



DOWNSTATE
HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

School of Public Health Bulletin

2023-2024

Contents

School of Public Health Program Administration.....	2
About Downstate School of Public Health.....	3
School of Public Health Degree Programs	4
Academic Departments	5
Admissions Requirements by Degree Program.....	9
MPH Academic Requirements.....	18
MPH Foundational courses.....	18
Biostatistics concentration courses.....	18
Community Health Sciences concentration courses	19
Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences concentration courses	19
Epidemiology concentration courses	19
Health Policy and Management concentration courses.....	20
Healthcare Administration concentration courses.....	20
MPH Elective courses.....	20
MPH Applied practice experience (APEX).....	21
MPH Integrative learning experience (ILE).....	21
DrPH Academic Requirements.....	22
DrPH Applied practice experience (APEX)	24
DrPH Qualifying Exam.....	25
Dissertation Overview.....	26
Advanced Certificate Requirements.....	27
MHA Program Requirements.....	29
Faculty.....	30
Contact Information.....	30

School of Public Health Program Administration

Kitaw Demissie, MD PhD

Professor and Dean, School of Public Health

Kitaw.Demissie@downstate.edu

Tracey E. Wilson, PhD

Distinguished Service Professor and Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs and Research

Tracey.Wilson@downstate.edu

Denise Bruno, MD, MPH

Associate Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Community Health Sciences

Denise.Bruno@downstate.edu

Aimee Afable, PhD, MPH

Associate Dean for Community Engagement
Associate Professor, Community Health Sciences

Aimee.Afable@downstate.edu

Laura Geer, PhD, MHS

Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences

Laura.Geer@downstate.edu

Anika Daniels-Osaze, EdD, MPH

Associate Dean for Education, Clinical Associate Professor, Health Policy & Management

Anika.Daniels-Osaze@downstate.edu

Elizabeth Helzner, PhD, MS

Associate Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Elizabeth.Helzner@downstate.edu

Marlene Camacho-Rivera, ScD, MS, MPH

Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, Assistant Professor, Community Health Sciences

Marlene.Camacho-Rivera@downstate.edu

Thomas Mackie, PhD, MPH

Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Health Policy and Management

Aimee.Afable@downstate.edu

Jenny Crouch, EdD, MS

Senior Executive Director for Administration and Finance

Jenny.Crouch@downstate.edu

Robert Karpman, MD, MBA

Director, Master of Healthcare Administration, Department of Health Policy and Management

Robert.Karpman@downstate.edu

Francisco Colón, MSW

Assistant Director of Enrollment & Onboarding Management

Francisco.Colón@downstate.edu

Raeann Rolston, MA

Student Recruitment Specialist

Raeann.Rolston@downstate.edu

About Downstate School of Public Health

Located in the heart of Brooklyn, SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University has a rich legacy of excellence in education, research, and community service. Downstate's School of Public Health, with roots beginning in 2001, now stands at the forefront of public health education for urban and immigrant populations. Our exciting vision is one full of hope, possibility, challenges, and greater health equity for all.

Our ultimate goal is to promote health and prevent disease in the population as a whole. Thus, our approach moves past preventive services provided to individual patients in clinical settings (though this approach is extremely important). Our faculty and students adopt a population-based perspective on pressing health issues, through health education campaigns, screening and prevention programs, epidemiologic analysis of health problems, and consideration of implications for health policy.

Brooklyn is a borough of immigrants. In response, our academic curriculum places unique emphasis on the health needs of our urban and immigrant populations. Our Center for Global Health was created to enhance global approaches to achieving health equity both locally and abroad. Public health students contribute to this goal through practical field experiences in New York City and overseas.

The School of Public Health is home to faculty who are nationally recognized public health leaders, distinguished in their respective specialties through teaching, research, and service. Faculty and student projects often include collaboration with Downstate's College of Medicine, College of Nursing, School of Health Professions, and School of Graduate Studies, as well as with community-based organizations and Downstate's affiliated teaching hospitals. This provides our students with easy access to the rich diversity of faculty expertise found in the only academic Health Sciences University in Brooklyn.

Our student body is as diverse as the populations we serve. We welcome students from a broad range of professional backgrounds. We highly value the unique perspectives all our students bring to the public health learning experience. We are committed to advancing the health of Brooklyn, and to the larger world that contributes to its amazing diversity.

School of Public Health Degree Programs

Concentration / Degree Options:

Community Health Sciences: MPH, DrPH

Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences: MPH, DrPH

Epidemiology: MPH, DrPH

Biostatistics: MPH

Health Policy and Management: MPH

Healthcare Administration: MPH

Additional options:

MD/MPH Concurrent Degree – available in all 6 MPH concentrations

Advanced Certificate in Public Health

Advanced Certificate in Climate Change and Planetary Health

Advanced Certificate in Public Health Geriatrics

Advanced Certificate in Global Health

Advanced Certificate in Clinical Epidemiology

Master of Healthcare Administration (Beginning in fall 2023)

Academic Departments

COMMUNITY HEALTH SCIENCES (CHSC)

Community Health Sciences is committed to training a new generation of public health practitioners who are skilled in articulating and assessing contemporary public health challenges within a social-ecological framework and developing and applying community-engaged, evidence-based approaches to advancing the health of urban and immigrant populations in Brooklyn and around the world. The department offers state-of-the-field graduate curricula, distinguished by several unique features including classes that integrate service-learning experiences in the community and an optional overseas field practicum.

