Frequently Asked Questions

Which degrees are offered at the School of Public Health?
MS, MPH, PhD, DrPH, joint MPH/MSW, joint MD/MPH degrees, as well as Certificate programs in areas of public health, are all available at the School. Students will concentrate their degree in one of four departments: Biomedical Sciences; Environmental Health Sciences; Epidemiology & Biostatistics; or Health Policy, Management, & Behavior.

What is the difference between an MPH and an MS degree?
The difference between the MPH and the MS degree is breadth versus depth. MPH students are required to take at least one introductory course in Health Policy & Management, Social Behavior, Environmental Health Sciences, Epidemiology & Biostatistics, and Biomedical Sciences, thereby providing them with a broader understanding of the expanse of public health. MS students take the majority of their course work within their department to become well versed in their chosen field and complete a major research project with a written thesis whereas the MPH students complete 9 credits of internship work.

Are internships required to complete a degree?
Internships are an integral part of the School of Public Health’s mission. Each semester internship opportunities at DOH, community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, county health departments, and private sector businesses are made exclusively available to the School’s student body. Students also have the option to find other professionally fulfilling opportunities through the School’s long-standing relationships with many other organizations, alumni, and the Center for Global Health.

Which undergraduate degrees are appropriate for Public Health?
Some examples of appropriate degrees are, but are not limited to: Human Biology, Health Sciences, Sociology, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Ecology, Anthropology, Health and Wellness, Nursing, Communications, Business, and Psychology.

What student support programs exist?
Upon enrollment students are matched with a Faculty Advisor who serves as the student’s main resource while at the School of Public Health. An internship director is available to assist students in identifying internships that suit each student’s interests and career goals. As interns, students will have assigned mentors on site with whom they will be in frequent contact. The Internships and Career Services Office is also available to assist students with resume writing and the establishing of career goals. Assistants to the Chair in each academic department are also a significant source of student support.

Can a part time student complete the MPH degree?
Part-time study is permitted. It is recommended that students carry at least three credits per semester and are continuously registered. In accordance with University policy, all degree requirements must be completed within six years.

Can I substitute the MCAT test scores for the GRE?
MCAT scores may be submitted in place of the GREs for most programs at the School of Public Health. The MCAT is not accepted for programs in Biomedical Sciences or Environmental Health Sciences.

What are the average GRE scores and average GPA of applicants to the MPH Program at the School of Public Health?
The average GRE scores of students admitted into the MPH program are: Verbal – 153, Quant. - 150 and Writing- 4.0. The average GPA is 3.35.

What is the tuition for study at the University at Albany School of Public Health?
The 2014-15 tuition is $432/credit or $10,370/year for New York State residents and $841/credit or $20,190/year for out-of-state students. Complete information on tuition and fees can be found at www.albany.edu/studentaccounts.

Are there fellowships and graduate assistantships available?
The School of Public Health offers a limited number of Graduate Assistantships to entering students. The applications and eligibility criteria for these awards can be found at our website www.albany.edu/sph/admissions.php and must be submitted by the specified
deadline. Each department may also offer additional funding opportunities for doctoral students; please consult with the individual departments for more information.

How do I apply?
The School of Public Health uses an external application service (SOPHAS) as its primary application tool. To apply to the MS, MPH, PhD or DrPH, please go to www.sophas.org and submit all credentials as instructed. Applicants interested in the MPH/MSW, Certificate program or taking courses as a non-degree student must apply through the University at Albany’s Office of Graduate Admissions at www.albany.edu/graduate.

What if I have more questions?
Contact us at sphadmissions@albany.edu or 518-402-0361.

Basic Admissions Criteria

Master of Public Health (MPH)

- Must hold a bachelor’s degree from a college or university of recognized standing
- Grade point average of 3.00 or better
- One semester of social sciences required for all concentrations
- A college level course in mathematics (algebra) or statistics with a grade of B or higher required for all concentrations
- Epidemiology requires Calculus I
- Biostatistics requires Calculus I, Calculus II, and Linear Algebra
- Biomedical Sciences, Environmental Health, and Epidemiology require at least one year of biology
- Biomedical Sciences and Environmental Health require two semesters of chemistry
- Epidemiology requires one semester of chemistry
- All applicants must submit current GRE scores and TOEFL scores for international students

Master of Science (MS) and Doctorate (PhD)

Epidemiology/Biostatistics

- Must hold a bachelor’s degree from a college or university of recognized standing
- Applicants for the PhD in Epidemiology must hold a master’s degree
  - A master’s degree is highly recommended for applicants to the PhD in Biostatistics
- Must have a concentration (major) in the biological, physical, or social sciences, computer science, mathematics, or statistics
- One semester of biology and chemistry
- College level calculus or statistics for Epidemiology applicants; Calculus I & II and linear algebra for Biostatistics applicants
- Minimum GRE scores of 160 verbal, 148 quantitative and a 4.5 in analytical writing
- Minimum TOEFL scores of 250 (computerized exam); 100 (internet exam); or 600 (paper exam) for international students

Biomedical Sciences

- Must hold a bachelor’s degree from a college or university of recognized standing
- Grade point average of 3.00 or better
- Satisfactory records of achievement and scholarship
- Combined total of at least 42 credits in biology, chemistry, mathematics or physics.
- Suggested minimum GRE score of 308 in the verbal and quantitative sections and 4.0 for the writing section
- Minimum TOEFL score of 250 (computerized exam); 100 (internet exam); or 600 (paper exam) for international students

Environmental Health Sciences

- Must hold a bachelor’s degree from a college or university of recognized standing
- Grade point average of 3.00 or better
- Satisfactory records of achievement and scholarship
- Combined total of at least 42 credits in biology, chemistry and mathematics. On a case by case basis, consideration will be given to other undergraduate backgrounds. Consultation with the program is recommended prior to applying.
- Suggested minimum GRE score of 308 in the verbal and quantitative sections and 4.0 for the writing section
- Minimum TOEFL score of 250 (computerized exam); 100 (internet exam); or 600 (paper exam) for international students