Public Health
Graduate Certificate

Effective January 8, 2018
Public Health

Graduate Certificate

The Public Health graduate certificate is designed for professionals who want to enhance their knowledge in core public health concepts, including health administration, environmental health, biostatistics, behavioral health, and epidemiology.

This graduate certificate is offered in the GuidedPath delivery model.

Our competency-based curriculum was built around relevant, real-world public health challenges to ensure learners gain the interprofessional skills they need to provide and implement impactful, efficient solutions.
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Bachelor’s degree from an institution accredited by a U.S. Department of Education-recognized accrediting agency or an internationally recognized institution

Grade point average of 2.3 or higher on a 4.0 scale

Capella’s Career Center proactively assists learners and alumni in developing and implementing their unique career management goals. The Career Center staff is committed to helping you move forward in your career.

Courses completed in the Public Health graduate certificate can all be applied toward the MPH degree program. This certificate will also fulfill the content knowledge areas for learners who want to enter Capella’s DrPH and don’t have a master’s in public health.

The courses in this program may require live web conferencing activities and/or learner audio/video recordings. Learners who require assistive technology or alternative communication methods to participate in these activities should contact Disability Services to request accommodations.
Course Descriptions

**MPH5500  Introduction to Public Health Administrative Systems**  
4 QUARTER CREDITS  
This course provides an overview of the elements of the public health system and reviews the administrative processes that foster integration and managerial effectiveness across the system. Learners study the organizational, financial, and managerial structure and function of the public health system and analyze the impact of health policy on administrative systems, including health insurance and reimbursement policy.

**MPH5503  Environmental Health Concepts in Public Health**  
4 QUARTER CREDITS  
This course surveys the major issues related to environmental and occupational health and health hazards. Learners identify the sources of biological, chemical, and physical agents found in the environment and analyze their effects on water, food, and land resources in community and occupational settings. Learners also examine the legal framework, policies, and practices associated with controlling environmental and occupational hazards.

**MPH5506  Social and Behavioral Foundations in Public Health**  
4 QUARTER CREDITS  
Learners in this course explore social and behavioral science theories and concepts applied to population health. Learners identify and increase their understanding of the biological, social, economic, behavioral, and environmental factors that influence the health of individuals, populations, and subgroups. Learners also examine the resources needed to develop social and behavioral policies and public health evidenced-based programs to reduce disparities and improve health.

**MPH5509  Principles of Biostatistics**  
4 QUARTER CREDITS  
This course provides an introduction to the objectives, principles, and methods of biostatistics for health sciences. Topics include statistical vocabulary; methods for descriptive data analysis; fundamentals of probability and sampling distribution; methods for statistical inference and hypothesis testing; and data analysis and linear regression for continuous, binary, and survival data.

**MPH5512  Principles of Epidemiology**  
4 QUARTER CREDITS  
This course provides an overview of epidemiology, including an evaluation of the nature of disease; the interaction among agent, host, and environment; and the chain of transmission. Learners examine epidemiological research methods for identifying and describing variables, evaluate measures of disease occurrence, determine key data sources, and formulate interventions to control disease occurrence and transmission. **Prerequisite(s): MPH5509. Prerequisites do not apply to Public Health concentration learners.**
Financial Aid

Capella University offers assistance to learners who qualify and would like to secure educational funding to help finance their academic program. A number of options are available, given the diverse needs and backgrounds of prospective learners. Options include:

- Federal Direct Stafford Loan Program
- Federal Direct PLUS Loan Program
- Non-federal loans through preferred lenders and financial institutions
- External scholarships
- Veterans’ and U.S. armed forces discounts
- Corporate and higher education alliances
- Employer tuition reimbursement

Regarding loan programs, interest rates for Stafford student loans are low compared to other types of consumer loans, and repayment can be deferred until after graduation. In compliance with federal and state laws, Capella University has established policies for all learners regarding satisfactory academic progress, which is necessary for financial aid eligibility.
Academic Leadership

F. Patrick Robinson, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean

Dr. Patrick Robinson serves as the dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at Capella University. Prior to joining Capella, Dr. Robinson served as Senior Vice President of Academics for Orbis Education, Dean of Curriculum and Instruction at Chamberlain College of Nursing, Executive Assistant Dean of the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing, and Chair of the Department of Health Management and Risk Reduction at the Niehoff School of Nursing at Loyola University Chicago. Additionally, Dr. Robinson is a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN). He holds a BSN and MSN from Indiana University, a PhD in Nursing Science from Loyola University Chicago and has completed a post-doctoral fellowship in biobehavioral nursing research at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Christy Davidson, DNP, RN
Associate Dean and Director of Nursing

Dr. Christy Davidson serves as associate dean and director of nursing for Capella University’s School of Nursing and Health Sciences. Dr. Davidson has been with Capella since 2010, and has been a registered nurse for almost 18 years, having previously served as a staff nurse, clinical nurse specialist, legal nurse consultant, and nurse manager. Her areas of specialty and interest include women’s and children’s health, leadership and management, and quality improvement. Dr. Davidson holds a DNP in Leadership from the University of South Alabama and holds both an MSN in Adult Health and a BSN from the University of Mobile.

Ben Spedding, DHA
Interim Faculty Chair

Dr. Ben Spedding serves as the interim faculty chair for Public Health and Health Care Leadership in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences. Dr. Spedding has taught at Capella since 2011 in the School of Undergraduate Studies (psychology program), where he most recently functioned in the interim faculty chair role. In 2013, he joined the School of Public Service Leadership as a faculty mentor for doctoral students. He has been recognized twice with the Stephen Shank award. He has served in various faculty roles since 2004 and has over 20 years of experience working in the nonprofit health care and social services arenas. His professional expertise includes responding to the health care industry’s demand for determining new methods of organizing, delivering, and purchasing services. Ben states, “I enjoy teaching, knowing that it assists in the development of the next generation of leaders and helps to prepare students for their roles in society as lifelong learners.”
Move Forward with Capella University

WORKING SCHOLARS
Capella provides an online, flexible learning environment for working adults who are also determined scholars. That connection between academic and professional work infuses the entire Capella experience—from the faculty we recruit to the course projects you complete. The theories discussed in the courseroom are designed to develop working knowledge for everyday situations.

AN ACCREDITED UNIVERSITY
Our accreditation* is an assurance to students, employers, and the public that Capella University meets established standards for quality of faculty, curriculum, and learner services. It is also an important factor in the ability to transfer credits among higher education institutions. Regional accreditation, the type held by Capella, is the most common type for major public, state, and private institutions in the United States.

VALUING YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE
Adults bring a wealth of experience and learning to their education. Capella courses are designed to bring out your perspectives just as you gain from others’ ideas. Your knowledge can also be worth time and money: An enrollment counselor can help you estimate how much of your prior learning may apply toward your Capella degree program.

Important Information about the educational debt, earnings, and completion rates of students who attended this program: http://capellaresults.com/assets/includes/gainfulemployment/cta/GE/GE15/certs/PB_Cert_Public_Hlth_Gedt.html.