Unique features:

In the Field: All of our MPH and DrPH core courses include time spent in communities: contributing to, observing, and learning about the health of local neighborhoods.

Global Emphasis: When we study immigrant communities, we simultaneously study the countries of origin for those immigrants. In a CHSC course, you will find assigned readings focusing on urban communities around the world.

Community Research with Faculty: Graduate students have the opportunity to work with CHSC faculty on innovative research studies serving the health goals of local communities as well as those across the country and in other parts of the world. Here in Brooklyn, we collaborate with community-based organizations, such as the Arthur Ashe Institute and CAMBA, in developing and evaluating interventions for pressing health issues. The community interventions we research cover a wide range of channels, from in-person outreach in barbershops,

ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SCIENCES (EOHS)

The EOHS Department provides graduate education, engage in public health practice and conduct both basic and applied research. Our faculty is actively engaged in research and teaching on the assessment, control and prevention of environmental and occupational chemical, biological, physical and work organization hazards and in better understanding their impacts on human health and safety. A special focus of our department is the impact of the urban built environment on public health. We view the "built environment" broadly to include:

- Proximity to public amenities such as parks and recreation facilities.
- Availability of healthy (and unhealthy) sources of food.
- Physical environment, including air pollution and unhealthy buildings.
- Social environment, including violence and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Together with other departments at SUNY-Downstate and with community groups, we are developing a geographic information system for Brooklyn that uses state-of-the-art database utilities and mapping software for better understanding risks and rates of disease and for developing programs to improve the health of Brooklyn's citizens. Other faculty interests include:

- Health and safety of public employees in New York City and State
- Reducing health disparities due to environmental and occupational hazards and socioeconomic status
- Programs for balancing work and family, reducing workplace violence and reducing work stress
- Risks to maternal-fetal health from environmental contaminants

Our EOHS Department offers students exciting opportunities for graduate education:

- Master of Public Health students develop the competencies needed to identify, assess, and manage environmental and occupational health problems.
- The Doctor of Public Health program prepares a practitioner to use approaches for recognizing and assessing environmental and occupational hazards and for developing programs designed to reduce risk and prevent injury and disease.

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND BIOSTATISTICS (EPI/BIOS)

The Coronavirus pandemic has shone a spotlight on the importance of Epidemiology. Epidemiologists seek to understand why diseases occur, how they are transmitted or perpetuated, and whether they are on the rise or on the decline in communities. Epidemiologists study a wide range of diseases, from chronic diseases like diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer, to infectious diseases like coronavirus and Lyme disease. The information gathered by Epidemiologists is crucial for disease prevention efforts.

Epidemiology can answer questions, such as:

- How common is a disease in the population and is disease occurrence changing over time?
- Are there disparities or inequities in disease incidence and outcome?
- How are lifestyle and other factors related to disease prevention, occurrence, treatment, and prognosis?
- How can a disease be controlled?

Our department teaches students research techniques for analyzing population-based health data, including approaches to determine whether associations between risk factors and health outcomes are causal or coincidental. Determining causality is crucial to the development of prevention and treatment efforts.

Students learn to design, conduct, analyze, and interpret research, with a particular focus on identifying and addressing demographic and socioeconomic inequities in health in New York City and beyond. We teach students to describe the scope of public health issues in terms of demographics and time trends, and to investigate the relative contributions of biological, behavioral, socio-economic, and environmental risk factors to disease incidence and clinical course.

Unique features of our department include:

- Small class sizes allow for individual attention to students, and more rigorous assignments.
- Research focus is on the analysis of health inequities experienced by underserved communities locally in Brooklyn and NYC, nationally, and internationally.
- Courses in statistical software (SAS, SPSS, R), applied statistical methods, and clinical trials provide students with in-demand biomedical research skills.
- APEx allows students to work alongside experienced epidemiologists and biostatisticians.
- Opportunities for students to gain invaluable experience analyzing public health data, presenting research at local, national, and international conferences, and publishing findings.

HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT (HPMG)

Our healthcare systems face unprecedented challenges as we continue to grapple with two pandemics converging: COVID-19 and the reckoning with racial injustice. Now perhaps more than ever, a diverse and interdisciplinary workforce is needed to respond to these challenges. In response, our Health Policy and Management (HPMG) Department provides a world-class training program to equip the next generation of healthcare leaders with the skills necessary to bring evidence-informed and community-engaged solutions to our healthcare systems. Whether in scholarship, teaching, or service, our department is grounded in a shared commitment to advance social justice.

The HPMG department currently offers an MPH degree with a concentration in Health Policy and Management or Healthcare Administration. Students in this program are equipped with the skills needed to develop and implement healthcare policies, conduct policy analyses, and work in governmental, healthcare, and public health sectors. In the HPMG concentration, coursework is designed to provide the foundational skills necessary for students to engage the scientific evidence and expertise required to develop, implement, and improve health policies and management strategies. By doing so, our HPMG concentration equips students to create and advocate for evidence-informed policies.

