COMMUNITY HEALTH

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Graduate Degree Programs

Major: Community Health
Degrees offered: M.S., Ph.D.

Major: Public Health
Degrees offered: M.P.H.

Major: Rehabilitation
Degrees offered: M.S.

Graduate Degree Programs

The Community Health Program in the Department of Kinesiology & Community Health offers programs of study leading to the Master of Science in Community Health, Master of Science in Rehabilitation, Master of Public Health (M.P.H.), and Doctor of Philosophy in Community Health degrees.

The Chronic Disease, Disability, and Society specialization prepares graduates for advanced research or as health specialists who are well versed in social determinants of health. Graduates from this specialization will have a strong foundation related to health disparities, chronic disease and disability. The specialization in Epidemiology prepares students for the analysis of disease occurrences and problems in populations and instruction in the various methodologies, statistical techniques and designs for obtaining such understanding. The Global Health specialization focuses on international health from an interdisciplinary perspective. Students in this concentration may take courses that provide a broad view of global health contexts from various departments across campus. Finally, the specialization in Health Policy and Administration prepares students for the examination of management principles related to health care institutions and in procedures and methods for the analysis of health policy development, implementation and evaluation.

The M.S. in Community Health has specializations in Chronic Disease, Disability, and Society; Epidemiology; Global Health; and Health Policy and Administration. The M.S.P.H. program is not currently accepting applications, and individuals interested in pursuing a Master's degree in public health are encouraged to apply to the M.P.H. degree program. The M.P.H. degree is a professionally focused degree designed to prepare students for a career in public health practice. The M.P.H. degree offers an area of concentration in health behavior and promotion. The Ph.D. program is designed to prepare graduates for positions of leadership in teaching, research, and service in universities, industries, and private and government agencies in the United States and in other countries.

Admission

Applications for all degrees except the Master of Public Health (M.P.H) are due on January 15 for fall admission. Applications for spring semester are due October 1. Applications for the Master of Public Health (M.P.H) degree are only accepted for Fall admission until April 1.

The Graduate College admission requirements apply for all applicants. Candidates for admission to master’s degree programs should have a grade point average of at least 3.0 (A = 4.0) for the last 60 semester hours of their undergraduate degree work (excluding fieldwork, student teaching, and physical activity courses). In addition, satisfactory scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) are required. Applicants should have a bachelor's degree in a health or disability-related discipline and/or a strong background in social and biological sciences and quantitative methods. A statement of education and career goals, and three letters of recommendation are required. All degree programs with the exception of the Master of Public Health (M.P.H) require one example of professional writing with the date of its completion.

Admission requirements for the Ph.D. program include the following: a grade point average of at least 3.0 (A = 4.0) for the last 60 hours of undergraduate degree work (excluding fieldwork, student teaching, and physical activity courses), a GPA of 3.6 for master's degree work with thesis, and acceptable scores on the Graduate Record Examination. Candidates are encouraged to have a personal interview with the coordinator of graduate studies or other representative of the department. Preference is given to students who have had at least two years of professional experience.

Applicants for all degrees whose native language is not English, or who have not obtained a university degree from an institution in a country where the native language is English, are required to submit the results of the TOEFL or IELTS as evidence of English proficiency. Applicants submitting TOEFL scores must obtain a minimum score of 611 on the paper-based, 254 on the computer-based, or 103 on the internet based (iBT) Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Applicants submitting IELTS scores must obtain a 6.5 on all sub-sections. Applicants whose native language is not English and who are seeking a teaching assistantship must provide evidence of spoken English language proficiency by meeting minimum score requirements specified by the University (see www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/taengprof.htm (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/taengprof.htm)).

Graduate Teaching Experience

Although teaching is not a general Graduate College requirement, experience in teaching is considered an important part of the graduate experience in this program.

Faculty Research Interests

Faculty research interests cover a wide range of subjects, including global health, health education, community health development, health behavior, health policy, health planning and management, rehabilitation and disability studies, chronic disease, epidemiology, biostatistical and epidemiologic research methodology, health economics, evaluation research, and aging studies.

Financial Aid

Financial aid is available on a competitive basis to qualified students in the form of teaching and research assistantships, as well as tuition and service fee waivers.
• Master of Science in Community Health (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/community-health/ms-comm-health)
• Master of Science in Rehabilitation (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/community-health/ms-rehab)
• Master of Public Health (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/community-health/master-pub-health)

Graduate course experience in public health and statistics with grades of B or better is expected prior to admission. Before admission to the Ph.D. program, students may be required to take up to 12 hours of additional coursework to remedy deficiencies. The candidate is required to pass written preliminary examinations covering disciplinary and professional aspects of community health, the literature and theoretical perspectives in the major area of study and methodological perspectives and research techniques. Students must also pass an oral preliminary examination on the area of specialization and dissertation proposal; and to pass an oral defense of dissertation research.

**Doctor of Philosophy in Community Health**

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<td>Advanced research methods/statistics</td>
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<td>CHLH/KIN/SHS 565/ RST 560 Teaching in the Professoriate</td>
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<td>CHLH 591 Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two courses in an area of specialization</td>
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<td>Additional research methods/statistics</td>
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<td>CHLH 599 Thesis Research</td>
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<td>Total Hours</td>
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**Other Requirements**

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<td>Other requirements may overlap</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approved Masters Degree Required for Admission to PhD?</td>
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<td>Qualifying Exam Required:</td>
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<td>Preliminary Exam Required:</td>
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<td>Final Exam/dissertation Defense Required:</td>
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<td>Dissertation Deposit Required:</td>
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<td>Minimum GPA:</td>
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1 For additional details and requirements refer to the department’s Graduate Handbook (http://kch.illinois.edu/kch-grad-handbook) and the Graduate College Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook).

**Master of Public Health and Master of Urban Planning**

The M.P.H. can be earned jointly with the Master of Urban Planning, M.U.P. Joint degree programs provide the opportunity to complete two degrees in a compressed time frame. For the joint program, at least 40 hours must be in Urban Planning, including all core courses and capstone requirements. The two programs must total a minimum of 88 hours, however the M.U.P. program may at its discretion count up to 8 hours of Urban Planning courses as electives in meeting its degree requirements as long as students are required to take no fewer than 40 additional hours in the M.P.H. program. Students must be in residence in Urban Planning for at least two semesters. Consult the department’s M.U.P joint degree web page for more information about the admissions process and joint degree requirements. For additional guidance, please contact the Director of the M.U.P. Program.

**Master of Public Health and Master of Business Administration**

The M.P.H. can be earned jointly with the Master of Business Administration, M.B.A. Joint degree programs provide the opportunity to complete two degrees in a compressed time frame. For students interested in blending their interests in business with a passion for public health, they can pursue the MPH-MBA Joint Degree Program. The student could apply for the joint degree prior to beginning their MPH or after completing the first year of the MPH program. To receive both degrees, MPH and MBA., students must complete a total of 108 hours of graduate-level coursework, including a minimum of 48 hours of public health courses (http://mph.illinois.edu/Program/Overview.aspx) and 60 hours of business courses (https://mba.illinois.edu/academics/joint-degrees). To satisfy the requirements of the Graduate College, students must be enrolled for at least three semesters in each of the two programs within the joint degree. Additionally, the first two semesters of the MBA program must be taken consecutively beginning in the fall.

Information listed in this catalog is current as of 11/2019