

Fast Track Public Health Graduate Programs for USF Students

The University of South Florida's accelerated 3+2 program offered through the College of Arts & Sciences and the College of Public Health is available to a select group of students. This program provides opportunities for students to enroll in a Masters in Public Health program at the beginning of their senior year. Eligible seniors complete up to 20 graduate credits in public health that count toward the bachelor's degree as well as an MPH or MSPH. The MPH is considered a professional degree and is appropriate for students wishing to be prepared to work in a public health career. The MSPH is considered a research oriented degree. The College of Public Health has five departments. For a list of available Master's programs within these departments, see Table 1.

Table 1.

DEPARTMENT		MPH	MSPH
Dept. of Community and Family Health			
	Maternal and Child Health	X	X
	Health Education	X	X
	Socio-Health Sciences	X	X
	Behavioral Health	X	X
Suggested Undergraduate Majors: Social Sciences, Biomedical Science, Communications, Political Science			
Dept. of Health Policy and Management			
	Health Care Organizations and Management	X	
	Health Care Policies and Programs	X	
Suggested Undergraduate Majors: Economics Required Courses: Microeconomics and Basic Accounting			
Dept. of Epidemiology and Biostatistics			
	Epidemiology		X
	Biostatistics		X
Suggested Undergraduate Majors: Math Required Courses: Calculus and Linear Algebra			
Dept. of Environmental and Occupational Health			
	Environmental Health	X	X
	Industrial Hygiene	X	X
	Occupational Health	X	X
	Safety Management	X	X
	Toxicology	X	X
Suggested Undergraduate Majors: Natural Sciences, Biomedical Science, INS			
Dept. of Global Health			
	Global Health Practice	X	
	Global Communicable Disease	X	
Suggested Undergraduate Majors: Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Biomedical Science Fluency in a second language is highly recommended.			

Students do not officially apply for this program until the junior year. However, since this program requires specific course scheduling, it is strongly recommended that interested students meet with one of the Pre-Admission Advisors as soon as possible to express their intent in pursuing this track. Pre-Admission and departmental advisors will collaborate to ensure all major requirements and prerequisites are met in a timely manner.

Students enrolled in the program attend undergraduate classes for three years in the College of Arts and Sciences (including prerequisite courses required for the Master's degree), then begin taking Master's level courses in Public Health in the fourth year. After five years, program participants earn an undergraduate degree and a Master's degree in Public Health.

As undergraduates, students will have the opportunity to select the major that best corresponds with the intended Public Health track (See Table 1). Possible natural science majors include: Biomedical Sciences, Chemistry B.A., Environmental Policy, Geology B.A., Interdisciplinary Natural Sciences, and Mathematics. Possible social science majors include: Africana Studies, Anthropology, American Studies, Communication, Economics, English, Geography, History, Humanities, International Studies, Political Science, Philosophy, Psychology, Religious Studies, Sociology and Women's Studies.

*Please note that all students should work closely with the departmental advisor they choose. Students entering USF with accelerated credits from high school (i.e. AP, IB, and Dual Enrollment) will have more flexibility in major selection.

By the end of the third year, prospective students must complete HSC 4554 Survey of Human Diseases (3) and HSA 4011 Introduction to Public Health (3), as prerequisites for the accelerated program. These courses will not count toward the graduate degree, but may count toward the undergraduate degree as determined by the undergraduate advisor.

Applications will be accepted as early as the fall of the student's junior year, but no later than the spring of that year. USF Graduate School information is available at <http://www.grad.usf.edu/newsite/admissions/main.asp> ; and specific College of Public Health information may be found at the following website <http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/homepage.html>. The application requirements are as follows:

- Students are required to take the GRE (Graduate Record Exam) during the junior year. Minimum combined (quantitative and verbal) score of 1000 on the General GRE; specific section scores are determined by each department. Check the Public Health website for more detailed information. An MCAT score of 24 (no subscore lower than 8) is also acceptable. Senior status (90 earned credit hours) is required to enter the College of Public Health. Students interested in the program who will have accumulated an excess of 90 credit hours prior to the start of the fourth year, must meet with a Pre-Admission advisor to determine eligibility for the program.
- Two letters of recommendation from undergraduate faculty.
- One letter from the academic advisor noting GPA of 3.2 or better.
- Desire for a public health career as documented in a one page goal statement.
- Approval by appropriate department admission committee.
- Approval by the College of Public Health and the USF Graduate School.