The HPMG Department is also in a growth phase, evolving to meet the challenges that confront our nation's healthcare systems. The HPMG department launched the MPH Concentration in Healthcare Administration in Fall 2022. The concentration provides the training required for students to lead and manage healthcare organizations to success in this time of extraordinary change. Our coursework will build upon generalized business management strategies while customizing this material to the distinct culture and challenges that confront healthcare systems. We will continue this growth with the launch of our Master of Healthcare Administration, beginning in fall 2023.

Our faculty is nationally prominent in three arenas: health policy, system-level interventions, and healthcare management. Drawn from across the Downstate Health Sciences University, our interdisciplinary faculty bring expertise in health services research, political science, medical sociology, and healthcare management. Our faculty's scholarship has received the support of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), W.T. Grant Foundation, among others. Faculty in our department are also national leaders in healthcare administration and management. Therefore, our interdisciplinary faculty bring expertise and experiences both as researchers and practitioners into the classroom.

Admissions Requirements

The School of Public Health (SPH) offers several programs leading to the Master of Public Health as well as a Doctor of Public Health Program. SPH also offer several Advanced Certificate options and accepts non-matriculated students.

Admission requirements for the Master of Public Health are provided below. Prospective students should check the website for the most current admissions information. Students should also review the specific admissions requirements for the program to which they are applying, since admissions requirements may vary by program.

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Several factors, including undergraduate and graduate grade point average, personal essay, letters of recommendation, and professional experiences, are considered in the decision to accept an applicant into the MPH program.

For the MPH, applications requirements include:

- Degree. A baccalaureate degree in any discipline from a college or university institutionally accredited and recognized by the Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).
- Transcript. Official transcripts from all previous postsecondary CHEA regionally accredited colleges or universities
- GPA. An undergraduate record with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale) is preferred. Applicants who have completed all or part of their education abroad, are required to have a course-by-course educational credential evaluation completed by an approved agency accredited by the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (<http://www.naces.org>).
- Coursework. For those interested in pursuing a concentration in Biostatistics, Epidemiology, or Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, a Bachelor of Science degree is preferred with at least one (1) undergraduate math and one (1) undergraduate biology course. For applicants to Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, an undergraduate chemistry course is preferred.
- Recommendation letters. Two letters of recommendation must be submitted addressing the applicant's academic ability and professional experience or interest as it applies to public health issues.
- Test of English as a Foreign Language. The (TOEFL) is required for ALL applicants for whom English is a Second Language and who have not completed at least one year of full-time study in a regionally accredited college or university in the United States (at least 24 semester credits, including two courses in English

composition). A minimum score for the paper exam of 536 (undergraduate programs) and 564 (graduate programs); a minimum score for the computer exam of 208 (undergraduate programs) and 223 (graduate programs); and a minimum score for the Internet-based exam of 65-78 (undergraduate programs) and 79-95 (graduate programs) is required on the TOEFL.

- Fee. A non-refundable application fee.

MASTER OF HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION (MHA)

Several factors, including undergraduate and graduate grade point average, personal essay, letters of recommendation, and professional experiences, are considered in the decision to accept an applicant into the MHA program.

For the MHA, applications requirements include:

- Degree. A baccalaureate degree in any discipline from a college or university institutionally accredited and recognized by the Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).
- Transcript. Official transcripts from all previous postsecondary CHEA regionally accredited colleges or universities
- GPA. An undergraduate record with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale) is preferred. Applicants who have completed all or part of their education abroad, are required to have a course-by-course educational credential evaluation completed by an approved agency accredited by the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (<http://www.naces.org>).
- Coursework. For those interested in pursuing the MHA, one course in economics, statistics, mathematics, or a related field is preferred.
- Recommendation letters. Two letters of recommendation must be submitted addressing the applicant's academic ability and professional experience or interest as it applies to healthcare administration issues.
- Test of English as a Foreign Language. The (TOEFL) is required for ALL applicants for whom English is a Second Language and who have not completed at least one year of full-time study in a regionally accredited college or university in the United States (at least 24 semester credits, including two courses in English composition). A minimum score for the paper exam of 536 (undergraduate programs) and 564 (graduate programs); a minimum score for the computer exam of 208 (undergraduate programs) and 223 (graduate programs); and a minimum score for the Internet-based exam of 65-78 (undergraduate programs) and 79-95 (graduate programs) is required on the TOEFL.
- Fee. A non-refundable application fee.

DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH (DrPH)

Application requirements for the DrPH include:

- Degree. An MPH degree from a college or university accredited by CEPH is required for admission into the DrPH program.
- Transcript. Official transcripts from all previous postsecondary CHEA regionally accredited colleges or universities.
- GPA. A graduate academic record with a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or better (on a 4.0 scale) in the major course of study is preferred.
- Coursework. For those applying to Epidemiology, or Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, a Bachelor of Science degree is preferred with at least one (1) undergraduate math and one (1) undergraduate biology course. For applicants to Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, an undergraduate chemistry course is also preferred.
- Recommendation letters. Three letters of recommendation preferably from either faculty in the primary field of study and/or from a recent employer
- Interview. Each doctoral applicant must have an interview with a designated faculty member in the department to which the applicant is applying. The interview will be arranged by the specific department when the applicant's application is complete. The detailed written report and recommendation of the interviewer will be submitted with the application for consideration by the Admissions Committee.
- Personal Statement. An essay of 1000 words or less denoting the applicant's interest in pursuing a doctoral degree in a specific area. The applicant should examine the research and practice interests of the doctoral faculty in his/her respective areas of interest to ensure that an appropriate faculty collaboration is possible.
- Test of English as a Foreign Language. The (TOEFL) is required for ALL applicants for whom English is a Second Language and who have not completed at least one year of full-time study in a regionally accredited college or university in the United States (at least 24 semester credits, including two courses in English composition). A minimum score for the paper exam of 536 (undergraduate programs) and 564 (graduate programs); a minimum score for the computer exam of 208 (undergraduate programs) and 223 (graduate programs); and a minimum score for the Internet-based exam of 65-78 (undergraduate programs) and 79-95 (graduate programs) is required on the TOEFL.
- Fee. A non-refundable application fee.

