

# Population Health, M.S.

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## 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

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
- International students must meet WVU's minimum score requirements for English language proficiency. (<https://graduateadmissions.wvu.edu/how-to-apply/apply-for-2023-2024/international-graduate-applicant/>)
- Resume or CV
- Three letters of recommendation
- Personal statement
- WVU applicants in good academic standing - as defined by their respective programs - who completed (or are currently enrolled in) a research or professional doctoral degree will be exempt from the above admissions requirements.

## Admissions Requirements 2024-2025

The Admissions Requirements above will be the same for the 2024-2025 Academic Year.

PhD Major Code: 8410

## Master of Science

Code	Title	Hours
A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required.		
PUBH 604	Impact of Cultural Competence in Healthcare	3
PUBH 511	Epidemiology for Public Health Practice	3
PUBH 512	Research Translation and Evaluation in Public Health Practice	3
PUBH 520	Building and Sustaining Public Health Capacity	2
PUBH 540	Health Systems Leadership	3
PUBH 541	Systems Thinking in Public Health Practice	2
PUBH 659	Public Health Foundations	3

PUBH 684	Population Health Capstone	2
<b>Track/Emphasis Electives</b>		<b>9</b>
Population Health Management		
HPML 520	Health Administration and Operations Management	
HPML 555	Health Services Project Management	
HPML 556	Managerial Epidemiology & Strategy	
Population Health Analysis		
EPID 611	Concepts and Methods of Epidemiology	
BIOS 603	Applied Biostatistics 2	
BIOS 663	Introduction to Meta-Analysis	
Occupational Medicine		
OEHS 520	Industrial Hygiene	
OEHS 622	Public Health Toxicology	
OEHS 623	Occupational Injury Prevention	
OEHS 665	Worksite Evaluation	
Public Health/General Preventative Medicine		
BIOS 603	Applied Biostatistics 2	
PUBH 613	Public Health Program Evaluation	
SBHS 611	Community Assessment	
SBHS 620	Implementing and Managing Public Health Programs	
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.