PUBLIC HEALTH

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Graduate Degrees

MPH—Public Health (http://catalog.ewu.edu/health-science-public/public-health/public-health-mph/)

Required courses in these programs of study may have prerequisites. Reference the course description section for clarification.

Faculty

Anna Tresidder, PhD, MPH MPH Program Director; David Line, PhD, MPH, LMSW, EMT; Patricia Richards, MPH, EdD

Admission

To apply for this program, an individual must have an undergraduate degree and grade point average ≥3.0 meeting the Eastern Washington University graduate school requirements. Students must be computer literate to include word processing, spreadsheet construction and Internet applications.

Students must have documented a recent statistics or biostatistics course to include basic probability concepts, organizing and summarizing data, sampling distributions, hypothesis testing, simple linear regression and correlation and analysis of variance. DSCI 245 Data Analysis for Business (4) or its equivalent fulfill this requirement. Students should also have completed an upper level technical/scientific writing course.

Graduate Program

In line with the mission of Eastern Washington University the Master of Public Health prepares future public health leaders to manage, develop and re-orient health services to combat health inequalities and promote access and inclusion. The course focuses on developing leadership skills in an engaged, practical and applied manner across the full spectrum of population health domains.

Public Health is a dynamic field recognized for critical and rapidly expanding needs in policy development and research. Professionals are needed to lead change to address critical health and community policy issues. Professionals must be ready to promote effective community response and change, create and support effective health programs and actions to meet critical needs within the health profession and many related fields. An interdisciplinary program bringing together multiple disciplines to promote a broad intellectual framework for problem solving the challenges and emerging issues faced in public health is proposed. This program is built on the core functions of public health: assessment, policy development/implementation and assurance.

The Master of Public Health program is designed to provide the student with the skills to work with the following:

- a rapidly changing political, social and economic environment;
- funding from a variety of sources;
- issues related to disparity in health status for a variety of populations;
- new and innovative public and private partnerships;
- a culturally and ethnically diverse workforce;
- organizational challenges both within and outside the public health arena;
- program development and service delivery.

In addition to a solid core foundation in public health, this program focuses on public health leadership. An elective option offers a unique focus on public health allowing the student to choose an additional focus.

The internship for the program aims to develop public health skills, knowledge and competencies through practice. As part of this experience students develop an e-portfolio to display their work that addresses specific competency areas within the program. The e-portfolio serves as a development assessment of progress through the MPH towards public health competencies. Prior to an internship students must have a student membership in national professional organization that relates to public health.

In order to successfully graduate from the program students must successfully complete a research project which serves as a comprehensive examination, a graduate school requirement.

The intent of the program is to meet the criteria set out by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).

Public Health Courses

PUBH 500S. ORIENTATION TO PUBLIC HEALTH. 2 Credits.
This course introduces students to the history and background of public health, including successes and failures. It aims to develop a public health orientation among students, and discusses public health issues, concepts and terminology.

PUBH 515S. HEALTH SYSTEMS. 4 Credits.
This course begins with an examination of the history and philosophy of public health. The course introduces healthcare delivery systems, and the history of such systems, in public and global health and the United States. An overview of the various delivery models, their effectiveness, challenges and financing are covered.

PUBH 520S. PRINCIPLES AND SKILLS OF PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION. 2 Credits.
Pre-requisites: PUBH 500S, PUBH 515S.
This course addresses the many aspects of administration in a public health. Managing and leading are discussed. The responsibilities of supervision, decision support systems, use of analytics, marketing and media, human resources management, organizational culture, behavior and performance are examined. The course emphasizes the demands of this fast paced industry.
PUBH 540S. HEALTH POLICY AND LAW. 4 Credits.
Pre-requisites: PUBH 500S, PUBH 515S.
This course begins with an overview of common policy perspectives, before moving on to discuss major relevant policy issues in the United States healthcare system and elsewhere. Healthcare policy impacting private and public entities including Medicare, Medicaid, Department of Defense, Veterans Administration, Indian Health Services are examined. The course concludes with an examination of influencing policy development, including media and community initiatives.