Admission to the MD/MPH Concurrent Degree Program

Applicants for concurrent degrees with other programs in the Health Sciences University must apply to and be accepted by each program. Students applying for concurrent degrees should apply to both programs as early as possible so that they can obtain their admission status for each program in a timely fashion. The admission requirements for each degree apply. Students applying for concurrent degrees should indicate their intent on the application.

Admission to the Master of Public Health Program After Successful Completion of the SUNY Downstate Advanced Certificate Program

Students who have successfully completed the SUNY Downstate Advanced Certificate Program with a grade point average of 3.0 or greater may apply into the Master of Public Health Program by submitting the following documents only:

- ACPH to MPH Transition form.
- Advanced Certificate students who submit an application into the MPH program while enrolled in their final semester and meet the requirements listed above, will be accepted on the condition that their final cumulative grade point average is 3.0 or greater.

Application Deadlines

MPH applicants can apply for spring, summer, or fall semester except for MD/MPH applicants (see below). Please review the SPH website for the current application deadlines for each cycle.

Transfer Credits

A maximum of twelve (12) credits from another CEPH and CHEA regionally accredited college and/or university can be transferred into the MPH program. Transfer of credits for courses used towards the completion of a granted degree will not be considered. Courses taken outside of SUNY Downstate's School of Public Health while actively matriculated in the program will not be considered.

For transfer of credits, the accepted student must provide: 1) a detailed course syllabus and 2) an official transcript verifying at least a B grade (3.0 on a 4.0 system) in the particular course(s).

If the student fails to provide appropriate proof of course content equivalency and an official transcript in a timely fashion, the option for credit transfer may be denied.

Notification of Status

Notification of action on the application is emailed after the complete admission materials are received and reviewed by the SPH Committee on Admission. A student accepted for admission into one of the graduate programs is required to secure his or her place in the class by submitting a deposit that will be applied to the first semester's tuition.

Deferrals

If accepted, individuals may request a deferral for up to one year for personal or professional reasons. Requests must be made in writing and submitted to the Downstate Office of Admissions. No extensions beyond the one-year are permitted.

Matriculation Policy

Accepted students are required to submit all required documents, including final transcripts for all college and universities attended, to the Office of Admissions prior to the start of classes. Note that required health documents must be submitted directly to the Student Health Office.

Mandatory Criminal Background Check

Please note that all students who attend SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University will be required to complete a background check prior to enrollment, at your expense. Background checks will be conducted post-admission and are not used by the Admissions Committee to determine admissibility.

Re-applicants

Some "re-applicants" are admitted each year with improved credentials. Re-applicants should contact the SPH Office of Student Affairs to schedule a pre-application advisement appointment to discuss how to improve their credentials in a reapplication. Re-applicants must submit a new application form, application fee, transcripts, and at least one new letter of recommendation.

International Student Applications and Foreign Medical Graduates

Applicants who have completed all or part of their education abroad are required to have a course-by-course educational credential evaluation completed by an approved agency accredited by **The National Association Of Credential Evaluation Services** (<http://www.naces.org>). This evaluation must include a breakdown of each course by name, US equivalent semester hours, and the corresponding letter grade. These requests should be done and completed well in advance of the semester deadlines.

International students should not consider assistance from the college in their financial planning. On-campus employment is not recommended because of the demanding nature of the academic program. Many international students have visa restrictions on working. All international applicants must document their ability to finance their education as part of the admissions process.

International Medical Graduates who wish to be considered health care professionals are required to either have a valid and current state license in the United States or have passed Steps I and II of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) before they can be considered for entry into the program.

Important Information

Admission to SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University is based on the qualifications of the applicant. SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, creed, age, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, religion, marital status, or status as a disabled veteran in the Vietnam era. Responses on this application to questions of race, sex, and date of birth are voluntary and are used for statistical purposes only.

For more information about the School of Public Health, contact:

SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University School of Public Health
MSC 43
450 Clarkson Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11203
718-270-1065 (telephone)
718-270-2533 (fax)
E-mail: PublicHealth@downstate.edu

Official application materials for all programs must be submitted to:

SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University Office of Admissions
Box 60
450 Clarkson Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11203
Tel: 718-270-2446

MD / MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Application Deadlines: MD/MPH Concurrent Degree Students are admitted for the summer semester only.

The following application procedures pertain only to those applicants who are also applicants to the SUNY Downstate College of Medicine in this application year, and who are also applying to the concurrent MPH degree program.

