Master of Public Health (MPH) Degree Program
Master of Public Health (MPH) Degree Program

The Master of Public Health (MPH) degree program focuses on preparing health professionals to protect and improve the health of communities and populations through promotion of healthy lifestyles and environments; research and education; prevention of injuries, disease, and epidemics; identification of environmental hazards; and disaster response. This program provides learners with knowledge and application of fundamental public health concepts, theories, and practices and emphasizes the role of the public health professional in assessing health status; mitigating health disparities; analyzing epidemiology of specific diseases; developing, implementing, and sustaining public health programs; managing administrative functions; conducting program evaluation and outcomes research; developing and sustaining public-private partnerships to meet the health needs of diverse populations; and assuring the quality of public health services and products.

Upon completion of this program, learners have gained knowledge and skills in health management, population-based research, and community public health practice. Successful graduates are prepared to assume positions in government, private, or community-based public health organizations.

Capella’s MPH curriculum is designed around the essential elements of an education in public health recommended in the Blue Ribbon Public Health Employers Advisory Board Report.

With the competitive landscape of public health, Capella’s MPH practicum provides practical experience, expanding your skills in new areas of the field and developing leadership—giving you the edge among your peers.

This specialization is offered in the GuidedPath delivery model.
### Career Information

#### RELATED EMPLOYMENT SETTINGS TO EXPLORE

- Health care organization (e.g., hospital or clinic)
- Community health center
- Public health agency
- Professional association
- Health insurance company
- Community-based organization
- Nonprofit organization
- Social welfare organization
- Consulting firm

#### RELATED JOB TITLES TO EXPLORE**†**

- Public health investigator
- Public health advisor
- Health outcomes analyst
- Research assistant
- Environmental health intelligence analyst
- Community health program manager
- Public health program specialist
- Principal investigator
- Health policy analyst
- Project coordinator
- Public health consultant
- Project director
- Public health officer
- Program coordinator
- Program manager
- Bioterrorism researcher
- Legislative policy advisor
- Lead researcher
- Social or behavioral scientist
- Statistician
- Epidemiologist
- Public Health Officer
- Social science analyst
- Health educator
- Health communications specialist
- Health promotion specialist

#### PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- Apply the fundamentals of biostatistical methods and concepts in addressing public health problems
- Apply the fundamentals of epidemiological methods and concepts in addressing public health disparities
- Synthesize communications strategies to communicate public health concepts to diverse audiences
- Critically analyze evidence and theory from a broad range of disciplines and sources that impact public health
- Identify and evaluate environmental determinants that affect the health of communities
- Explain the ethical concepts of social justice and human rights in public health
- Create a plan to provide fiscally responsible strategic and operational guidance within public and private health organizations
- Explain the core components of influencing and motivating others to collaborate across diverse groups
- Assess public health in policies and practices at the local, regional, national, and international levels
- Explain system-level properties that result from dynamic interactions among human and social systems and influence public health
- Create awareness of community health across the health professions to optimize health outcomes, including emergency preparedness
- Explain the behavioral, social and cultural factors related to determinants of health
- Communicate and interact with people across life spans, diverse groups and cultures to empower communities and enhance public health
- Explain how science and scientific concepts are used in public health
- Integrate the foundations of public health into public health activities
- Evaluate the social, behavioral, governmental, and environmental impacts on health internationally and at the global level
- Evaluate scientific and research concepts, methods, and tools of data collection, to understand evidence- and practice-based strategies in public health

*These are examples intended to serve as a general guide. Because many factors determine what position an individual may attain, Capella cannot guarantee that a graduate will secure any specific job title.

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.
CURRICULUM

• 15 required courses
• Total program credits: 60 quarter credits

PRACTICUM REQUIREMENT(S)

Minimum of 160 supervised practicum hours.

