

# MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

The Master of Public Health (MPH) is a multi-disciplinary professional degree program designed to provide graduate level practical training in areas of specialized public health practice.

The MPH in Health Policy and Management provides the study of health policy topics and concerns and policy formation, development and evaluation strategies, coupled with key operational management tools and techniques. Classroom instruction is supplemented with opportunities to apply knowledge and practice-related skills in a professional setting.

The MPH in Health Policy and Management prepares students to:

- Use policy and management tools to evaluate implications of specific programs, policies, and interventions on organizations and populations.
- Develop and justify budgets that support programs and organizations in the public health and health care sectors.
- Communicate evidence-based options to address public health management and policy problems.
- Apply project management and strategic management tools to create public health program goals, strategies, and objectives.
- Recommend and justify policies or organizational initiatives for implementation after examining their feasibility and implications.

The program has several major academic components:

- The introductory MPH Core classes, along with students of all MPH concentrations, for exposure to foundational principles and methods in public health practice
- Required concentration coursework in health policy and management theories, frameworks and methods
- There is potential for additional public health-related applied and culminating course work.

The MPH is a non-thesis degree program, which includes culminating experiences:

- A practicum that provides an *applied practical experience* with a field-based preceptor, for students to demonstrate overall public health and concentration focused problem-solving skills
- An *integrative learning experience* capstone for students to bring together and apply foundational and concentration competencies, including production of a high-quality written professional product.

Effective public health professionals must work across multiple disciplines and systems to address population health problems. All MPH students are expected to participate in an interprofessional team practical activity during their degree programs. See the *IPE Learning Opportunities* at the Texas A&M Health Office of Interprofessional Education and Research. (<https://health.tamu.edu/iper/>)

An individual with a baccalaureate degree or a physician licensed to practice medicine in the United States may apply for admission to the

program. No coursework prerequisites exist for submitting a successful application to this degree program.

For more details on the degree program, see the Department of Health Policy and Management website (<https://public-health.tamu.edu/departments/hpm/>).

## Program Requirements

- Student's Advisory Committee (p. 1)
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## Student's Advisory Committee

The Student's Advisory Committee for the Master of Public Health (MPH) consists of an assigned faculty advisor. After receiving admission to the program and before enrolling for coursework, the student will consult with their assigned faculty advisor to receive additional information related to curriculum and processing of the degree plan. The faculty advisor must have graduate faculty membership in the academic program. If at any point of the student's time in pursuit of the degree the assigned advisor is no longer available, the department will assign a new advisor and require a comprehensive advisory session to ensure the student is making progress according to degree program requirements.

## Degree Plan

The student's advisor, in consultation with the student, will develop the proposed degree plan. The degree plan must be completed and filed with the Graduate and Professional School prior to the deadlines imposed by the student's college, and no later than the dates announced in the Graduate and Professional School calendar of deadlines for graduation.

The proposed/final degree plan should be submitted through the online Document Processing Submission System located on the website <https://ogsdpps.tamu.edu>.

Additional coursework may be added to the approved degree plan by petition if it is deemed necessary by the advisor to correct deficiencies in the student's academic preparation.

## Credit Requirements

A minimum of 45 hours of coursework is required for the Master of Public Health degree. To demonstrate integration and application of subject matter learned and the development of written and oral communication skills, a student will be required to take SOPH 680 as part of the culminating experience requirement to graduate. Concentration and elective courses vary among the core disciplines and will be addressed during advising and creation of the degree plan. Electives may be taken upon approval/advice from the student's assigned advisor and will be listed by rubric, section, and description in the degree plan.

In the case of established collaborative degree programs, a minimum of 42 hours of coursework is required for the Master of Public Health degree.

