

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Mission Statement

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.

Student Learning Outcomes [Program Competencies]

Graduates with a Master of Public Health degree from the University of West Florida should be able to:

Content [Basic Public Health Sciences Skills]

- Assess and describe the health status of populations, determinants of health and illness, factors contributing to health promotion and disease prevention, and factors influencing the use of health services as demonstrated through the required MPH internship.
- Describe public health science research methods used in this internship.
- Identify the basic public health sciences used in this internship, including behavioral and social sciences, biomedical sciences, biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental health, and prevention of chronic and infectious diseases and injuries. (Many internships use more than one of the public health sciences)
- Articulate the historical development and structure of state, local, and federal public health agencies.
- Identify and retrieve current relevant scientific evidence for public health practice.

Critical Thinking [Analytic Skills]

- Define the health problem being addressed in the internship.
- Describe the use of data, statistical methods, and/or laboratory procedures used in addressing the problem.
- Describe the basic research design used in addressing the problem.
- Critically apply descriptive and inferential methodologies according to the type of study design for answering a particular research question.
- Explain how the data illuminate ethical, political, scientific, economic, and overall public health issues.
- Evaluate data and the application of those data to ethical, political, scientific, economic, and overall public health issues.
- Demonstrate relevant inferences from the data.

Communication [Communication Skills (and Informatics)]

- Communicate effectively both in writing and orally.
- Present results of statistical analyses to a target audience.
- Accurately and effectively present, orally or in writing, demographic, statistical, programmatic, and scientific information for professional and lay audiences.
- Effectively solicits input from the community on public health.
- Using results of data analysis, advocate for public health programs and resources.
- Lead and participate in groups to address specific issues.

Integrity/Values [Social and Cultural Skills]

- Describe the role of cultural diversity and cultural competency in public health program planning.
- Demonstrate sensitively and professionalism in interacting with persons from diverse cultural, socioeconomic, educational, and professional backgrounds, and with persons of all ages and lifestyle preferences.
- Identify and describe the role of cultural, social, and behavioral factors in determining disease, disease prevention, and health promoting behavior, and medical service organization and delivery.
- Develop and adapt approaches to problems that take into account cultural differences.
- Employ techniques for involving community groups in devising solutions to their non public health problems.

Project Management [Policy Development/Program Planning/Management Skills]

- Design and develop a study plan, including data collection and analytical methods to address a specific public health problem.
- Collect, analyze and summarize data relevant to the public health issue addressed in the internship.
- State policy options and summarize the public health, fiscal, administrative, economic, ethical, scientific, legal, social, and political implications of each policy option as they affect decision making in public health policy.
- State the feasibility and expected outcomes of each policy option.
- Decide on the appropriate course of action, write a clear and concise policy statement, and implement the policy, including goals, outcome and process objectives, and implementation steps.
- Develop mechanisms to monitor and evaluate programs for their performance, effectiveness, and quality.
- Apply basic human relations skills to the management of organizations and the resolution of conflicts.

Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes:

Graduate students in the Master of Public Health program will acquire advanced skills and knowledge that enable them to enter the public health profession or pursue additional graduate studies at the doctoral level. Direct assessment in this program is conducted using examinations, short essays that incorporate public health principles, theories and concepts to problem solving, semester projects, an objective comprehensive exam, and evaluation of student performance in the Internship in Public Health course, which are the required culminating experiences at the end of a student's program of study. The internship provides field experience in a public health related area under the direction of a preceptor, requires a written report on the research conducted, and includes a final oral defense (conducted in person or via Web conferencing) of the conclusions and recommendations included in the report. The student will be assessed on abilities to integrate core public health principles of epidemiology, evaluation, and data analysis into practice, collaborate and communicate effectively during the internship to solve public health problems, abide by ethical standards in the conduct of research with humans and animals, make a creative contribution to the field, and work independently on internship research and tasks within reasonable timeframes. Indirect assessment practices in this program include an exit survey and student evaluations of courses. The comprehensive exam is intended to assess the student's ability to apply the core competencies of public health acquired in the core, required and elective courses in the program.

Job Prospects for Master of Public Health Graduates

Public Health (county, state, national, and international opportunities)
Community Health
Infection Control
Medical Research
Industry
Government

Education
Health Professions
Research Laboratories
Teaching
Pollution Control
Environmental Health

Find out more about the Master of Public Health at UWF:

<http://uwf.edu/sahls/masters-ph>