Senior students will enroll in one credit (3 hours / week) of field experience Fall and Spring semester. The first semester field experience will focus on introducing students to various public health areas and the second semester will focus on introducing the student to their chosen

concentration area in Public Health. The College of Public Health Field Placement Coordinator will work with the student. For MPH students, an additional, more intensive, field experience is required at the end of the masters program as well.

The **MPH** is considered a professional degree and is appropriate for students wishing to be prepared to work in a public health career. The MPH has extensive field experience, requires a special project and written comprehensive exam. Please refer to the typical MPH sequence in Table 2.

The **MSPH** is considered an academic or research oriented degree, has less emphasis on field experience and more on research methods, requires a thesis, and written comprehensive exam. Please refer to the typical MSPH sequence in Table 3.

Table 2.
Typical MPH Sequence (Professional Degree; 42 graduate credits)

Semester 1 (First year graduate / senior undergrad)		10 credits
PHC 6000	Epidemiology	3
PHC 6050	Biostatistics I	3
PHC 6102	Principles of Health Policy and Management	3
PHC 6945	Supervised Field Experience	1
	Undergraduate courses determined by Undergraduate Advisor	

Semester 2 (First year graduate / senior undergrad)		10 credits
PHC 6410	Social and Behavioral Sciences Applied to Health	3
PHC 6357	Environmental and Occupational Health	3
PHC xxxx	Concentration Course	3
PHC 6945	Supervised Field Experience	1
	Undergraduate courses determined by Undergraduate Advisor	

Semester 3 (graduate)		9 credits
PHC xxxx	Concentration Course	3
	Elective	3
	Elective	3

Semester 4 (graduate)		9 credits
PHC xxxx	Concentration Course	3
PHC xxxx	Concentration Course	3
	Concentration or Elective	3

Semester 5 (graduate)		9-12 credits
	Elective	3
PHC 6977	Special Project	3
PHC 6945	Supervised Field Experience	3-6
	Comprehensive Exam	0

Table 3.
Typical MSPH Sequence (Research Oriented Degree)

Semester 1 (First year graduate / senior undergrad)		10 credits
PHC 6000	Epidemiology	3
PHC 6050	Biostatistics I	3
PHC xxxx	6410, 6357 or 6102	3
PHC 6945	Supervised Field Experience	1
	Undergraduate courses determined by Undergraduate Advisor	

Semester 2 (First year graduate / senior undergrad)		10 credits
PHC xxxx	Concentration Course	3
PHC xxxx	Concentration Course	3
PHC xxxx	Concentration Course	3
PHC 6945	Supervised Field Experience	1
	Undergraduate courses determined by Undergraduate Advisor	

Semester 3 (graduate)		9 -12 credits
PHC xxxx	Concentration and Elective Courses	9-12

Semester 4 (graduate)		9-12 credits
PHC xxxx	Concentration and Elective Courses	3-12

Semester 5 (graduate)		6 credits
PHC 6971	Thesis	6
PHC 6945	Supervised Field Experience	Optional
	Comprehensive Exam	0

For Additional Information:

Pre-admission Undergraduate Advisor

Dr. Kathy Cole 813-974-6957
lamiri@cas.usf.edu

Pre-Admission Undergraduate Advisor
 (Honors College Students Only)

MS. Amy Sturrock 813-974-3087
asturrock@honors.usf.edu

Pre-admission Graduate Advisor

Dr. Kay Perrin 813-974-6505
advisor@health.usf.edu

Websites:

College of Public Health <http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/homepage.html>

USF Graduate School <http://www.grad.usf.edu/newsite/main.asp>

Association of Schools of Public Health <http://www.asph.org/>

American Public Health Association <http://www.apha.org/>

USF College of Arts & Sciences <http://web1.cas.usf.edu/MAIN/>

USF Honors College <http://honors.usf.edu>