## Transfer of Credit

A student may transfer up to 9 hours of graduate credit to the Master of Public Health degree program on the advice and approval of the student's advisory committee, department chair, and school academic affairs dean, and with the approval of the Graduate and Professional School. Courses taken in residence at an accredited U.S. institution or approved international institution with a final grade of B or greater may be considered for transfer credit if, at the time the courses were completed, the courses would be accepted for credit toward a similar degree for a student in degree-seeking status at the host institution. Otherwise, the limitations stated in the preceding section apply. Coursework in which no formal grades are given or in which grades other than letter grades (A or B) are earned (for example, CR, P, S, U, H, etc.) is not accepted for transfer credit. Courses appearing on the degree plan with grades of D, F, or U may not be absolved by transfer work. Credit for coursework submitted for transfer from any college or university must be shown in semester credit hours or equated to semester credit hours. An official transcript from the university at which the transfer coursework was taken must be sent directly to the Office of Admissions.

Courses used toward another degree at another institution may not be applied for graduate credit. If the course to be transferred was taken prior to the conferral of a degree at the transfer institution, a letter from the registrar at that institution stating that the course was not applied for credit toward the degree must be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School.

Grades for courses completed at other institutions are not included in computing the GPA.

## Limitations on the Use of Transfer, Extension and Certain Other Courses

If otherwise acceptable, certain courses may be used toward meeting credit hour requirements for the master's degree with the following limitations.

1. The maximum number of credit hours allowed toward the MPH as transfer credit is 9.
2. Courses previously used for another degree are not acceptable for credit.
3. A zero credit 684 or 685 course is only allowed for non-thesis master's students. A zero credit 681 course can be used for either thesis or non-thesis option master's students. Other courses, including 691 research hours, are not eligible for zero credit.
4. A maximum of 6 hours of 684 (Professional Internship/Practicum), and 9 hours of 685 (Directed Studies), if approved on the degree plan.
5. Undergraduate courses are not allowed to transfer to the MPH degree program.
6. Continuing education courses may not be used for graduate credit.
7. Extension courses are not acceptable for credit.
8. For non-distance degree programs, no more than 50 percent of the non-research coursework required for the program may be completed through distance education courses.
9. To receive a graduate degree from Texas A&M University, students must earn one-third or more of the credits through the institution's own direct instruction. This limitation also applies to joint degree programs.

Exceptions will be permitted only in unusual cases and when petitioned by the student's advisory committee, department chair, school Academic Affairs Office, and approved by the Graduate and Professional School.

## Final Examination

A final comprehensive examination is not required for the Master of Public Health non-thesis degree program.

## Additional Requirements

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## Residence

No residence requirement exists; however, attention is directed to the rules regarding Limitations on the Use of Transfer, Extension and Certain Other Courses.

## Time Limit

All degree requirements for a master's degree must be completed within a period of seven consecutive years. Coursework which is over seven calendar years old may not be applied to master's degree. Time limits for coursework on the degree plan may also apply to transfer coursework.

## Scholastic Requirements

To maintain good academic standing, a MPH student must maintain a minimum cumulative 3.000 GPA. If a student fails to attain a cumulative 3.000 GPA, he or she is placed on academic probation. A student on academic probation must raise his or her cumulative GPA to a 3.000 or above according to requirements to be set forth in the probation letter. Typically, this means raising the cumulative GPA to a 3.000 or higher by the end of the next long semester (fall or spring). If this requirement is not met, the School of Public Health's Academic Affairs Office will recommend that the Graduate and Professional School block the student from further enrollment. If a student is blocked from further enrollment in the MPH program, he or she shall not be permitted to enroll in other MPH courses.

## Foreign Languages

No specific language requirement exists for the Master of Public Health degree program.

## Internship or Practicum

Students in the MPH are required to fulfill a practicum requirement. Specific course names and numbers by department are PHEB 684, PHEO 684, PHPM 684, and HBEH 684. Instructions on submission and successful completion of the practicum are posted on the School of Public Health practicum website as well as with the department's practicum coordinator. Students are to work specifically with their department practicum coordinator on meeting this curriculum course requirement. Students must be in good academic standing, have completed all core public health courses, or be enrolled concurrently in no more than one core course at the time they enroll in the 684 course, and have no registration or university blocks related to enrollment.

## **Application for Degree**

For information on applying for your degree, please visit the Graduation (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/academic-expectations-general-degree-requirements/#degreerequirementstext>) section.