NOTE: Applicants must be accepted by the College of Medicine and the School of Public Health Admissions Committees. Admissions policies of both colleges pertain to MD/MPH applicants. Medical students at SUNY Downstate can earn a Master of Public Health degree while earning their MD degree. **Students enroll in both programs simultaneously and complete all the requirements of the two degrees specified by each college. There is no credit sharing between the two programs.**

AMCAS Application Tip:

If you are applying to the MD/MPH program, you should select **Combined Medical Degree – Graduate** as your program type. If you decide to change from MD/MPH to **regular MD only** after you have submitted your AMCAS application, you need to log into your AMCAS application and submit a **Post Submission Change – change Program type** via AMCAS and select **Regular MD** as your program type.

If you already have the MD degree, or if you plan to attend the MPH program not as a concurrent degree program, you should follow the application policies and procedures for the Master of Public Health (MPH) Admissions Requirements.

Admission to the MD/MPH Degree Program

Applicants who wish to apply to the MD/MPH program must log into their AMCAS application and change their program type to Combined Medical Degree/Graduate. **Applicants will not be required to complete a supplemental application for the MPH program.**

Admissions Policies

Applicants to the MD/MPH program must meet the admissions requirements of both programs (MD and MPH). Please review the information from the College of Medicine admissions policies section ([click here](#)) and the MPH admissions policies section.

Application Procedures

- Applicants must complete an AMCAS application indicating "**Combined Medical Degree/Graduate**" as application type.
- Applicants to the MD/MPH program will not be required to pay a SPH application fee nor complete a supplemental application.
- Please refer to the Downstate Office of Admissions page for MD application deadline.
- The deadline for declaring an interest in the MD/MPH program is May 1st.
- Applicants who later wish to be considered for admission to the MD/MPH program after December 1st, must send an email notification to medadmissions@downstate.edu declaring their intent.
- Applicants will have two days to log back into their AMCAS application to change their program type to Combined Medical Degree/Graduate.
- A copy of the applicant's updated AMCAS application and letters of recommendation will be forwarded to the School of Public Health.

Once the MD/MPH AMCAS application is complete, the application and letters of recommendations will then be forwarded to the School of Public Health electronically.

NOTE: All letters must be submitted electronically—through the AMCAS letter service (including Virtual Evals or Interfolio). We do not accept letters of recommendation sent by mail, email, or fax.

MD/MPH Acceptance:

- An acceptance reply form will be required within two weeks of the mailing of the decision letter.
- Applicants will be required to submit a deposit to secure their place in the entering class for both schools.

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Please review the SPH Advanced Certificate website section to identify the up to date deadline for each semester.

Admission Requirements

A number of factors – undergraduate and graduate Grade Point Average (GPA), letters of recommendation, and personal experiences – are considered in the decision to accept an applicant into the Advanced Certificate in Public Health Program. Each factor is weighed separately yet considered in relation to the others in the decision to admit or reject an applicant.

Requirements:

- Appropriate completion of the Advanced Certificate in Public Health Program admission application.
- Baccalaureate degree from a Council for Higher Education (CHEA) regionally accredited college or university.
- Official transcripts from all previous postsecondary CHEA regionally accredited colleges or universities.
- An undergraduate record with a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better (on a 4.0 scale) is preferred. Applicants who have completed all or part of their education abroad, are required to have a course-by-course educational credential evaluation completed by an approved agency accredited by the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (<http://www.naces.org>).
- One academic or professional letter of recommendation.
- Personal Statement: The essay is a personal statement in which the applicant explains his or her reasons for pursuing the advanced certificate in public health and hopes for what he or she will achieve with that degree. The essay should be on separate, numbered sheets of paper for and include the applicant's name at the top of each sheet. The essay should be no more than 500 words.
- Test of English as a Foreign Language. The (TOEFL) is required for ALL applicants for whom English is a Second Language and who have not completed at least one year of full-time study in a regionally accredited college or university in the United States (at least 24 semester credits, including two courses in English composition). A minimum score for the paper exam of 536 (undergraduate programs) and 564 (graduate programs); a minimum score for the computer exam of 208 (undergraduate programs) and 223 (graduate programs); and a minimum score for the Internet-based exam of 65-78 (undergraduate programs) and 79-95 (graduate programs) is required on the TOEFL.
- Fee. A non-refundable application fee.

MPH Academic Requirements

All students complete a total of 42 credits of MPH coursework, comprised of 15 courses. Each course is linked with a specific set of MPH-level competencies; successful completion of the course demonstrates achievement of those competencies. A listing of the courses, brief course description, and associated competencies are available on the [School of Public Health's website](#). Course schedules are sent out to students each semester prior to the start of the enrollment period.

MPH Foundational courses

All MPH students take the following six 3-credit courses, typically in the first year of the program:

Course #	Course Name	Credits
BIOS 5200	Principles of Biostatistics	3
CHSC 5206	Program Design and Evaluation	3
EOHS 5200	Issues in Environmental Health	3
EPID 5200	Principles of Epidemiology	3
HPMG 5206	Introduction to Health Policy and Management	3
PUBH 5201	Public Health Leadership in Interprofessional Practice	3

Concentration courses

In addition to foundational courses, students take an additional four 3-credit courses (five 3-credit courses for the MPH in Healthcare Administration), specific to their MPH concentration.

