Population Health, M.S.

Degree Offered

- Master of Science

Nature of the Program

The Master of Science in Population Health program is a 30-credit, fully online program that prepares students for a variety of population-oriented leadership, clinical, and research-oriented positions in both healthcare and public health organizations. Specifically, the program is built around a core of public health and health services courses that provide foundational knowledge in public health and health systems, epidemiology and biostatistical principles, health systems leadership, systems thinking, and capacity building for intervention and change. The program emphasizes prevention, collaboration, and innovation to fit the educational opportunities of a variety of professionals, including:

- Healthcare leaders working to enhance the impact and efficiency of their organizations through more patient-centered, value-based and socially informed care approaches
- Clinical providers seeking to improve health outcomes among those they serve
- Public health leaders looking for new tools to identify and address health issues in their states and communities
- Public health and health services researchers and scientists interested in outcomes-focused, practice-based applications to improve health and well-being

The Master of Science in Population Health program prepares students for a variety of population-oriented leadership, clinical, and research-oriented positions in both healthcare and public health organizations. Additionally, this program prepares graduates for employment and advancement opportunities in the following sectors:

- Hospital and Health care systems
- Non-profit community health organizations
- Federal, state, and local government agencies
- Assisted care facilities (e.g., nursing homes)

Admissions

All applicants must apply via the Schools of Public Health Application Service ((SOPHAS) portal at http://www.sophas.org/. Upon acceptance from SOPHAS, applicants must submit a WVU Graduate Application.

The following admission standards have been set for the proposed MS in Population Health program:

- Baccalaureate or advanced degree from a regionally accredited college or university with a minimum GPA of 2.75
- TOEFL scores (minimum 550 paper-based) (minimum 213 computer-based) (minimum of 80 internet-based)
- Resume or CV
- Three letters of recommendation
- Personal statement
- WVU applicants in good academic standing - as defined by their respective programs - who completed (or currently enrolled in) a research or professional doctoral degree will be exempt from the above admissions requirements.

Master of Science

A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 604</td>
<td>Impact of Cultural Competence in Healthcare</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 611</td>
<td>Epidemiology for Public Health Practice</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 612</td>
<td>Research Translation and Evaluation in Public Health Practice</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 620</td>
<td>Building and Sustaining Public Health Capacity</td>
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<td>PUBH 640</td>
<td>Health Systems Leadership</td>
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<td>PUBH 641</td>
<td>Systems Thinking in Public Health Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 659</td>
<td>Public Health Foundations</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 684</td>
<td>Population Health Capstone/Thesis</td>
<td>2</td>
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Track/Emphasis Electives

| General |
|---------|---------|
| PUBH 621 | Public Health Prevention and Intervention          | 9       |
BIOS 611  Data Management and Reporting
SBHS 617  Community Engagement and Advocacy in Public Health
PUBH 695  Independent Study

Policy and Advocacy
HPML 601  Foundations of Health Policy
HPML 624  Advanced Issue Analysis for Health Policy
HPML 629  Tools for Health Policy and Management Communication
SBHS 617  Community Engagement and Advocacy in Public Health
PUBH 695  Independent Study

Population Health Management
HPML 620  Health Administration and Operations Management
HPML 655  Health Services Project Management
HPML 656  Management Decisions and Strategic Planning

Population Health Analysis
EPID 611  Concepts and Methods of Epidemiology
BIOS 603  Applied Biostatistics 2
BIOS 663  Introduction to Meta-Analysis

Evaluation, Community Engagement and Advocacy
PUBH 621  Public Health Prevention and Intervention
SBHS 611  Community Assessment
SBHS 617  Community Engagement and Advocacy in Public Health
SBHS 613  Public Health Program Evaluation
PUBH 695  Independent Study

Population Health Research
BIOS 603  Applied Biostatistics 2
BIOS 663  Introduction to Meta-Analysis
PUBH 695  Independent Study

Total Hours 30

**Major Learning Outcomes**

**POPULATION HEALTH**

The Master of Science in Population Health program at West Virginia University will prepare students for a variety of population-oriented leadership, clinical, and research-oriented positions in both healthcare and public health organizations. The design of the curriculum will reflect the program’s belief that both healthcare and public health must take more broader and more intentional perspective of how to identify and address pressing health issues while working for the health of the public. This includes concepts and skills that cover social determinants of health, the nature and process of public health, population health analytics, and population health management, as well as an emphasis management and leadership skills. Students will learn under a comprehensive, competency-driven curriculum constructed to address contemporary and emerging trends.

Educational Goals and Objectives:

• Identify determinants of population health that impact health outcomes in a community.

• Describe methods for assessing the health needs of a population.

• Demonstrate how to collect, analyze and use data to inform decisions and improve health outcomes of targeted populations.

• Communicate effectively about population health issues to constituencies both within and outside of the health system.

• Apply population health principles and concepts to develop and implement healthcare and/or public health strategies.

• Integrate clinical care and public health practice around an identified community need.