

# What is Public Health?



# Mission:

Public health fulfills society's interest in assuring conditions in which people can be healthy.  
Public health is the study of populations.

Medicine investigates illness and treatment one person at a time.

(Institute of Medicine, Committee for the Study of the Future of Public Health, Division of Health Care Services. 1988. *The Future of Public Health*. National Academy Press, Washington, DC)

# Programs and Degrees Offered:

## Undergraduate

- B.S. in Public Health
- General Public Health Minor~18 hours
- Fast Track with Honors College
- EOH 4+1 Program
- BGS (Bachelors of General Studies)

## Graduate

- Master's in Public Health (MPH)
- Master's of Science in Public Health (MSPH)
- Master's in Health Administration (MHA)
- PhD
- DrPH (Concentrations in Community & Family Health and the Global Health departments only)

*(Please visit our main website at [www.publichealth.usf.edu](http://www.publichealth.usf.edu) or contact the college Pre-Admission Advisor for additional information)*

# Masters degrees:



## •**Master's in Public Health (MPH):**

The MPH is the primary professional degree in public health. The program provides a set of skills and principles essential for students who intend to apply their training in a professional setting, provide leadership in a specific health specialty, and improve and protect the health and well being of populations

## •**Master's of Science in Public Health (MSPH):**

The MSPH provides a focus in research design, data collection, analysis and application of research in public health intended to improve and protect the health of populations

## •**Master's in Health Administration (MHA):**

The MHA prepares students for private and public sector leadership positions. In addition to the five core areas of public health, the curriculum helps students develop skills and knowledge in basic business disciplines with application to health services; a clinical and community perspective and professional skills

# Masters degree Admission Requirements:

- Admission review process-  
Summer, Spring and Fall
- GPA = 3.0
- GRE scores
- 2-3 Professional letters of recommendation
- Goal statement letter
- Resume or CV

(Requirements can vary slightly by each program-check website for specifics including deadlines)

# Doctorate degrees:



## •**Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.):**

The PhD is granted in recognition of high attainment in a specified field of knowledge. It is a research degree and is not conferred solely upon the earning of credit or the completion of courses. It is granted after the student has shown proficiency and distinctive achievement in a specific field, has demonstrated the ability to do original, independent investigation, and has presented these findings with a high degree of literary skill in a dissertation

## •**Doctor of Public Health (DrPH):**

The DrPH is a professional, practice-oriented degree which is granted in recognition of the attainment of a broad set of practice, analytic and evaluative skills, including demonstrated public health leadership skills. Emphasis will be placed on proficiency in policy development and health policy strategies, public health leadership and management of health programs. Demonstration of applied research skills and strength in evaluation methods via practice-based specialized study will be expected. Concentrations are offered in the departments of Community & Family Health and the Global Health

# Doctorate Degree Admission Requirements:



- Admission review process-  
Fall semester
- Application deadline: December 15<sup>th</sup>
- GPA = 3.0
- GRE scores
- 3 Professional letters of recommendation
- Goal statement letter
- Writing sample
- 2 years of experience (DrPH)
- Resume or CV  
(Requirements can vary slightly by each program-check website for specifics including deadlines)

# Graduate Certificates

18 to choose from  
(5 totally on-line programs)

## Requirements and stipulations:

- Bachelors degree
- 3.0 GPA
- “NO GRE scores required”
- Take as non-degree seeking
- 12-18 credit hours of coursework
- Credit hours can transfer into program

*“Each certificate requirements may slightly vary”*



# 18 Graduate Certificates:

Biostatistics  
Diasporas and Health Disparities  
Disaster Management  
Environmental Health  
Epidemiology  
Global Health and Latin American and Caribbean Studies  
Global Health Practice  
Health Management and Leadership  
Humanitarian Assistance  
Infection Control  
Interdisciplinary Women's Health  
Maternal & Child Health  
Public Health Generalist  
Public Health Policy and Programs  
Safety Management  
Social Marketing  
Violence and Injury: Prevention and Intervention  
Water, Health and Sustainability

*“Take as non-degree seeking and transfer hours to program”*

# Dual Degrees :

- Anthropology
- Social Work
- Nursing
- Biochemistry / Molecular Biology (PhD)
- Medicine
- Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT)
- JD/MPH

# 5 Departments in COPH:

- Community and Family Health
- Epidemiology and Biostatistics
- Health Policy and Management
- Environmental and Occupational Health
- Global Health

# Community and Family Health:

**Popular undergraduate majors: Social Science, Communications, Education, Liberal Arts, Humanities**

\* Seeks to improve the health status of the family through an interdisciplinary approach of providing preventive, curative and rehabilitative health care services within the community\*

- Community & Family Health
- Health Education
- Maternal and Child Health
- Behavioral Health
- Socio-Health Sciences
- Epidemiology and Maternal and Child Health (combination concentration)

**Potential Careers:** Needs Assessment Coordinator, Mental Health *or* Substance Abuse Research Scientist, Community Planning Director, Patient Education Coordinator

