What is Public Health?
Public health is the art and science of preventing disease and disability and fostering health in communities and populations. Some of the ways that public health fosters health is by monitoring and responding to disease epidemics, developing clinical and policy-oriented disease prevention initiatives, and promoting healthy lifestyles through education and community engagement. Public health is practiced by inter-professional teams whose members are trained in a broad array of academic fields.

The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health has produced a video that answers three related questions:
- What does public health encompass?
- What impact does public health have on our lives?
- What types of careers are available in the field of public health?
You can view this video at: http://www.whatispublichealth.org/what/index.html

Why Public Health in North Dakota?
North Dakota is situated in the Northern Great Plains, and the MPH program reflects and responds to our location. Much of the Northern Plains is rural, and as a result, we have a rural emphasis within the program. However, there is considerable diversity within rural areas, as North Dakota illustrates well. There are booming towns in the oil and gas fields in the west, agricultural communities in the rich Red River Valley, American Indian reservations in the central plains, frontier locales, and small cities throughout the State. These areas are continually changing in multiple ways including population size, economic basis, and culture. Our program emphasizes, and is enriched by, the diversity and change within the Northern Great Plains. There is much opportunity to promote health in the region.

In addition, the University of North Dakota (UND) provides a rich academic environment for public health studies. The School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS), in which the MPH program is located, contains the only medical school in North Dakota and is the primary site for health sciences training in the State including the physician assistant, occupational therapy, physical therapy, sports medicine, and laboratory sciences programs. The nationally recognized Center for Rural Health is our partner in public health education. Further, the SMHS has a long-standing commitment to reducing disparities in health and educational opportunities for American Indians through Indians into Medicine (INMED), the Seven Generations Center of Excellence in Native Behavioral Health (SGCoE), and the National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative (NIEJI). The MPH program also partners with the College of Business and Public Administration to offer our Health Management & Policy specialization and collaborates with many departments including Economics, Geography, Earth Systems Sciences and Policy, and Kinesiology and Public Health Education. We are taking full advantage of the plentiful resources of UND to provide students with an exceptional public health education.

Is the MPH program accredited?
Obtaining accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) is our top priority, and in October 2013, the CEPH Board of Councilors approved the UND MPH program’s request to begin the formal accreditation process. The MPH program is now an applicant for accreditation (See the CEPH website: http://ceph.org/accredited/applicants). During the next two years, we will examine all aspects of the program in preparation for a CEPH Site Visit in Fall 2015.
When can I start the MPH program?
Applications are reviewed each year beginning in January for a fall semester start. We continue to review applications until the class is full.

How long will it take to complete the MPH program?
The MPH degree can be earned through full-time or part-time study. Full-time students can complete the 42-credit program in two years. Part-time students can complete the program in three to five years.

When are MPH courses offered?
All MPH core courses are offered in the evening to accommodate students who work. Courses are only offered in the Fall and Spring semesters. At this time, there are no summer courses except for the Practicum. See the curriculum page at: http://www.med.und.edu/master-of-public-health/index.cfm for information on course offerings and schedules. Current students are encouraged to talk with their faculty advisor for the most up-to-date information on course offerings.

Does the MPH program accommodate distance learners?
MPH students can take their courses on campus or off-campus via live broadcast.

How much will the MPH degree cost?
The cost of the MPH degree is approximately $26,250, not including student fees and books, for in-state and Minnesota residents.

Are there assistantships available?
Assistantships are available for MPH students through School of Medicine and Health Sciences, the School of Graduate Studies, and specific programs in the University including the Center for Rural Health and the Wellness Center. Full-time employees of UND and other North Dakota University System (NDUS) schools are eligible for tuition waivers according to NDUS policy number 820.2e. As assistantships become available, they will be communicated to students and posted to the MPH program website.

Can I take courses in more than one area of specialization?
Yes, students may enroll in courses in the other specialization if they meet the course prerequisites. However, these courses would be in addition to the 42 credits required for the degree.

Can I change my area of specialization after starting the MPH program?
The MPH program has a process for students in good academic standing to change specializations.

Where can I do my Practicum? Can the Practicum be done in another country?
The MPH program has secured Practicum affiliation agreements with local, national, and global public health sites. Students can also request a Practicum site without an existing affiliation agreement, but this must be done a minimum of six months in advance of the Practicum start date to ensure that a working agreement can be established. The student’s faculty advisor must approve the location, as well.

Is there an MPH student organization?
The MPH program has a student organization - the Public Health Association. Information about our student group can be found on UND’s Student Involvement site: http://und.collegiatelink.net/organization/publichealth

Can I transfer credits to the MPH program?
Up to 9 credits can be transferred into the UND School of Graduate Studies. Please see the Graduate School policy at: http://graduateschool.und.edu/policies-and-procedures/index.cfm
In addition to meeting the School of Graduate Studies criteria, the MPH program requires that only courses taken at a CEPH-accredited public health program or school can be used to replace MPH Core courses. Further, a transfer course
must be equivalent to the course that it will replace. Typically, the faculty member who teaches the UND course being replaced will review the syllabus of the transfer course to determine equivalency.

**What are the hardware and software requirements for off-campus students?**
The computers of students calling-in from an off-campus location will need to meet the following hardware specifications and have the following software installed.

**Hardware:**
- Working Webcam & Headset
  - **PC Minimum Requirements**
    - 4GB RAM
    - Windows 7 Basic or Above
  - **Macintosh Minimum Requirements**
    - 4GB RAM

**Software:**
- Microsoft Office Software—you may purchase discounted software from the following:
  - UND Students
- Adobe Flash Player installed

**Other:**
- Broadband connection of 1 Mg Download and 384kbps upload
- Test your connection speed by visiting

The results will show upload and download speeds from your personal computer to the state network. For good quality audio and video, the download and upload speeds should be a minimum of 384 Kbps.

**What is NDMPH?**
The MPH program at the University of North Dakota is a member of North Dakota Master of Public Health (NDMPH), which is the affiliation of the MPH programs offered by the two state research universities – the University of North Dakota (UND) and North Dakota State University (NDSU). Students apply to and complete their degree at one campus only - either UND or NDSU. Students choose NDSU or UND based on the MPH specializations offered at that campus, which are unique to that school. Although each MPH program is distinct and offers unique specializations, the two MPH programs work together on common matters such as developing Practicum sites and offering public health events during Public Health Week. By working together, the MPH programs at NDSU and UND provide comprehensive public health training and service to North Dakota and the Northern Great Plains.