PUBH 550S. HEALTH SCHOLARSHIP. 2 Credits.
This course introduces students to scholarship and publishing in the Health sector. It focuses in-depth on developing health writing skills and preparing an article for publication.

PUBH 560S. FOUNDATIONS IN EPIDEMIOLOGY. 3 Credits.
This course imparts students the foundations of epidemiology, including its principles, concepts, and methods of epidemiologic practice; design, interpretation and evaluation of epidemiologic investigation. The course prepares the student to apply epidemiologic concepts to solve public health problems. Emphasis is placed on the principles and methods of epidemiologic investigation, and the use of classical statistical approaches to describe health of populations, and appropriate summaries and displays of data. Topics include the dynamic behavior of disease; calculation and use of rates, ratios and proportions; methods of direct and indirect adjustment measuring and describing the extent of disease problems. Various epidemiologic study designs for investigating associations between risk factors and disease outcomes are studied, with standard criteria for causal inferences. The application of these disciplines in the areas of health services, screening, genetics, environment, systems, behavior and policy are presented. This course also discourses the influence of epidemiology and biostatistics on the decision making process.

PUBH 561S. SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL EPIDEMIOLOGY AND ISSUES IN PUBLIC HEALTH. 3 Credits.
Pre-requisites: PUBH 500S, PUBH 560S.
An overview of the vast body of epidemiological literature that incorporates social and personality factors, cultural influences upon individual behavior, stress and related psychosocial factors as determinants of health. These determinants of health and illnesses are multi-factorial and enmeshed in the social fabric and psychological constitution of the person or may involve a complex interaction of the person and environment.

PUBH 563S. RESEARCH, BIOSTATISTICS AND OTHER WAYS OF ‘KNOWING’. 3 Credits.
This course begins with an introduction to differing research paradigms, before moving on to discuss the important issue of ethics in research. The course then concentrates on biostatistics. This approach is subsequently critiqued and alternative more qualitative and participatory approaches are examined. A critical approach is adopted to explore all of the paradigms presented.

PUBH 564S. ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL EPIDEMIOLOGY AND RESPONSE. 3 Credits.
Pre-requisites: PUBH 500S, PUBH 515S.
This course introduces students to the twin fields of environmental and occupational epidemiology. It begins with an examination of human-environment interactions, global climate change and the Anthropocene concept. The course then explores potential environmental threats (physical, chemical, radiological and biological agents) and bodily responses to such insults in both the workplace and the wider environment. Vectors for dissemination are then examined.

PUBH 565S. COMBATTING HEALTH INEQUALITIES. 3 Credits.
Pre-requisites: PUBH 500S, PUBH 515S.
This course begins with an examination of health inequalities locally, nationally and globally. This is followed by an examination of competing explanations for the existence of such inequalities. Particular attention is paid to structural issues and racism and exclusion. The course then focuses on health promoting responses to inequalities at all relevant levels through focusing on an annual health issue (individual, group, community, neighborhood, city, state, national and international).

PUBH 572S. HEALTH RISK MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE. 3 Credits.
Pre-requisites: PUBH 500S, PUBH 515S.
This course focusses on risk management, preparedness and response. The course starts with an examination of the risk management process and adopts a systems based approach. Attention is given to legal, governance and ethical dimensions of risk management before a vulnerability assessment is completed by students. The course then examines emergency planning and preparedness for ‘major incidents’, before concluding with an exploration of public health responses to infectious disease outbreaks.

PUBH 573S. HEALTH PROGRAM PLANNING, EVALUATION AND PROCESS IMPROVEMENT. 3 Credits.
Pre-requisites: PUBH 500S, PUBH 515S, PUBH 563S.
This course introduces the student to community program planning and evaluation. The course is designed to develop the core competencies needed to plan, implement and evaluate public health interventions. Major activities and processes involved in planning, implementing, and evaluating public and community health programs are covered. Students are introduced to a range of theories, evidence-based strategies, and resources critical to effective public health practice.

