Public Health

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Public Health

The goal of public health is to improve the health of populations through planning, implementing, and evaluating programs that promote health and prevent disease and injury. Public health professionals utilize a combination of social, environmental, legislative, and economic support to improve health programs designed to create a healthier population. ISU offers a Graduate Certificate in Public Health and a Master of Public Health (MPH). Classes are offered both face-to-face and online. Students may attend classes on the Meridian or Pocatello campuses or through synchronous or asynchronous online formats.

Graduate Certificate in Public Health

The Graduate Certificate in Public Health is an 18-credit program that is designed for graduate students currently enrolled in other academic programs and working professionals who would like to expand their knowledge of public health. The Graduate Certificate in Public Health Curriculum includes courses that address the public health core knowledge areas of biostatistics, epidemiology, social and behavioral sciences, health services administration, and environmental health sciences.

Master of Public Health (MPH)

The MPH Program at ISU is accredited by the Council for Education in Public Health (CEPH). The 48-credit curriculum has been developed to meet the Public Health Foundational Competencies required for all CEPH-accredited programs. In addition to the traditional public health core knowledge areas of biostatistics, epidemiology, social and behavioral sciences, health services administration, and environmental health sciences, the curriculum also addresses cross-cutting and emerging public health areas. Upon completion of the MPH program, graduates will demonstrate the following competencies:

Evidence-based Approaches to Public Health

1. Apply epidemiological methods to the breadth of settings and situations in public health practice
2. Select quantitative and qualitative data collection methods appropriate for a given public health context
3. Analyze quantitative and qualitative data using biostatistics, informatics, computer-based programming and software, as appropriate
4. Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy or practice

Public Health & Health Care Systems

5. Compare the organization, structure and function of health care, public health and regulatory systems across national and international settings
6. Discuss the means by which structural bias, social inequities and racism undermine health and create challenges to achieving health equity at organizational, community and societal levels

Planning & Management to Promote Health

7. Assess population needs, assets and capacities that affect communities’ health
8. Apply awareness of cultural values and practices to the design or implementation of public health policies or programs
9. Design a population-based policy, program, project or intervention
10. Explain basic principles and tools of budget and resource management
11. Select methods to evaluate public health programs

Policy in Public Health

12. Discuss multiple dimensions of the policy-making process, including the roles of ethics and evidence
13. Propose strategies to identify stakeholders and build coalitions and partnerships for influencing public health outcomes
14. Advocate for political, social or economic policies and programs that will improve health in diverse populations
15. Evaluate policies for their impact on public health and health equity

Leadership

16. Apply principles of leadership, governance and management, which include creating a vision, empowering others, fostering collaboration and guiding decision making
17. Apply negotiation and mediation skills to address organizational or community challenges

Communication

18. Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors
19. Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation
20. Describe the importance of cultural competence in communicating public health content

Interprofessional Practice

21. Perform effectively on interprofessional teams

Systems Thinking

22. Apply systems thinking tools to a public health issue

Master of Public Health (MPH)

Admission Requirements

For classified admission into the program, applicants must satisfy the following criteria:

1. The student must apply to, and meet all criteria for, admission to the Graduate School.
2. Have a cumulative undergraduate grade point of at least 3.0 in upper division (3000-4000 level) courses. Applicants who currently hold a graduate
degree must submit their transcripts. All official college transcripts must be submitted to the ISU Graduate School.

3. Score an average of at least 40th percentile when considering both quantitative and verbal sections of the GRE general test but no lower than the 20th percentile in either section. No other instruments such as MCAT, LSAT, or GMAT may be substituted.

4. Applicants currently holding degrees at the doctoral level from an accredited institution will not be required to submit GRE general test scores (this includes professional doctoral degrees such as PharmD, Juris Doctorate, Medical Doctor, Doctor of Osteopathy, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine). Students who are admitted as Classified w/PR status without GRE scores must take the general test within their first semester of enrollment. Continuation in the program is contingent on the student meeting GRE score requirements. GRE scores must be submitted to the Idaho State University Graduate School.

5. Submit two letters of recommendation from non-relative individuals familiar with applicant's academic or professional abilities (no personal references).

6. Submit a typed essay (one to two pages, single spaced) describing applicant's interest in pursuing the MPH degree and vision of how it will facilitate the applicant's career goals.

7. International students who have not graduated from an accredited college or university in the United States, and whose native language is not English, must achieve satisfactory scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Satisfactory TOEFL requirements for classified admission are described in the Idaho State University Graduate Catalog under "Admission of International Students." In addition, international student applicants who have not graduated from an accredited college or university in the United States must take the GRE and are required to score in the 40th percentile on at least one area of the GRE, but no lower than the 20th percentile on the other section.

**General Requirements**

Students pursuing the MPH degree must complete a minimum of 48 credits of coursework, including a 6-credit thesis or project and 6 credits of elective course work.

All students must maintain a satisfactory record of scholarship. A 3.0 grade point average (GPA) is required for any graduate degree or certification at Idaho State University. A grade below B is essentially failing at the graduate level. Students who earn a grade below a B in a core course will be required to retake that course. Students who earn grades below a B in two courses will be dismissed from the program.