REQUIRED COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NHS5004</td>
<td>Communication, Collaboration, and Case Analysis for Master’s Learners</td>
<td>4 quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH5500</td>
<td>Introduction to Public Health Administrative Systems</td>
<td>4 quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH5503</td>
<td>Environmental Health Concepts in Public Health</td>
<td>4 quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH5506</td>
<td>Social and Behavioral Foundations in Public Health</td>
<td>4 quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH5509</td>
<td>Principles of Biostatistics</td>
<td>4 quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH5512*</td>
<td>Principles of Epidemiology</td>
<td>4 quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH5100*</td>
<td>Management of Health Service Organizations</td>
<td>4 quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH5200*</td>
<td>Social and Behavioral Research Methods</td>
<td>4 quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH5208*</td>
<td>Public Health Program Planning and Evaluation</td>
<td>4 quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH5220*</td>
<td>Social Determinants of Health Equity</td>
<td>4 quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH5304*</td>
<td>Learning to Lead in Public Health Settings: Personal and Team Development</td>
<td>4 quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHS6008</td>
<td>Economics and Decision Making in Health Care</td>
<td>4 quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH5990*</td>
<td>Public Health Capstone</td>
<td>4 quarter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Learners must register for MPH5920 two times to fulfill their program requirements.

MPH5920* Public Health Practicum† 4 quarter credits each

*Denotes courses that have prerequisite(s). Refer to the course descriptions for further details.
†Learners are responsible for the cost of their travel, accommodations, food, and other expenses associated with this course.

TRANSFER CREDIT

A maximum of 16 quarter credits from previous graduate coursework may be transferred and applied to your program's requirements.

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 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale

Learners in this program will need to complete a background check before they can enroll in courses and become eligible for the practicum component of this program.
Required Course Descriptions

NHS5004  Communication, Collaboration, and Case Analysis for Master’s Learners
This course prepares learners for master’s-level coursework in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences. Throughout the course, learners analyze how the role of the practitioner-scholar guides leadership in the health care field and determine the ways in which they can effectively use communication strategies expected of health care professionals. In particular, learners examine the attributes that contribute to effective and ethical health care leadership, including professional collaboration, communication, inclusion, and decision making. Must be taken during the learner’s first quarter. Cannot be fulfilled by transfer.

MPH5100  Management of Health Service Organizations
This course provides an overview of organizational and managerial principles and practices. Learners study organizational theory and behavior, principles of evidence-based decision making, health problem analysis, intervention strategies, and monitoring and evaluation. Throughout the course, learners further develop their public health practice knowledge and gain a better understanding of specific career opportunities within health service organizations. Prerequisite(s): NHS5004, MPH5500, MPH5503, MPH5506.

MPH5200  Social and Behavioral Research Methods
This course provides an overview of social and behavioral sciences research within the context of public health. Learners examine social and behavioral factors that impact health status, and analyze health risk indicators and long-term trends in morbidity and mortality. Learners analyze theories that explain health disparities across populations and study and apply quantitative, qualitative, and evaluation research methods and research ethics. Prerequisite(s): NHS5004, MPH5500, MPH5503, MPH5506, MPH5509, completion of or concurrent registration in MPH5512.

MPH5208  Public Health Program Planning and Evaluation
In this course, learners study the core functions of public health program planning and evaluation, including assessment, policy development, programmatic intervention, and quality assurance. Learners identify social and behavioral determinants associated with public health issues, and examine and evaluate programs and their impact on the health of individuals, organizations, communities, and nations. Prerequisite(s): NHS5004, MPH5500, MPH5503, MPH5506, MPH5509, completion of or concurrent registration in MPH5512.

MPH5220  Social Determinants of Health Equity
Learners in this course examine the social factors contributing to health and health care disparities on a local, regional, national, and global basis, calculating their impact on overall health status and health service use. Learners also develop community-based intervention strategies to address identified disparities.

MPH5304  Learning to Lead in Public Health Settings: Personal and Team Development
Learners in this coursework with a coach to evaluate their leadership values and vision in order to set goals that support the process of leadership development. Learners also create a motivational team-building model and formulate team leadership strategies that facilitate team networking both inside and outside of public health organizations.

MPH5500  Introduction to Public Health Administrative Systems
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.

MPH5920  Public Health Practicum  4 QUARTER CREDITS EACH
The public health practicum is an online-directed, supervised experience during which learners fulfill a minimum of 160 required practicum hours, over the course of two academic quarters, at a public health agency of interest. Learners collaborate with their instructor to develop and complete agreed upon goals and objectives and are expected to demonstrate and apply proficiency in the program’s core competencies. Learners conclude the experience by preparing a presentation for approval by the instructor and preceptor. Special permission is required for registration. Grading for this course is S/NS. Learners must register for this course two times to fulfill their program requirements. Prerequisite(s): NHS5004, MPH5500, MPH5503, MPH5506, MPH5509, MPH5512. Cannot be fulfilled by transfer.

