

**University of South Florida, College of Public Health  
Department of Community & Family Health**

**MPH: Socio-Health Science Concentration**

The MPH in Socio - Health Sciences prepares students to apply the concepts and methods from social and behavioral sciences to public health research and practice in the areas of community needs assessment, analysis of the socio behavioral context of health, development of culturally competent programs, evaluation of intervention outcomes, and formulation of social policies affecting health. Graduates are prepared for careers in public health agencies, educational settings, social and family services, private voluntary organizations, research and consulting firms, and health-related industries. Examples of focus areas include social determinants of health, ethnographic and qualitative research, health needs of special populations, and community-based interventions

Competencies: Upon graduation a student with an MPH in the Socio-Health Science concentration will:

1. Critically evaluate and apply a broad range of social and behavioral science theories to analyze public health problems in terms of the factors which influence problem development alternative approaches to their resolution
2. Use concepts and methods from social and behavioral sciences in the design and implementation of community health research and intervention programs;
3. Understand the similarities and contrasts in the approaches taken by different social and behavioral science disciplines in the study of health-related problems;
4. Exhibit an in-depth understanding of the relationships between individual, interpersonal, social, structural, cultural and biological factors as they impact the etiology and management of illness;
5. Critically evaluate scholarly research in social and behavioral sciences applied to health in terms of its theoretical soundness, scientific rigor, appropriate use of concepts and methods, and contribution to knowledge;
6. Illustrate the knowledge and skills for translating socio cultural research into socially relevant and culturally competent public health intervention programs;
7. Understand ethical principles guiding the conduct of research on human subjects, including principles for ethical decision-making beyond the regulatory purview of institutional review boards;
8. Determine the appropriate level of intervention for different health problems, including individual behavior, family systems, community organization, complex social systems and the social and physical environment; and
9. Identify situations requiring multidisciplinary (including Socio behavioral) approaches to research and intervention on public health problems, and familiarity with the process of collaboration and integration of multiple perspectives.



