

COMMUNITY HEALTH

5 Year BS-MPH Joint Degree Program Master of Public Health Department of Kinesiology and Community Health Updated: March 2016

Undergraduate students in Community Health are eligible to apply for a joint BS-MPH program offered by the Department of Kinesiology and Community Health. This document provides information about the program. If you have questions about the BS-MPH program after reading this document, please contact: mph-admissions@ahs.illinois.edu.

Why should Community Health undergraduates consider earning both BS and MPH degrees?

If the Community Health BS degree program is a good match for a student's interests and abilities, then an MPH degree program is likely to be a good match too. And of course, an undergraduate degree in Community Health is an excellent background for advanced study in public health. For students interested in a career as a practitioner, the MPH degree is the most widely recognized credential for a career in public health. Students who are more interested in research should consider MS and PhD degree programs. However, the MPH degree does lay the basis for further study in a doctoral program in public health.

How is the 5 year BS-MPH degree program different from 2 year MPH program?

The faculty, curriculum, and degree requirements for the 5 year BS-MPH program are the same as the 2 year MPH program. Some differences are:

1. The BS-MPH program is accelerated. BS-MPH students take a heavier course load during MPH work, so that BS-MPH students can earn both BS and MPH degrees in 5 years (including a summer term).
2. BS-MPH students can count up to 12 credit hours of approved undergraduate coursework toward the MPH degree.
3. The application process for the BS-MPH program is slightly different. Applicants to the 5 year BS MPH program do NOT need to take the GRE. The 5 year program has different application deadlines.
4. The total cost of tuition is less in the BS-MPH program. BS-MPH students pay undergraduate tuition for senior year, and then graduate tuition for fall, spring, and summer terms in the 5th year. Students in the 2-year MPH program pay graduate level tuition usually for 3 or 4 semesters plus one summer term.

When Community Health students enter the BS-MPH program, what approved courses do they take prior to the end of their 4th (senior) year that count for both BS and MPH degrees?

1. **CHLH 410 Public Health Practice** (4 cr., offered fall and spring terms). It is preferable to enroll in the MPH section (section B) of this course offered in fall of senior year. Students will be instructed how to enroll in the MPH section upon admission to the BS-MPH.
2. **CHLH 469 Environmental Health** (3-4 cr., offered spring term only). BS-MPH students who take CHLH 469 in their senior year will enroll in the 4 credit MPH section in spring term.
3. **Choose one 400-level course** that counts toward the BS degree and toward the MPH degree (listed below).

Five 400-level courses are approved as MPH concentration courses: (a) **NUTR 420** Nutritional Aspects of Disease; (b) **GEOG 438** Geography of Health Care; (c) **KIN 448** Exercise and Health Psychology; (d) **COMM 462** Interpersonal Health Communication; (e) **CMN 465** Social Marketing and Health Behavior.

Eight 400-level CHLH courses are approved as MPH electives: (a) **CHLH 409** Women's Health; (b) **CHLH 415** International Health; (c) **CHLH 448** Exercise and Health Psychology; (d) **CHLH 455** Health Services Financing; (e) **CHLH 456** Organization of Health Care; (f) **CHLH 457** Health Planning; (g) **CHLH 458** Health Administration; (h) **CHLH 461** Environmental Toxicology and Health; (i) **CHLH 473** Immigration, Health and Society; and (j) **CHLH 494** Rural Health. Students will be instructed how to inquire about counting other public-health related 400-level courses toward the MPH upon admission to the BS-MPH.

Does the MPH program have requirements for academic performance during my senior year?

Yes. Here are three of the requirements.

1. BS-MPH students in undergraduate standing must achieve a minimum grade of B (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) in the following courses* to be eligible to progress into the 5th year of the program. These courses are directly related to MPH core courses, and indicate student performance at the graduate level. Failure to achieve a B or higher will result in dismissal from the BS-MPH.
CHLH 274: Introduction to Epidemiology CHLH 421: Health Data Analysis
*Includes any 400-level course applied to the BS-MPH taken at the undergraduate level
2. MPH students must earn at least a B- (2.7 out of 4.0) in all six MPH core courses (including CHLH 410 and CHLH 469). If a BS-MPH student does not earn at least a 2.7 in a MPH core course taken during senior year, the student will not be admitted to the 5th year of the program.
3. If a student accepted to the BS-MPH program year does not maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 in each semester during the senior year, the student will not be admitted to the 5th year of the program.

When is it best to apply for the BS-MPH program?

It is best for Community Health students to apply after completing their junior year and before starting their senior year. However, students may also apply between the first and second semester of their senior year. Students who apply in January must have already taken CHLH 274 with a grade of B or higher. (Note: It is not necessary for students to register for CHLH 469 and CHLH 410 in advance of being accepted to the MPH program. The MPH program will hold space for the student in the courses and guarantee that they can register if accepted.)

When are the application deadlines for applicants who will be seniors in 2016-2017?

August 1, 2016 at 5 pm, and **January 7, 2017** at 5 pm. Students are notified of admission decisions within 2 weeks after the deadline. Students who apply by August 1, 2016 and are admitted can begin taking BS-MPH courses in Fall 2016. Those who apply in January 2017 will be eligible to begin taking BS-MPH courses in Spring 2017, if admitted.

MPH applicants must take a college level course in mathematics, statistics, or epidemiology. Any advice about how to meet this requirement?

The Community Health curriculum requires **CHLH 274** Introduction to Epidemiology. This course meets the MPH requirement. Students must achieve a B or higher.

I'm interested in the BS-MPH. What are the next steps?

1. Attend an MPH open house on the BS-MPH program (dates and times announced each term)
2. Review the information sheet on the MPH website (www.mph.illinois.edu) that provides more detailed information about the BS-MPH program. In particular, understand the characteristics of strong applicants, how to apply for the program, the MPH degree requirements, and the course schedule during the 5th year.
3. Meet with your undergraduate advisor to ensure you have room in your schedule to take the BS and MPH courses in by the end of senior year.
4. Contact mph-admissions@ahs.illinois.edu for questions or more information.