Public Health

Graduate - MPH

Stockton University

Program Handbook

Revised April 2025

Introduction

The MPH program prepares students to serve as evidence-based practitioners and leaders in the dynamic and collaborative field of public health. The curriculum is based on the core competencies of public health: Biostatistics & Epidemiology; Environmental Health Sciences; Health Policy & Management; Social & Behavioral Sciences; Communication & Leadership; Program Planning; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.

This program handbook is a companion document to the most recent [Stockton University Bulletin](#) and students are encouraged to review both documents. The Bulletin includes important program information including topics including Curriculum, Graduation Requirements, Admission Criteria, and Accreditation. The Bulletin will be the source for the most up-to-date information on these topics. In addition, up-to-date information can also be found on the [MPH program website](#).

Mission and Vision

Vision

Our vision is healthy people, thriving where they live, work, learn, play and worship. Graduates of our comprehensive, evidence-based program will serve diverse people and communities and improve lives at the local, regional, national and global levels.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Master of Public Health Program at Stockton University is to advance the field of public health and promote the health of individuals and communities at the local, regional, national and global level with an emphasis on health equity and social justice. We develop public health practitioners and leaders who collaborate with, advocate for, and empower the communities they serve. We promote student success and prepare students to meet the challenges of their future career through our student-centered instruction, research and scholarship, and service to diverse communities.

Student Learning Outcomes

The program Student Learning Outcomes align with the competencies outlined by the accrediting body, the [Council for Education in Public Health](#):

Evidence-based Approaches to Public Health
1. Apply epidemiological methods to settings and situations in public health practice

2. Select quantitative and qualitative data collection methods appropriate for a given public health context

3. Analyze quantitative and qualitative data using biostatistics, informatics, computer-based programming, and software, as appropriate

4. Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy or practice

Public Health & Health Care Systems

5. Compare the organization, structure, and function of health care, public health, and regulatory systems across national and international settings

6. Discuss the means by which structural bias, social inequities and racism undermine health and create challenges to achieving health equity at organizational, community and systemic levels

Planning & Management to Promote Health

7. Assess population needs, assets, and capacities that affect communities' health

8. Apply awareness of cultural values and practices to the design, implementation, or critique of public health policies or programs

9. Design a population-based policy, program, project, or intervention

10. Explain basic principles and tools of budget and resource management

11. Select methods to evaluate public health programs

Policy in Public Health

12. Discuss the policy-making process, including the roles of ethics and evidence

13. Propose strategies to identify relevant communities and individuals and build coalitions and partnerships for influencing public health outcomes

14. Advocate for political, social, or economic policies and programs that will improve health in diverse populations

15. Evaluate policies for their impact on public health and health equity

Leadership

16. Apply leadership and/or management principles to address a relevant issue

17. Apply negotiation and mediation skills to address organizational or community challenges

Communication

18. Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors

19. Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation to a non-academic, non-peer audience with attention to factors such as literacy and health literacy

20. Describe the importance of cultural humility in communicating public health content

Interprofessional Practice

21. Integrate perspectives from other sectors and/or professions to promote and advance population health

Systems Thinking

22. Apply a systems thinking tool to visually represent a public health issue in a format other than standard narrative

Concentration-Specific Competencies

23. Apply infodemiology and the related knowledge and tools necessary for public health practitioners to navigate an increasingly complex information environment.
24. Analyze a current or emerging public health issue requiring policy, system, or environmental change.
25. Develop persuasive messages and materials (e.g., briefs, resolutions, and fact sheets) to communicate a policy, system or environmental change.
26. Evaluate the assets, needs, and characteristics of the audience(s) that affect communication and message design (e.g., literacy levels, language, culture, and cognitive and perceptual abilities).
27. Create a health communication product with a clear intended outcome (e.g., raise awareness, advocacy, behavioral change, and risk communication).