Biostatistics concentration courses

Course #	Course Name	Credits
BIOS 5201	Categorical Data Analysis	3
BIOS 5202	Applied Regression Analysis	3

BIOS 5203	Survival Analysis	3
BIOS 5204	Statistical Computing	3

Community Health Sciences concentration courses

Course #	Course Name	Credits
CHSC 5200	Health Behavior and Risk Reduction	3
CHSC 5202	Issues in the Health of Immigrant Populations	3
CHSC 5205	Urban Health Issues	3
CHSC 5300	Introduction to Research Methods	3

Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences concentration courses

Course #	Course Name	Credits
EOHS 5201	Introduction Management, Policy and Law	3
EOHS 5202	Occupational Health	3
EOHS 5316	Climate Change and Health	3
EOHS 5317	Disaster Preparedness and Vulnerable Populations	3

Epidemiology concentration courses

Course #	Course Name	Credits
EPID 5201	Epidemiologic Research Methods	3
EPID 5202	Infectious Disease Epidemiology	3
EPID 5203	Chronic Disease Epidemiology	3
EPID 5205	Epidemiologic Research Methods II	3

Health Policy and Management concentration courses

Course #	Course Name	Credits
HPMG 5202	Healthcare Advocacy and Politics	3
HPMG 5203	Healthcare Management Concepts	3
HPMG 5204	Access, Cost, and Quality of Care	3
HPMG 5208	Health Services Research Design and Methods	3

Healthcare Administration concentration courses

Course #	Course Name	Credits
HCAD 5201	Introduction to Healthcare Administration	3
HCAD 5202	Healthcare Law and Ethics	3
HCAD 5203	Healthcare Finance and Reimbursement	3
HCAD 5204	Healthcare Quality and Improvement	3
HPMG 5203	Health Management Concepts	3

MPH Elective courses

In addition to the required foundational and concentration courses, students select elective courses that are aligned with their professional goals. These electives may consist of concentration courses from another concentration area or electives from their own or other concentrations. Students must meet with their program advisor to discuss elective courses and ensure that all prerequisites are met prior to course enrollment. A listing of the courses and descriptions are available on the [School of Public Health's website](#).

Applied practice experience (APEX)

Overview and prerequisites

The Applied Practice Experience (APEX) provides the student with an opportunity to apply and translate knowledge, theory, and skills learned in the classroom into practice within a professional public health setting. It is a planned, supervised, and evaluated field-based experience that can take place in a variety of agencies and organizations. An APEX is designed to strengthen foundational and concentration-specific public health competencies, complement the student's professional interests, and advance career goals. Students typically sign up for APEX course in the semester in which they plan to complete all APEX requirements and after having completed at least 15 credits of foundational and concentration core coursework. All students must complete the APEX, regardless of history of public health work experience.

Elements of the APEX

To complete the APEX, students complete a minimum of 120 hours of fieldwork at an approved APEX site, engaging in activities that are of benefit to the hosting organization and which serve to strengthen three pre-selected MPH-level competencies, including at least one competency focused on public health leadership. These activities result in development of at least two work products. In addition, students complete a self-reflection presentation. The MPH APEX Handbook provides details for the requirements for the APEX. Questions regarding the APEX should be directed to the [Associate Dean for Community Engagement](#).

Integrative learning experience (ILE)

It is anticipated that students who have completed all coursework and APEX requirements proceed to complete the Integrated Learning Experience (ILE) in their final semester of the MPH program, with the purpose of ensuring that students have gained required program competencies and are able to synthesize and apply MPH-level competencies to an applied public health problem both in writing and orally. The ILE consists of a written work product and an oral presentation. The MPH ILE Handbook provides details for the requirements for the ILE. Questions regarding the ILE should be directed to the student's respective Department Chair, who serves as the Course Director for the ILE for each MPH concentration.

DrPH Academic Requirements

For students entering in September 2023 or later, completion of the doctoral degree requires a minimum of 45 credits, and includes satisfactory completion of the following milestones:

- All foundational and concentration course requirements, and elective courses (36 credits).
- The [Applied Practice Experience](#) [APEX] (3 credits).
- A [Qualifying Examination](#) [QE] (0 credits).
- Doctoral [Dissertation](#) (6 credits).

Students entering the program prior to 2023 also complete 45 credits based on the requirements in place at the time of their matriculation into the program. Students should consult with their faculty advisor to clarify these requirements.

Regardless of year of program entry, some students may require more than 45 credits to complete the program if additional time is taken for any component of the program or if any component of the program needs to be repeated.

Doctoral coursework and competencies

All program elements are structured around a set of program competencies. Successful completion of doctoral program milestones, including coursework, the APEX, qualifying examination, dissertation proposal, and dissertation, demonstrate mastery of these doctoral competencies.

Foundational courses

All doctoral students complete four 3-credit courses, typically in the first Fall and Spring of the program, which address doctoral-level [foundational competencies](#).

Course number	Course name	Credits
HPMG 7200	Public Health Management and Ethics	3
BIOS 7200	Quantitative Research Methods for Public Health Practice	3
PUBH 7200	Public Health Policy and Politics Seminar	3
PUBH 7201	Study Design in Public Health Practice	3

Concentration core courses

In addition to foundation courses, students take an additional four 3-credit courses, specific to their doctoral concentration and which address doctoral level [concentration-specific competencies](#).

