What is Public Health?

Public Health is the science of protecting and improving the health of communities through education, promotion of healthy lifestyles, and research for disease and injury prevention. Public health professionals analyze the effect on health of genetics, personal choice, and the environment in order to develop programs that protect the health of families and the community.

### Public Health Accomplishments
- Vaccinations (smallpox, polio, measles, mumps, flu)
- Improved motor vehicle safety; safer workplaces
- Control of infectious diseases
- Decline in death from coronary heart disease and stroke
- Safer and healthier foods
- Family planning, decline in infant and maternal mortality
- Fluoridation of drinking water
- Recognition of tobacco use as a health hazard

### Current Public Health Issues
- Childhood obesity and nutrition
- Women's health, STD's and unplanned pregnancies
- Mental health, child abuse, substance abuse
- Effects of toxic waste and pollutants on health
- Emerging and reemerging infectious diseases: Whooping Cough, SARS, West Nile Virus
- Bioterrorism: preparedness, smallpox, anthrax
- Natural disasters: preparedness

What is an MPH Degree?

A Master of Public Health (MPH) degree is a graduate-level program that emphasizes the practical aspects of public health and is designed to prepare students for their role in promoting community awareness about various issues that affect health and safety. Our MPH program offers a broad spectrum of topics in order to provide students with the knowledge base they require to have successful careers in any aspect of public health. This is accomplished by providing sufficient knowledge in the core areas of public health - epidemiology, health policy, social behavior, environmental health, biostatistics - and incorporating a field experience component, in the form of an internship or practicum, in which students perform job functions in a public health setting under the supervision of a professional mentor.

Who Should Pursue an MPH Degree?

Public health is a field that offers an abundance of job opportunities to suit a variety of interests and skills. Whether you are more interested in crunching numbers, conducting research, or working with people, there is a place for you in the field of public health. Students come from a range of academic and professional backgrounds including social sciences, biology, chemistry, pre-med, communication, education, computer science, mathematics, social welfare, public policy, and history.

Why Should You Pursue an MPH Degree?

An MPH degree provides graduates with a competitive edge and professional skills that enable them to:
- Gain knowledge of the factors which influence local, national, and global legislative and social policies
- Apply broad-based, state-of-the-art quantitative and qualitative skills needed for problem solving
- Develop multidisciplinary and collaborative strategies for solving health-related problems
- Enhance communication skills by working with diverse populations
- Be positioned for a leadership role in health promotion and disease prevention

Questions?
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