Global Communicable Disease (MSPH)

The MSPH program is designed for students who seek a more individualized, research-oriented program than that provided by the MPH degree. This program provides an intense research and technical program of study for science-oriented students with an interest in communicable diseases. Individualized courses of study are determined for students with the cooperation of an advisory committee, which allows students to receive specialized training in the recognition, identification, diagnosis, surveillance, control, and prevention of public health problems related to communicable diseases. This degree program focuses on preparing students to fulfill leadership and research roles in solving or containing public health problems in communicable disease throughout the world with particular emphasis on the problems of Florida and underdeveloped nations. Several course offerings and areas of emphasis in required courses have been added to this program recently regarding infection control to allow public health practitioners to expand their knowledge of infection control practices and procedures, particularly in hospital settings. The MSPH culminates with an independent thesis requirement which requires a substantial on-campus time commitment on the part of the student (ca 20 hours per week). The thesis work involves extensive one on one interactions between the student, their thesis advisor and their thesis committee. Preference for admission is given to students with a background or demonstrated skills in the biological sciences. Prerequisites may be required.

In addition to the overall Master of Science in Public Health degree objectives, Global Communicable Disease graduates will be able to:

- Recognize and describe the natural history of disease-causing parasites, bacteria, viruses, fungi, and other organisms of major public health concern and the disease processes and clinical manifestations caused by those infectious organisms;
- Identify and describe the appropriate diagnosis, surveillance, control, treatment and prevention of communicable diseases;
- Identify and describe the natural human defenses, the appropriate use of diagnostic techniques and serological surveillance, and the role of preventive interventions and treatments such as vaccines and antibiotics against communicable diseases;
- Identify the cultural, social, and economic factors that contribute to the incidence and prevalence, as well as the transmission, control, treatment, and prevention of communicable disease;
- Analyze data collected through epidemiologic studies and interpret the findings;
- Design programs for the surveillance and control of communicable diseases and identify the public health conditions and problems related to the surveillance and control of communicable diseases in developing countries;
- Choose and apply culturally appropriate technology and interventions and identify the ethical considerations regarding diagnosis, surveillance, control, treatment, and prevention of communicable diseases; and
- Present information about communicable diseases to other members of health-related professions and to members of the public, in both a written and oral format, in a professional and effective manner.

Prerequisites

- Public health course prerequisite:
- HSC 4551 Survey of Human Diseases (3) OR
- Equivalent education or work experience.

- Suggested/preferred undergraduate majors: Biology, Zoology, Microbiology, Immunology
- Prerequisite undergraduate courses: None; Suggested undergraduate courses include general chemistry with laboratory, biology or zoology with laboratory, microbiology with laboratory, biochemistry with laboratory, immunology
- Work experience: None
- Minimum undergrad GPA: 3.00
- Verbal GRE Score: minimum 450
- Quantitative GRE Score: minimum 580
- Other criteria: International applicants: TOEFL of 550 for paper-based instrument or 213 for computer-based instrument
- Substitutions: Applicants may substitute an MCAT mean score of 8 for the required GRE Scores

Curriculum or Plan of Study

Note: All courses are 3 credit hours each unless otherwise noted.

College Core Courses (9 credits)

PHC 6000 Epidemiology
PHC 6050 Biostatistics I

And one of the following:

PHC 6102 Principles of Health Policy and Management
PHC 6357 Environmental and Occupational Health
PHC 6410 Social and Behavioral Sciences Applied to Health

Research Methods Courses (9 credits)

PHC 6051 Biostatistics II
Two additional research courses related to student's focus area (6)

Suggested Concentration Courses (18 credits)

PHC 6251 Disease Surveillance and Monitoring
PHC 6510 Emerging Infectious Diseases
PHC 6511 Public Health Immunology
PHC 6512 Vectors of Human Disease
PHC 6513 Public Health Parasitology
PHC 6930 Public Health Seminar (1)
PHC 6562 Microbiology for Health Care Workers
PHC 6314 Infection Control Program Design
PHC 6517 Infectious Disease Prevention Strategies
PHC 6514 Infectious Disease Control in Developing Countries
PHC 6934 HIV in Public Health
PHC 6002 Infectious Disease Epidemiology
PHC 6934 Intermediate Infectious Disease Epidemiology
PHC 6934 Food Safety (3)

Culminating Experiences (6 credits minimum)

PHC 6971 Thesis (6)
Comprehensive Exam (no credit)

TOTAL CREDITS: 42

Please see COPH Website for an updated Course Listing & description or an updated Course Schedule.

College Admission Requirements

Special Admission Requirements

- Preference for admission is given to students with a background or demonstrated skills in the biological sciences. Prerequisites may be required.
- Previous research experience would be advantageous
- A short statement (250 words or less) of research interest is required

Additional Links:

- College Master of Science in Public Health requirements
- Department Specific Guidelines for Special Project
- Field Experience
- Comprehensive Exam
- Academic and Student Affairs: Registration, Academic Procedures, etc.
- Tuition and Financial Aid
- Course Descriptions