Community Health Sciences Concentration Core Courses

Course number	Course name	Credits
CHSC 7202	Methods of Community Intervention and Research	3
CHSC 7203	Program Evaluation: Theory, Practice and Research	3
CHSC 7201	Qualitative Research Methods for Public Health Practice	3
CHSC 7204	Seminar in Health Promotion	3

Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Concentration Core Courses

Course number	Course name	Credits
EOHS 7300	Advanced Topics in Occupational Health	3
EOHS 7202	Advanced Topics in Risk Assessment and Management	3
EOHS 7201	Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology	3
EOHS 7203	Environmental Health Policy and Management Systems	3

Epidemiology Concentration Core Courses

Course number	Course name	Credits
BIOS 7203	Advanced Applied Regression Analysis	3
EPID 7201	Advanced Epidemiologic Research Methods I	3

EPID 7202	Advanced Epidemiologic Research Methods II	3
EPID 7205	Surveillance, Outbreak Investigation, and Management	3

Elective courses

In addition to the required foundational and concentration core courses, students select elective courses that align with their professional goals. These electives may include concentration core courses from another doctoral concentration area or electives from other concentrations. Students must meet with their program advisor to discuss elective courses and to ensure that all prerequisites are met prior to course enrollments.

Applied practice experience (APEX)

Overview

During the Applied Practice Experience (APEX), students apply and translate knowledge, theory, and skills learned in the classroom into practice within a professional public health setting. The APEX is a planned, supervised, and evaluated field-based experience that can take place in a variety of agencies and organizations. Students work with preceptors and their faculty advisor to design an APEX that will strengthen doctoral level foundational and concentration-specific public health competencies, complement the student's professional interests, and advance career goals. Students typically begin planning for the APEX in the second year of the program. Students enroll in the APEX course in the semester in which they plan to complete all APEX requirements and after having completed at least 15 credits of foundational and concentration core coursework. In addition, students may be required to complete additional coursework in order adequately address competencies that will be applied during the APEX prior to starting activities. Decisions regarding any additional prerequisite coursework are determined in consultation with the student's faculty advisor and the [Associate Dean for Community Engagement](#). All students must complete the APEX regardless of their history of public health work experience.

Elements of the APEX

To satisfy the APEX requirement, students complete a minimum of 150 hours of fieldwork and develop at least two work products at an approved APEX site. Students engage in activities that benefit the hosting organization and strengthen five pre-selected doctoral level competencies. The competencies must include at least one competency drawn from the list of foundational [leadership, management & governance competencies](#). In addition, students complete a self-reflection presentation. The [Doctoral APEX Handbook](#) details the requirements for the APEX. Questions regarding the APEX should be directed to the [Associate Dean for Community Engagement](#).

Qualifying examination (QE)

Overview

The purpose of the QE is to demonstrate mastery of the range of doctoral public health competencies covered in the DrPH curriculum. Doctoral students are scheduled to take the qualifying exam in the semester after which the following conditions are met:

- Completion of all foundation, concentration, and elective courses.
- Minimum GPA of 3.0.
- Completion of all APEx requirements.

In some circumstances, and with advisor approval, students may take the qualifying examination in the semester in which they are completing a final elective course. A student cannot take the qualifying exam while they are completing the APEx.

Format and grading

The QE typically occurs mid-semester in the fall and spring. The exam takes place on campus over the course of two days and lasts approximately six hours per day. One day focuses on competencies covered in the DrPH foundation courses and the other day on competencies covered in the DrPH concentration core courses. For the concentration exam, students answer four out of six essay questions, focused on the four concentration core courses. Each question applies concentration-area content to a specific real-world situation.

The foundation exam has two sections:

- Section One contains four questions which span the four [foundation courses](#). Students are required to respond to two of four questions.
- One from either BIOS 7200 Quantitative Research Methods for Public Health Practice or PUBH 7201 Study Design in Public Health.
- One from either HPMG 7200 Public Health Management and Ethics or PUBH 7200 Public Health Policy and Politics Seminar.
- Section Two of the foundation exam involves developing a critique of a research article. This critique will involve responses to approximately ten questions. The questions focus on core doctoral competencies and are not specific to a content area.

Answers are scored utilizing rubrics, and each section is graded Pass/Fail by an SPH faculty subcommittee. Students do not receive individual feedback on the exam. A student who does not pass one or both sections of the qualifying exam will be permitted one retake of the foundation and/or concentration section(s) the next time the qualifying exam is given. In the event of a retake, the student will need to register for another

dissertation credit for that semester. If a student fails one or both sections of the exam after this retake, the case will be referred to the [SPH Committee of Student Evaluation, Promotion, and Honors](#), and the student will be recommended for dismissal from the program. Details of the SEPH review and processes for appeals are included in the [SUNY Downstate Health Science University's Student Handbook](#).

Advancement to doctoral candidacy

Doctoral students advance to candidacy upon successful completion of the Qualifying Examination. The [Committee on the Doctoral Program](#) reviews the status of all doctoral students who sit for the qualifying examination and notifies the student, the student's advisor, and the chair of the student's department of transition from doctoral student to doctoral candidate. Doctoral candidates spend the remainder of the program on development and completion of the doctoral dissertation.

