) 473-7226 <a href="http://uwf.edu/sahls/">http://uwf.edu/sahls/</a> <a href="mailto:sahls@uwf.edu">sahls@uwf.edu</a>
College:	Arts and Sciences

The mission of the UWF Master of Public Health program is to empower a generation of public health professionals with skills, knowledge and competencies to contribute creatively and ethically to education, research and service to promote public health and disease prevention. The MPH degree is the most widely recognized professional credential for leadership in public health. The program core courses provides students with a background in environmental health, epidemiology, social and behavioral sciences, biostatistics, computer applications in public health, health care policy and administration. Additionally students complete an internship in a public health/health care environment. Elective courses offer students the opportunity to tailor their degree to best fit their career goals.

Public Health is a broad field that is open to students from diverse academic disciplines including Health Sciences, Education, Business, Social and Natural Sciences, and others. This is a totally online program. The MPH Program is partnered with several academic centers/certificate programs that broaden the educational opportunities available to students in the program, including the Association for Health Care Ethics, the Medical Informatics Certificate Program, the Department of Nursing, the Program in Clinical Laboratory Sciences, and certificates in—Infection Control, Environmental Health, Emergency Management, Occupational Safety and Health, and others. Close relationships with-county health departments in the region as well as with area hospitals and the military provide a strong foundation in the health care and public health communities for enhancing and broadening the internship opportunities for students in the program, and for engaging these community partners in the design and conduct of the program. Out of area students may arrange appropriate internship sites approved by the MPH Curriculum Committee. The UWF MPH Program is seeking accreditation from the Council on Education in Public Health.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

General university requirements for admission to graduate programs are described in the Graduate Admissions section. Graduate departments are currently developing departmental admission guidelines to govern admission to their specific disciplines. Refer to individual departments for more details regarding acceptable graduate admissions test, minimum score requirements, etc. In addition to general university requirements applicants must submit the following items directly to the department:

- Three letters of recommendation

- Two person writing samples (e.g., written reports completed by the applicant or other representative samples of professional writing skills). Students with writing deficiencies may be admitted conditionally pending successful completion of the online course ENC 3250: Professional Writing
- Possess basic computer competency
- Applicants with insufficient training in statistics or those that have taken a statistics course more than seven years ago may be admitted conditionally pending demonstration of proficiency within the first year in the program by either
  - Taking and passing STA 2023: Elements of Statistics. This option is highly advised for students with limited or no background in statistics (e.g. a student who has never taken a course in statistics or has taken a statistics course more than seven years ago).
  - Taking and passing online STA 5176: Biostatistics. This option is advised for students who feel they can successfully complete Biostatistics on a graduate level.
- Upon acceptance into the program, each student must read, sign, and submit the MPH Honor Code Form and adhere to the principles in this code while a student

Other criteria may apply. Applicants with insufficient training in public health or other health and biological sciences will be required to take two foundational proficiency courses (HSC5506 Advanced Epidemiology, and HSC5552 Communicable and Degenerative Diseases) that will NOT count toward the degree requirements.

Students from the Navy and Army Medical Residency Programs entering the MPH will substitute designated courses in areas relevant to the military Aerospace Medicine and Toxicology for six semester hours of electives.

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Students must maintain an overall grade average of "B" or better in order to remain in good standing within the program and in order to graduate from the program. Students must achieve no less than a grade of "C" in any course in the MPH.

Before the end of their academic program and after completing the core courses, all students are required to take and pass with a grade of 70% or better in each of the five core subject areas of public health. Students within UWF's geographic area must complete the exam requirements at UWF.

Core courses in the MPH program and some elective courses may require exams to be taken under the supervision of an approved proctor within the geographic location of the student, or require Web conferencing using a Webcam. Proctor and Webcam fees are the responsibility of the student. Software to engage in Web

conferencing is available free of charge, and inexpensive Webcams can be utilized with this service.

As indicated in the program description, all students are required to satisfactorily complete (with a grade of "C" or better) a supervised internship experience (6 sh total) that includes documentation of:

1. Practice skills - planned, supervised, and evaluated by an approved preceptor, documenting application of the knowledge, skills, and academic objectives of the MPH degree program. Residents in preventive medicine, occupational medicine, aerospace medicine, and public health and general preventive medicine completing their academic year in the program may count their practicum year, accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, as the required practice skills for the MPH program.
2. Culminating experience - demonstrating synthesis and integration of knowledge and documented with a written report and defense on research conducted during practice skills training. Depending on the geographic location of the student, the defense may be completed in person at UWF or via Web conferencing using a Webcam.

No more than 49% of the program requirements for the degree may be taken in traditional business subjects.

Students qualified to enroll in graduate studies but who do not have the required documents by the application deadline date, or those who do not intend to work toward a graduate degree, may complete up to 12 hours as non-degree seeking students.

The public health competencies applied to Academic Learning Plan for programmatic assessment of the MPH, which includes Student Learning Outcomes, are available at <http://uwf.edu/sahls/>. Some exams in this program require proctoring at testing sites approved by the course instructor.

**Master of Public Health Core Courses (24 sh)**

HSA	5115	Public Health Care Policy and Administration.....	3
PHC	5410	Social and Behavioral Sciences in Public Health .....	3
PHC	6000	Epidemiology for Public Health Professionals.....	3
PHC	6300	Survey of Environmental Problems.....	3
PHC	6946	Internship in Public Health .....	6
STA	5176	Biostatistics .....	3

Choose one:

PHC	6015	Epidemiological Study Design and Statistical Methods .....	3
PHC	6196	Computer Applications in Public Health .....	3

**Master of Public Health Specialization Courses (18 sh)**

Choose 18 sh of coursework (including at least one 6000 level course) from the following in consultation with your academic advisor:

BSC	5856	Bioterrorism.....	3
BUL	5605	Legal Fundamentals of Health Care and	
HSC	5185	Public Health Preparedness .....	3
HSC	6528	Strategies for Prevention of Infectious Disease.....	3
PHC	6005	Disease Transmission in the Urban Environment.....	3
PHC	6015	Epidemiological Study Design and Statistical Methods (if not taken as a core course).....	3
PHC	6196	Computer Applications in Public Health (if not taken as a core course) .....	3
PHC	6251	Disease Surveillance and Monitoring.....	3
PHC	6310	Environmental Toxicology .....	3
MCB	5273	Epidemiology of Infectious Disease .....	3
		Public Health .....	3
		Allowed substitutions for military residence programs .....	6

Restricted Electives up to 6 credits total (2 courses) may also be chosen from the course groupings below:

HSA	5436	Health Economics .....	3
or			
HSA	5438	Business Analysis and Decision Making in Health Care.....	3
or			
HSC	5655	Theoretical Foundations of Health Care Ethics .....	3
PHC	5355	Fundamentals of Occupational Safety and Health .....	3
or			
PHC	5356	Fundamentals of Industrial Hygiene .....	3
HSA	5197	Introduction to Medical Informatics .....	3
or			
HSA	5198	Electronic Clinical Record Systems .....	3
or			
HSC	5512	Health Care Quality, Statistics, and Database Management.....	3
or			
BSC	5459	Introduction to Bioinformatics .....	3

**Elective Restrictions - Students may only count 6 credits total (2 courses) from the "Restricted Electives" groupings specified above toward the MPH 42-credithour graduation requirement.**