

# Department of Public Health

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The Department of Public Health offers a Master of Public Health (<http://catalog.apu.edu/academics/college-nursing-health-sciences/school-health-sciences/public-health/master-public-health-mph/>) program that provides students with competencies required to understand the unique challenges inherent to public health practice and education. All students receive a specialization in health equity. The curriculum reflects the College of Nursing and Health Sciences mission and emphasizes the conceptual, analytical, and experiential skills required to serve in the public health sector. Throughout the program, an emphasis is placed on the five core areas of public health: biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental health sciences, health policy and management, and social and behavioral sciences. There are also seven cross-cutting areas interwoven into the curriculum: communication, diversity and culture, leadership, professionalism and ethics, program planning and assessment, public health biology, and systems thinking.

Students may choose from various electives that cover different public health areas of interest: biostatistics and epidemiology, social and behavioral science, public health policy, healthcare administration, health promotion and education, international health, environmental health, and disaster health and emergency preparedness. Students should check with the department regarding elective availability, then meet with an advisor to develop a course plan that is consistent with their desired electives.

## Transfer of Credits

Following admission, 9 units of approved graduate work completed elsewhere may be applied toward the MPH degree.

## Additional Requirements

At the beginning of clinical coursework, including the field practicum, students are required to provide documentation of TB screening and immunizations appropriate for the clinical or field practicum setting.

A student's health status must permit him/her to safely undertake and complete clinical (field practicum) experience required for the degree. As a fully prepared public health practitioner, the student is expected to take responsibility for self-evaluation of her/his health status, including an assessment of the safety and appropriateness of practice in the clinical context.

The Joint Commission (<https://www.jointcommission.org/>), contracted facilities, and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences require that all graduate students undergo a background check prior to their placement at clinical and field practicum sites. The cost of the background check is the responsibility of the student. International students have additional fees based on the cost of a background check in their country.

Students may select additional elective courses to support their programs of study as directed by faculty.