Public Health
Master of Public Health

The Master of Public Health (MPH) is a professional degree program designed for students seeking an intellectually rich and challenging educational experience that will lead to a career in population health improvement in regional, national, or international settings including public health and other public agencies, health care delivery systems, health plans, community health organizations, and academic institutions.

The MPH program has two specializations – Population Health Research & Evaluation and Health Management & Policy. Both prepare students for work in population health improvement in the diverse communities of the Northern Plains and similar regions. Understanding the multiple determinants of population health – medical care, public health interventions, the social environment, the physical environment, and individual behavior – and learning how to optimize population health through research and evaluation or management and policy are complex and important undertakings. Regardless of the specialization a student selects, the curriculum provides training in population health analytics. Major changes have and will continue to occur in the public health and health care fields, and MPH graduates will require excellent analytical skills in order to contribute and provide leadership in the field.

Population Health Research and Evaluation
This specialization prepares students to produce convincing and scientifically sound information to improve population health including how to assess population health, evaluate the effectiveness of population health interventions, and compare health improvement policies and programs. The course of study includes training in research and evaluation methods, biostatistics, informatics, and communication of scientific results. Students learn how to design outcomes and comparative effectiveness studies, collect and analyze population health data, and communicate research and evaluation results effectively.

Health Management and Policy
This specialization prepares students for managerial careers in the current public health and health care environment. Students gain the knowledge and skills needed to manage public health and health care systems effectively and efficiently, analyze health system policies, and communicate successfully to effect improvements in health systems. The curriculum for this specialization is offered in partnership with the College of Business and Public Administration, which adds depth to the faculty expertise and course offerings available to MPH students.

Admission Requirements

1. Completion of the online application and payment of the application fee.
2. A baccalaureate degree or equivalent from an accredited college or university (for U.S. degrees, accreditation by one of the six regional accrediting associations: MSA, NASC, NCA, NEASC-CIHE, SACS-CC or WACS-Sr.).
3. An undergraduate and graduate (if applicable) cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.00. Undergraduate coursework in fields related to public health should generally exceed a GPA of 3.00.
4. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test scores must be submitted*. While there is no minimum GRE score required for admission, performance on the GRE is evaluated as an indicator of an applicant’s verbal and quantitative skills.
   *GRE General Test scores are not required of applicants who are currently enrolled in good academic standing or have completed a doctoral-level degree at an accredited U.S. or Canadian institution of higher learning.
5. Graduate applicants must demonstrate academic-level proficiency in English before they will be considered for admission. This requirement must be met by all applicants, regardless of citizenship, residency, or nation of birth. No applicant will be considered for admission until the English Language Proficiency Requirement has been met. The English Proficiency Requirement will not be waived for any reason. This requirement may be satisfied in any of the following ways:
   - A satisfactory score on the TOEFL exam. The expected minimum score is 233 for the computer-based test, 90 for the Internet-based test, and 577 for the paper-based test.
   - An overall minimum band score of 6.5 on the Academic Module IELTS.
6. Applicants are required to submit the following supporting documentation:

Apply online: http://graduateschool.und.edu
Deadlines apply. See our website for more details.

Last Updated: 8/26/2013
Email: questions@gradschool.und.edu
• Written Statement of Purpose and Goals – applicants must submit a one-page, written narrative describing their education, relevant work experience and current professional career goals. Applicants are expected to comment on plans they have to use their education and training in public health and any personal qualities, characteristics and abilities they believe will enable them to be successful in achieving their professional career goals.
• Resume
• Official post-secondary academic transcripts from all institutions attended (transcripts must be sent directly from the institutions to UND)
• Admissions Tests – scores must be sent by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) directly to UND. The institution code for the GRE and TOEFL for the University of North Dakota is 6878
• Three (3) letters of recommendation from individuals who the applicant feels are most qualified to evaluate their achievements, academic abilities, and leadership potential in public health.

The Admissions Committee may invite selected applicants for an interview on the basis of the Committee’s review of all submitted application materials. Satisfactory completion of a background check is required prior to admission.

Program Requirements
The MPH program requires the successful completion of 42 credits of coursework.

1. Core Coursework: The required core coursework includes 18 credits in the following academic areas: Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Environmental Health Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Health Policy and Management.
2. Scholarly Project: Students must complete an analytical paper related to public health, in accordance with School of Graduate Studies standards.
3. Practicum: Students must complete experiential work in a Practicum related to public health. The MPH program must approve all Practicum work in advance.
4. Specialization Coursework: Students must complete a minimum of 18 credits of additional coursework in one of the following specializations: Population Health Research & Evaluation or Health Management & Policy.

Faculty and Areas of Expertise
Health Management and Policy - Core Faculty
Raymond L. Goldsteen, MA, DrPH: Comparative health effectiveness research and health policy solutions
Kristin Schuller, PhD, MHA: Health care management, organization, and policy associated with improving quality of care and patient safety
Andy Hultquist, PhD: Urban and regional economic development; Applied microeconomics and econometrics; Economic incentives and environmental policy; State and local public finance

Population Health Research and Evaluation: Core Faculty
Karen Goldsteen, PhD, MPH: Social determinants of child health; Population health outcomes research
Ralph Renger, PhD: Program evaluation; Public health emergency preparedness
S. Cristina Oancea, PhD, MS: Cancer epidemiology and survivorship; Extending recurrence time models for periodic screening of chronic diseases

For a complete list of MPH Core and Affiliated Faculty visit www.med.und.edu/mph

Contact Information
Raymond L. Goldsteen, MA, DrPH
MPH Program Director
University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences
501 North Columbia Road, Stop 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037
(701) 777-2375
raymond.goldsteen@med.und.edu

Apply online: http://graduateschool.und.edu
Deadlines apply. See our website for more details.

Last Updated: 8/26/2013
Email: questions@gradschool.und.edu