NHS6008  Economics and Decision Making in Health Care  4 QUARTER CREDITS
This course helps learners develop and demonstrate concepts, principles, issues, and trends in health care economics and the economic decision-making practices employed in the health care environment. Learners analyze the political, legal, regulatory, organizational, demographical, and multicultural implications of business decisions on health care economics; explore the ways economic and stakeholder influences affect operational planning and decision making; and practice applying performance monitoring and process management measures as part of the decision-making process. Learners also examine cost-effective problem solving; community- and population-based orientation; and effective use of health care market research, analysis, and assessment.

MPH5990  Public Health Capstone  4 QUARTER CREDITS
Learners in this course focus on applying the knowledge, competencies, and skills acquired during their program. Learners demonstrate proficiency in understanding evidence- and practice-based strategies in public health; interpreting biostatistical results and concepts and the fundamentals of epidemiology methods and concepts concerning public health disparities; and analyzing environmental, behavioral, social, and cultural determinants that affect a community's health. Prerequisite(s): NHS5004, MPH5100, MPH5500, MPH5503, MPH5506, MPH5509, MPH5512, MPH5920. Cannot be fulfilled by transfer.
**Recommended Course Sequence**

This recommended course sequence assumes learners take two courses per quarter. Some learners elect to take fewer or more based on workload and the amount of time available for graduate study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 1</th>
<th>COURSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q1</td>
<td>NHS5004 Communication, Collaboration, and Case Analysis for Master’s Learners</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Q2     | MPH5500 Introduction to Public Health Administrative Systems  
|        | MPH5503 Environmental Health Concepts in Public Health |
| Q3     | MPH5506 Social and Behavioral Foundations in Public Health  
|        | MPH5509 Principles of Biostatistics |
| Q4     | MPH5512 Principles of Epidemiology  
|        | MPH5208 Public Health Program Planning and Evaluation |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 2</th>
<th>COURSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Q5     | MPH5200 Social and Behavioral Research Methods  
|        | MPH5100 Management of Health Service Organizations |
| Q6     | NHS6008 Economics and Decision Making in Health Care  
|        | MPH5304 Learning to Lead in Public Health Settings: Personal and Team Development |
| Q7     | MPH5220 Social Determinants of Health Equity  
|        | MPH5920 Public Health Practicum |
| Q8     | MPH5920 Public Health Practicum  
|        | MPH5990 Public Health Capstone |
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
- Capella scholarships
- External scholarships
- Veterans’ educational benefits 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.

Digital course materials covered by the quarterly resource kit fee offer advantages such as immediate mobile access to books; fast, easy full-text search of materials; digital note-taking; and peer collaboration through note sharing.

There are many financial aid options available to help you offset tuition costs.

Contact an enrollment counselor at 1.888.CAPELLA (227.3552) to discuss your financial aid opportunities.

Tuition and Fee

This tuition estimate is effective July 10, 2017, and is subject to change. For current pricing, visit the Capella University website at www.capella.edu.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TUITION/FEES</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition per credit*</td>
<td>$492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource kit per quarter</td>
<td>$125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Learners are responsible for the cost of their travel, accommodations, food, and other expenses associated with MPH5920.

Digital course materials covered by the quarterly resource kit fee offer advantages such as immediate mobile access to books; fast, easy full-text search of materials; digital note-taking; and peer collaboration through note sharing.
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.

Robin Brennan, DrPH
Faculty Chair
Dr. Robin Brennan serves as the chair of public health in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at Capella University. She holds a doctoral degree in Public Health with an emphasis on Community Health and Prevention and a master’s degree in Applied Psychology and Quantitative Methods. Her research interests include maternal and child health, health disparities, HIV, and human rights. With over fifteen years’ experience directing public health programs and conducting mixed methods research in non-profit, health care, and academia settings, she has held faculty appointments at La Salle University’s Master of Urban Public Health Program and at Drexel University’s College of Arts and Sciences and School of Public Health. Within these roles, she has been dedicated to making an impact on the health of communities that are marginalized.
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 course room 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 or exceeds 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.

*ACCREDITATION
Capella University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION https://www.hlcommission.org 800.621.7440 © 2017 Capella University. All rights reserved.