**Graduate Certificate in Public Health**

**Admission Requirements**

For Admission into the Public Health (PH) Certificate Program, applicants must satisfy the following criteria:

1. The student must apply to, and meet all criteria for, admission to the Graduate School.
2. Have a cumulative undergraduate grade point of at least 3.0 in upper division (3000-4000 level) courses. All applicants must submit official college transcripts to the ISU Graduate School.
3. Completion of college algebra, statistics, or an upper division math course is highly recommended.
4. Submit one letter of recommendation from a non-relative individual familiar with applicant's academic or professional abilities (no personal references).
5. Submit a typed essay (one to two pages, single spaced) describing applicant's interest in pursuing the Graduate Certificate in Public Health and vision of how it will facilitate the applicant's career goals.
6. International students who have not graduated from an accredited college or university in the United States, and whose native language is not English, must achieve satisfactory scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Satisfactory TOEFL requirements for classified admission are described in the Idaho State University Graduate Catalog under "Admission of International Students." In addition, international student applicants who have not graduated from an accredited college or university in the United States must take the GRE and are required to score in the 40th percentile on at least one area of the GRE, but no lower than the 20th percentile on the other section.

**General Requirements**

Students pursuing the Graduate Certificate in Public Health must complete a minimum of 18 credits of coursework with a GPA of 3.0.

All students must maintain a satisfactory record of scholarship. A 3.0 grade point average (GPA) is required for any graduate degree or certification at Idaho State University.

Admission and completion of the certificate does not guarantee admission into the MPH program. Courses completed in the certificate program must have a grade of B or above to transfer into the MPH program.

Students who complete and are awarded the Graduate Certificate in Public Health may transfer up to 12 credits from the certificate program into the MPH program. Courses completed in the certificate program must have a grade of B or above to transfer into the MPH program.
Courses

**MPH 5585 Independent Study in Public Health: 1-3 semester hours.**
Individual work under staff guidance. Field and/or library research on specific health education problems of interest to majors and minors. May be repeated up to 6 credits. PREREQ: Permission of instructor.

**MPH 5599 Experimental Course: 1-6 semester hours.**
This is an experimental course. The course title and number of credits are noted by course section and announced in the class schedule by the scheduling department. Experimental courses may be offered no more than three times. May be repeated.

**MPH 6601 Applications in Epidemiology: 3 semester hours.**
Facilitates an epidemiological approach to problem solving in the health sciences through practical application of field epidemiology concepts and methods. PREREQ: Permission of instructor if student is not in the MPH program.

**MPH 6602 Biostatistics: 3 semester hours.**
This course will equip students with a conceptual understanding of the calculation and interpretation of inferential statistics in public health research. PREREQ: Permission of instructor if student is not in the MPH program.

**MPH 6604 Social and Cultural Perspectives in Public Health: 3 semester hours.**
Exploration of multicultural health beliefs, health disparities and needs of our society focusing on local cultures to develop culturally competent interventions. Learn about ethical issues, social justice, community systems, coalition building, and development of community partnerships.

**MPH 6605 Leadership Policy and Administration: 3 semester hours.**
Development of leadership and administrative skills which contribute to implementation of effective public health policies and programs. Students will learn strategic planning, facilitation techniques, communication strategies, budget development, and management. Equivalent to HE 6605.

**MPH 6606 Environmental and Occupational Health: 3 semester hours.**
Understanding the interaction of humans with their environment and the implications of human actions. Learn about assessment and control of health risks posed by chemical and biological contaminants and physical exposures (noise, heat, and radiation) in occupational and non-occupational environments.

**MPH 6607 US and Global Health Systems: 3 semester hours.**
Explore the historical and contemporary multi-layered social, cultural, political, and economic determinants in the US and internationally that shape health status, health behavior, and health inequalities. Practical application of creating appropriate interventions specific to the target population.

**MPH 6608 Technological Applications in Public Health: 3 semester hours.**
Introduction and application of software programs utilized in public health practice. Examples include SPSS, MS Excel, GIS, EpiInfo, MS Publisher. PREREQ: MPH 6602.

**MPH 6609 Seminar in Public and Community Health: 3 semester hours.**
Study of topics, trends and challenges within public health.

**MPH 6620 Health Program Planning and Evaluation: 3 semester hours.**
Theory and processes of assessment, planning, implementing, and evaluating health education, promotion, and disease prevention programs. Principles taught in this course will be applied to community situations. Equivalent to HE 6620 and DENT 6630.

**MPH 6622 Health Program Planning and Evaluation: 3 semester hours.**
A study of the role of health education/health promotion in the community setting. Emphasis on methods to build coalitions to address community health concerns and on the role of needs assessment.

**MPH 6640 Research and Writing in Health: 3 semester hours.**
Application of principles of research design in the health sciences. Requires preparation of a thesis/project proposal. Equivalent to HE 6640.

**MPH 6650 Thesis: 1-6 semester hours.**
Completion of a thesis/manuscript. Practical application of knowledge/skills in a public health setting. May be repeated. Graded S/U. PREREQ: MPH 6601, MPH 6602, MPH 6603, MPH 6620, and MPH 6640.

**MPH 6651 Public Health Project: 1-6 semester hours.**
Completion of a public health project. Practical application of knowledge/skills in a public health setting. May be repeated. Graded S/U. PREREQ: MPH 6601, MPH 6602, MPH 6603, MPH 6620, and MPH 6640.

**MPH 6655 Public Health Internship: 3 semester hours.**
Application of skills in a public health agency, organization or other entity to provide the student with practical experience in the field. May be repeated.

**MPH 6660 Behavior Change Theory and Applications: 3 semester hours.**
Provides a basic understanding of the social, emotional, and lifestyle factors related to health behavior. Strategies designed to identify barriers to behavior and to enhance the health of selected populations are examined. Equivalent to HE 6660. PREREQ: Permission of instructor.

**MPH 6699 Experimental Course: 1-6 semester hours.**
This is an experimental course. The course title and number of credits are noted by course section and announced in the class schedule by the scheduling department. Experimental courses may be offered no more than three times. May be repeated.