

KINESIOLOGY

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

Undergraduate students in Kinesiology 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 Kinesiology undergraduates consider earning both BS and MPH degrees?

A BS degree in Kinesiology provides an excellent background for a career in public health. Given its emphasis on the health benefits of physical activity, exercise science is a public health science. The MPH degree is a professional degree and the most widely recognized credential for a career in public health. The combination of these two degrees prepares students for many career paths in public health, particularly careers involving health promotion and chronic disease prevention. Students can get more information about career options in public health from the MPH website (mph.illinois.edu) and at information sessions held each term by the MPH program.

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 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 Kinesiology 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 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. **One 400-level course** that counts toward both the BS and MPH degree (listed below).

For Kinesiology students, approved elective courses that count as MPH concentration courses include: (a) **KIN 444** Physical Activity Epidemiology; (b) **KIN 448** Exercise and Health Psychology, and (c) **KIN 459** Physical Activity and Aging. Other 400 level courses in Kinesiology or in other departments may be approved as an MPH elective. 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 two of the requirements.

1. 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.
2. If a student accepted to the BS-MPH program year does not maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 in each semester of 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 Kinesiology 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. (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 2014-2016?

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 Kinesiology curriculum does not include courses of this type. Consider taking **CHLH 244** Health Statistics, **CHLH 274** Introduction to Epidemiology, **MATH 115** Preparation for Calculus, **MATH 161** Statistics, **MATH 220** Calculus, or similar courses. Students must achieve a B or higher in such courses to be considered for the BS-MPH.

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.