Program Policies

Applied Practice Experience ("Internship")

Students are required to complete an Applied Practice Experience ("internship"), which typically includes 200 contact hours working with their internship supervisor / site. Students will be eligible to enroll in the Applied Practice Experience after they have completed at least 18 credits within the MPH program. The Applied Practice Experience provides real world application of current issues and practices in public health and can take place in settings including:

- Community-based organizations
- Health care agencies
- Academic settings
- Non-profit organizations
- Governmental and non-governmental agencies

Non-Academic Grounds for Dismissal

Graduate students are expected to behave in a professional and appropriate manner while on campus and during internships/fieldwork or other University-related activities. Faculty and graduate students will treat each other with respect. Behavior and communication of any type that can reasonably be interpreted to constitute an abuse of authority, egregious nuisance or intimidation, or that systematically interfere with the fair opportunity for others to express their views, or that persistently disrupt the educational process, are not acceptable and will be subject to sanction. Offensive behavior or communication that in a single instance may not rise to the level of being actionable can do so if it is persistent. Further information about codes of conduct violations and dismissal procedures may be found on the [Office of Student Conduct](#) page.

Maximum Time to Graduate

In alignment with the "Satisfactory Academic Progress" policy outlined in the Stockton Bulletin, MPH students must complete the program within fourteen (14) academic semesters or seven (7) years. Students should refer to the University's Leave of Absence policy as needed. If students wish to extend this time limit, they must submit a written request for an extension to the MPH Program Chair for their cnsideration and determination of the best path forward.

Program Distinction

The MPH program will convey recognition of superior performance in program work to graduating students who meet the following criteria:

- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 in program credits by the end of the semester prior to their final semester in the program.
- Earned a final grade of B or higher in all program courses
- Demonstrate engagement in extracurricular activities and/or service to the MPH program, School of Health Science and/or Stockton University during their time in the MPH program.

For this award, the phrase Program Distinction will be noted on the transcript.

Current Procedure
- Students must have applied for graduation from the MPH program
- Students must have a program GPA and a Cumulative GPA of 3.50 or above with a final grade of B- or higher in all program courses
- Students must have:
  - Actively participated in at least 1 extracurricular activity (working in the medical/health field can be considered extracurricular) during their time here at Stockton University AND/OR
  - Demonstrate service (e.g., holding a leadership position within one of the listed extracurricular activities during their time here at Stockton University, etc.)

- Students must provide their most recent CV/Resume
- A list of eligible students will be provided to the SHS Assistant Dean, who will confirm the final program GPA before graduation.

Attendance

If you are ill or miss a scheduled class/deadline due to illness, medical condition, or emergency, contact the course faculty to discuss the best path forward. Refer to the course late policy below. Additional administrative support is available through Stockton Cares by completing the Stockton Cares online form.

In the event of an emergency or illness that results in a long-term absence (for example, missed more than one scheduled class, missed more than one deadline, etc.), contact the course faculty and the Stockton Cares office, as a long-term absence may impact course completion. Students may request specific accommodations and protections, including "Late/Medical Withdrawal" or a grade of "Incomplete" but students must meet the criteria outlined in university policy and follow the required procedures to avail themselves of these options. Not all students will be eligible for any given remedy/solution. Please refer to Stockton University's Academic Policies and Procedures, under "Grading." Please refer to Stockton's leave of absence policy.

Regardless of the length of the absence, written documentation/verification supporting student absence will only be requested by or provided to the Stockton Cares office and will not be requested by or provided to the course faculty. Violations of this expectation will be managed through the "Code of Conduct" process. Further information about codes of conduct violations and dismissal procedures may be found on the Office of Student Conduct page. Please also refer to Stockton's course attendance policy.

It is the responsibility of each student to fully orient themselves to the specific course policies that course faculty have described in their course syllabus, including those related to attendance and absence. Each student is responsible for adhering to the policies put forth by the faculty in each MPH course. Questions or concerns about specific course policies will be directed to the MPH Academic Program Chair.

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is a very serious issue. Unless specifically designated otherwise, all work is expected to be the student's own, independent effort. When in doubt about how to complete an assignment properly, students need to consult with the appropriate faculty member. For more information regarding charges of academic dishonesty, students should refer to the relevant section in the University Bulletin.

Research and Ethics

If faculty and/or student research or scholarship (including internships) involves contact with human or animal subjects, the research project requires pre-approval from the University's Institutional Review Board (IRB) before conducting the research. Please follow the procedures outlined in your Applied Practice Experience syllabus and course materials (PUBH 5900 MPH Internship) and contact your course instructor for more information about compliance with this requirement.