PUBH 574S. SEMINAR IN PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS. 3 Credits.
This course focusses on public health preparedness and response to major incidents and communicable disease outbreaks. The course starts with an examination of concepts of risk before examining the principles of response. The major foci of this course are: initial rapid assessment; surveillance; personnel and logistics; and communicable disease control.

PUBH 582S. PROFESSIONALISM IN PUBLIC HEALTH. 2 Credits.
Pre-requisites: PUBH 500S, PUBH 515S.
This course explores professionalism in public health. It focuses on self-presentation and workplace preparation.

PUBH 585S. APPLIED RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL 1. 1 Credit.
Pre-requisites: PUBH 500S, PUBH 515S, PUBH 563S.
The first half of this course guides students in developing a clear focused ethical relevant and achievable research proposal. It then focuses on advanced academic skills in conducting a comprehensive in-depth literature search and writing a literature review worthy of publication.

PUBH 586S. APPLIED RESEARCH PROJECT PREPARATION 2. 1 Credit.
Pre-requisites: PUBH 585S or concurrent enrollment.
The first half of this course further develops students’ understanding of philosophical approaches to research. The second half then turns to advanced skills in methodological questions relating to conducting a research project worthy of publication.

PUBH 587S. APPLIED RESEARCH PROJECT. 2 Credits.
Pre-requisites: PUBH 586S.
Completion of a research project under guidance from a faculty member.

PUBH 594S. SEMINAR IN HEALTH PROMOTION. 3 Credits.
By reviewing specific programs, this course introduces the student to health communication, its theories, its roles in health promotion and behavior. It also provides the student with an understanding of health communication research and practice, its role in patient provider interactions, public health campaigns and media advocacy. In addition, this course allows the student to understand the foundations of social, cultural and organizational complexities of communicating about health.

PUBH 595S. INTERNSHIP. 1-6 Credits.
Notes: may be repeated for up to 6 credits.
Pre-requisites: must be declared in MPH and students must have completed a minimum of 15 credits in graduate level PUBH.
The internship in MPH is intended to serve as a formative and reflective opportunity for students in the program. The organization at which the internship experience occurs is chosen based on the student’s goals and the organization’s needs. The initial internship plan is to be completed and submitted to the instructor with the desired agency contact information. An interview will be set up by the instructor with the site supervisor and student to ensure this will work for both. Once the interview is complete and both parties agree, then the internship plan is developed to address competencies for the internship experience agreed upon by the student, organization and faculty. The projects identified as part of the portfolio are to be identified in the internship plan. The placement is for 16 weeks, 40 hours per week. Some students may choose to do 20 hours per week over 2 semesters. A weekly work schedule is jointly agreed upon by the supervisor and intern. The intern is responsible to present the site supervisor with a copy of the Site Supervisor Handbook and Masters in Public Health Internship Competencies. Both are posted on Canvas. Each student must sign up on Canvas. Student must sign paperwork for background and drug check prior to Internship starting.

PUBH 596S. EXPERIMENTAL. 1-5 Credits.
Experimental course in Public Health.

PUBH 597S. WORKSHOP IN PUBLIC HEALTH. 3 Credits.
Notes: only one workshop course of up to 3 credits may be used to fulfill graduate degree requirements.
Pre-requisites: must be declared in MPH.
Workshops, short courses, conferences, seminars in Public Health.

PUBH 598S. SEMINAR IN EPIDEMIOLOGY. 3 Credits.
Pre-requisites: PUBH 560S, PUBH 561S.
This course focuses on Health Impact Assessment and the use of Statistical Tools in planning and evaluating public health interventions. Students will understand public health planning, implementation, evaluation and impact assessment. Students will understand processes, structure and measures of various forms of evaluation and health impact of public health interventions. In addition, students will understand and engage in grant writing.

PUBH 599S. INDEPENDENT STUDY. 1-6 Credits.
Pre-requisites: permission of the instructor, department chair and college dean.
Independent study.