Online MPH Program: Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How long does it take to complete the program?
A: The program can be completed on a part time basis. In most circumstances, students who complete five courses each academic year can complete the program in three years.

Q: How many courses do I need to take each semester?
A: Students generally take 1 - 2 online courses each semester (spring, summer and fall). Students may take more courses each semester pending course availability. If you are working full-time, we recommend that you do not take more than 2 courses a semester.

Q: How do I apply for the program?
A: The application process is completed through the Schools of Public Health Application Service. Visit www.sophas.org to apply. You do not need to complete the application in one sitting; you may log in and out to complete different sections of the application at different times. The fee to apply is $115.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the application process can be found here: http://www.sophas.org/Faq.cfm#a.

A Getting Started Checklist can be found here: http://www.sophas.org/Appchecklist.cfm#a.

Notes:

1. Please allow ample time to complete the application process. Once SOPHAS has received your completed application and credentials, it may take up to four weeks to verify and deliver your application to your choice of accredited schools.

2. The official transcript that will be sent to SOPHAS will be used for verification purposes and will not be forwarded to the University at Albany. Please request a second official transcript to be sent directly to the address below:
Online MPH Program
University at Albany, School of Public Health
One University Place
Rensselaer, NY 12144

Q: What are the admission criteria?

A. Admission criteria include:

- Bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution
- Minimum GPA of 3.0 in a completed bachelor’s and/or graduate degree program
- GRE, GMAT, MCAT, PCAT, LSAT or DAT scores
- Personal statement describing your interests and goals in public health
- Resume
- 3 References

Q: Can the GRE or standardized test score be waived?

A: The standardized test score requirement can be waived for applicants who have completed a graduate degree program from an accredited US institution and received a minimum GPA of 3.0 in the program.

Q: What is the deadline to apply?

A: The deadline to apply for admission in the fall semester is May 1. The deadline to apply for admission in the spring semester is November 1. See note above about time required to complete the application process.

Q: Can International students apply?

A: At this time we are only able to accept international students living in the US for the full duration of their study. International students who meet these criteria should view these special instructions before applying: http://www.sophas.org/documents/SOPHAS_Intl.pdf.

Q: What does the program cost?

A: For more information about the current University at Albany tuition and fees, please visit the Office of Student Accounts: http://www.albany.edu/studentaccounts/ or call 518-442-3202. Please note that the cost varies for in-state and out-of-state graduate students. Generally students enrolled in this program
will take 3-6 credits each semester. The estimated cost for an in-state resident taking 6 credits in fall 2012 is $2,641.10 (includes tuition and fees). This does not include the cost of textbooks.

Q: What does “online” mean? Will I be expected to travel?

A: The Online MPH Program allows you to complete ALL coursework online. Generally, instructors organize their courses in modules which range from one to two weeks. Courses will include specific deadlines for the submission of course assignments and you may log in at your convenience to complete coursework. You are not required to “log in” to your online course at a specific time.

Q: Can I take some classes online and some classes face-to-face?

A: No. This program is designed to be completed fully online.

Q: How many hours per week should I expect to spend on each online course?

A: In general, students should expect to dedicate at least 12-15 hours per week for each online course in which they are enrolled.

Q: How many credits do I need to complete for this program?

A: The program of study is a total of 51 credits. See the University at Albany School of Public Health Academic Department websites for more information on specific courses http://www.albany.edu/sph/academicdept/home.php.

- Electives (9 credits): Choose 3 from Public Health Law, Public Health Nursing, Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Emergency Preparedness: The Public Health Perspective
- Practice-based Internship (9 credits)

Q: Can I get credit for my previous public health experience?

A: Yes. Up to 6 credits may be waived for students with previous public health experience. The application for waiver of internship credits can be made after enrollment in the program.
Q: What does the internship requirement include?

A: The internship is practice-based. Students may fulfill credits towards this requirement at their workplace if it is a public health setting, but must complete a project beyond their normal job function or regular duties. To complete this requirement, students are required to spend a minimum of 240 hours for each 3 credits of internship.

Q: I have completed the Public Health Fundamentals & Principles Certificate Program; can I apply to the Online MPH Program?

A: Yes, students who have completed the certificate program can apply to the Online MPH Program. It is strongly recommended that applicants have a B+ or better in the analytical courses (EPI 501 and EPI 551 or 552).

Q: I am currently enrolled in the Public Health Fundamentals & Principles Certificate Program; can I apply to the Online MPH Program?

A: Students who are currently enrolled in the certificate program are required to complete the certificate program prior to applying to the Online MPH Program. You may apply to the Online MPH program during your last semester of study in the certificate program.

Q: Is the program accredited?

A: Yes, both the Online and traditional MPH Program offered by the University at Albany School of Public Health are accredited. For more information on accreditation, visit the Council on Education for Public Health website at http://www.ceph.org/.

Q: Can I transfer credits from an outside institution?

A: Students who have taken coursework at an outside institution may transfer up to 24 credits. Core and required courses must be considered equivalent to the courses offered by the University at Albany School of Public Health. Elective courses are evaluated on relevancy and appropriateness for the degree. To transfer a course, students must have a grade of B or better. Only classes taken at an accredited institution can be applied toward the degree. Requests for transfer credits will be reviewed after admission into the program.

Q: How many people will be in my online classes?

A: Generally, online classes are limited to 20 people.
Q: Are there specific areas of concentration similar to the traditional MPH?

A: The Online MPH Program currently provides a concentration in Public Health Practice. This concentration provides a strong academic foundation in the core disciplines of public health and opportunities for students to apply knowledge and skills gained to real-world public health practice.

Q: If I apply and do not get accepted, can I reapply?

A: Yes, you will be required to submit an application through SOPHAS each time you apply (fees apply).

If you have additional questions about this program, please contact:

onlinemph@albany.edu
518-408-2334

For more information on the School of Public Health, visit www.albany.edu/sph.