# Epidemiology and Biostatistics :

**Popular undergraduate Majors: Strong background in math and computer science**

\* Opportunities abound for specialists trained in the systematic study of the distribution and determinants of disease or disability in population groups\*

- Epidemiology (the study of diseases across populations)
- Biostatistics (the math of public health)
- Epidemiology & Biostatistics (combined concentration)
- Epidemiology and Global Health (combined concentration)
- Epidemiology and Maternal and Child Health (combination concentration)
- Epidemiology and Communicable Diseases (combination concentration)

**Potential Careers:** Biomedical Statistician, Chronic Disease Epidemiologist, Epidemiologist Intelligence Officer, Health Care Analyst

# Health Policy and Management:

**Popular undergraduate Majors: Business, Finance, Accounting, Economics**

\*Our educational programs prepare managers, analysts, and researchers for leadership positions in health and health-related organizations for both public and private sectors\*

- Health Policy and Management
- Health Care Organizations & Management
- Health Policies and Programs
- Public Health Administration (on-line program)

\*Masters in Health Administration degree (MHA) is offered in this department\*

**Potential Careers:** Hospital Administrator, Finance Manager, Director of Marketing, Director of Strategic Planning

# Environmental and Occupational Health:



**Popular undergraduate Majors: Natural Science, Chemistry, Biology, Engineering**

\* Identification and control of factors in the natural and man-made environment which affect occupational health (heat stress, repetitive motion injuries, chemical exposure) environmental health (landfills, air quality, molds, mildew, pesticides, pollution)\*

- Environmental Health
- Toxicology and Risk Assessment
- Safety Management
- Industrial Hygiene
- Occupational Health

**Potential Careers:** Air Quality Engineer, Highway Safety Engineer, Aquatic Microbiologist, Hazard Communication Specialist

University of South Florida College of Public Health

## Centers

- *Some of the important Centers and Programs in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health include:*
- The Sunshine Education and Research Center (ERC)  
<http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/erc/index.htm>
- Public Health Leadership Institute of Florida  
<http://www.hsc.usf.edu/PUBHEALTH/clphp/phlif/>
- Center for Environmental/Occupational Risk Analysis & Management
- Suncoast Center for Patient Safety Research



# Global Health:

**Popular undergraduate Major: Natural Science, Social Science, Chemistry, Biology, Engineering, Foreign Language**

\*This program will prepare students for achieving a professional position in the field of international public health, such as with international, governmental and non-governmental agencies \*

- Global Communicable Disease
- Global Health Disaster Management and Humanitarian Relief
- Global Health Practice (**All students complete field placement outside of U.S.**)
- Epidemiology & Global Health (combined)
- Epidemiology and Communicable Disease (combination concentration)

**Potential Careers:** Global Health Specialist, Clinical Laboratory Technician, Mosquito Control Scientific Officer

# Graduate School or Peace Corps...

## Why not do both?

The Master's International Peace Corps option is open to eligible College of Public Health students. Master's International students begin studies on campus; then serve overseas for 27 months with the Peace Corps, receiving academic credit for their service, before returning to campus to complete graduation requirements for the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree. Master's International students gain significant international practical experience and knowledge working in resource-poor settings, thereby enhancing their marketability for employment upon graduation.

Video link:

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=learn.whyvol.eduben.mastersint>

Contact:

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Program Coordinator

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1-813-974-1094

1-888-USF-COPH (toll free)

# Public Health Practice (PHP)

## MPH with a concentration in PHP

*\*All candidates for the Master of Public Health degree in Public Health Practice must have at least three years of health related work experience\**

The MPH in PHP offers two formats:

**Executive Weekend format-** Designed specifically for busy health professionals who prefer a classroom environment. The Executive format consists of one weekend a month for 16 months and provides students with field experience and special project opportunities.

**Online format-** All courses but one are taken as online (distance learning). The culminating course for the Online format is held on campus for 5 days. This format also offers students field experience and special project opportunities.

More information regarding this graduate program can be found here

<http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/php/home.html> .

# Student Organization:

## USF Health

- Public Health Student Association
- Health Administration Student Association
- Infectious Disease Student Association
- Global Health Student Association
- COM, CON, COPH- collaborative events that are fun service projects (annual flu shots)

# Public Health is:

- Called the "invisible profession" because people don't hear much about it until a disaster occurs.
- Part of a system that protects people from diseases and encourages them to change harmful behaviors.
- Concerned with targeted prevention programs aimed at specific problems that disproportionately affect minority and economically disadvantaged groups.

# Welcome to Public Health!

- There is something for everyone....
- Undergraduate minor can enhance your major
- All undergraduate majors fit into public health
- There are plenty of jobs in public health
- The MPH will strengthen your medical school application
- The certificate programs allow you to sample courses
- Many doctors, nurses and teachers come to public health for a graduate degree

Thank you for your time!

**Michelle Hodge, MPH**  
**Academic Advisor/Recruiter**  
**USF COPH**

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