Dissertation

Overview

The dissertation serves as the culminating project for doctoral candidates and is the final requirement for the program. During dissertation development, students apply and integrate [competencies](#) attained in the doctoral curriculum and apply them to a topic of applied public health significance. The dissertation process results in a high-quality written product and oral presentation that are consistent with advanced doctoral-level study, has practical implications for public health programs, policies, or systems, and demonstrates a student's mastery and ability to synthesize and apply doctoral-level competencies to an applied public health issue. The dissertation can take the form of program or policy evaluations, assessment of risk and protective factors for disease or injury, development and pilot testing of public health interventions, policy analyses, needs and asset assessments, development of public health manuscripts, or other formats reflecting advanced doctoral level study.

Elements of the dissertation

The dissertation is a multi-stage process that involves several steps, including:

- Selection of a minimum of three doctoral-level foundational and concentration competencies (with at least one from each category selected) that will be applied and synthesized in the project.
- Development of a dissertation committee and identification of a committee chair.
- Formal written dissertation proposal and oral defense of the dissertation proposal.
- Written dissertation.
- Oral defense of the dissertation.
- Submission of a final written dissertation.

Requirements, expectations, and supporting details of the dissertation are provided in the SPH Dissertation Handbook.

Advanced Certificate in Public Health Requirements

Course #	Course Name	Credits
BIOS 5200	Principles of Biostatistics	3
CHSC 5206	Program Design and Evaluation	3
EOHS 5200	Issues in Environmental Health	3
EPID 5200	Principles of Epidemiology	3
HPMG 5206	Introduction to Health Policy and Management	3

Advanced Certificate in Public Health Geriatrics Requirements

Course #	Course Name	Credits
EPID 5305	Epidemiology of Aging	3
HPMG 5315	Legal Issues in Aging and Public Health	3
EPID 5200	Principles of Epidemiology	3
CHSC 5206	Program Design and Evaluation	3
PUBH 5201	Public Health Leadership and Interprofessional Practice	3

Advanced Certificate in Climate Change and Planetary Health Requirements

Course #	Course Name	Credits
EOHS 5200	Issues in Environmental Health	3
EOHS 5315	Building Climate Resiliency: Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies	3
EOHS 5316	Climate Change and Health	3
EOHS 5317	Disaster Preparedness and Vulnerable Populations	3

EOHS 5318	Planetary Health	3
------------------	------------------	---

Advanced Certificate in Global Health Requirements

Course #	Course Name	Credits
CHSC 5315	Public Health and Human Rights	3
CHSC 5206	Program Design and Evaluation	3
CHSC 5317	Disease Burden and Priorities in Global Health	3
CHSC 5205	Urban Health Issues	3
EPID 5200	Principles of Epidemiology	3

Advanced Certificate in Clinical Epidemiology Requirements

Course #	Course Name	Credits
BIOS 5200	Principles of Biostatistics	3
EPID 5200	Principles of Epidemiology	3
BIOS 5304	Design and Conduct of Clinical Trials	3
EPID 5201	Epidemiologic Research Methods	3
	One Elective: Applied Regression Analysis, Statistical Computing, or Survey Research Methods	3

Master of Healthcare Administration Requirements

SEMESTER 1

Course #	Course Name	Credits
HCAD 5201	Introduction to Healthcare Administration	3
HCAD 5202	Healthcare Law and Ethics	3
HCAD 5203	Healthcare Finance and Reimbursement	3
HMPG 5203	Healthcare Management Concepts	3
	Elective	1

SEMESTER 2

Course #	Course Name	Credits
HCAD 5204	Healthcare Quality Improvement	3
HCAD 5206	Health Information Systems and Technology	3
HCAD 5207	Public Health Foundations	3
	Elective	3
	Elective	1.5

SEMESTER 3

Course #	Course Name	Credits
HCAD 6500	MHA Applied Practicum Experience and Capstone	3
HCAD 5205	Healthcare Strategy Planning and Marketing	3
	Healthcare Operations	3
	Elective	3
	Elective	1.5

Faculty

The School of Public Health at Downstate is home to talented academic and administrative professionals dedicated to serving students and promoting health equity for all.

Departmental faculty have been extensively involved in a broad range of scholarly and research activities. These include clinical outcomes and health care quality improvement, risk management in health care institutions, home health care, hospice care, cost containment and prospective payment, Medicaid, community mental health, strategic health planning, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, cancer epidemiology, prostate cancer, and comparative mortalities in surgical procedures. Current plans for future research directions include disparities in health and health care among minority populations, urban health issues, cancer epidemiology, health care evaluation, women's health, prevention issues for urban minority populations, and HIV prevention and treatment. Faculty biographies and contact information may be found [here](#).

SUNY Downstate Health Sciences

University

SUNY DOWNSTATE ADDRESS

450 Clarkson Avenue

Brooklyn, NY 11203

www.downstate.edu

ADMISSIONS

(718) 270-2446

admissions@downstate.edu

FINANCIAL AID

(718) 270-2488

financialaid@downstate.edu

RESIDENTIAL LIFE AND SERVICES

(718) 270-1466

Fax: (718) 270-1467

residentiallife@downstate.edu