

# SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES PROGRAMS

## MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH) AND GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

### Faculty

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#### Master of Public Health and Graduate Certificate in Public Health Courses

#### Admission to the Master of Public Health and Graduate Certificate in Public Health

The Westminster Master of Public Health (MPH) program provides a solid foundation for public health practice and focuses on developing the knowledge needed to be a competent public health professional. The program prepares students to promote and protect public health and safety through education, service, and the application of evidence-based science. The MPH program attracts individuals with a commitment to acquire knowledge that will help them advance to leadership positions. Students come from a variety of careers such as health departments, hospitals, integrated health delivery systems, HMOs, group practices, government agencies, and nongovernmental organizations. Students learn leadership and practical skills that help them apply their knowledge and expertise to situations that range from social issues to highly technical problems.

The program offers a MPH degree with a Graduate Certificate in Public Health (Cert.PH) that is taught in a format adapted to working professionals. The MPH program is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health.

We prepare our students while embracing the core values of Westminster University: impassioned teaching and active learning, respect for diverse people and perspectives, collaboration and teamwork, personal and social responsibility, college-wide excellence, and high ethical standards. We also follow the standards set forth by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) to assure excellence in public health education. This educational program prepares public health practitioners to meet the diverse challenges of public health locally, nationally, and globally.

The program is grounded in the belief that, to be most effective, public health practitioners should receive formal training in the core concepts of public health. The program covers the following core concepts: analysis and assessment, policy development and program planning, communication, cultural competency, community dimensions of practice, basic public health science, financial planning and management, and leadership and systems-thinking.

### Mission

To prepare future public health leaders with the skills required to address today's population health challenges through the provision of high-quality teaching and mentoring, scholarly activities, service, and community-based projects, and to promote, protect communities, and prevent adverse health events and illness.

### Vision

The program's vision is to seek to be a premier academic resource for public health education, research, and evidence-based practice. Inspired students committed to creating conditions under which people can be healthy.

### Program Outcomes

Graduates of the MPH program will be prepared to:

- Assess, monitor, and review the health status of populations and their related determinants of health and illness.
- Demonstrate the ability to utilize the proper statistical and epidemiologic tools to assess community needs and program outcomes.
- Interpret quantitative and qualitative data.
- Use methods and instruments for collecting valid and reliable quantitative and qualitative data.
- Identify and prioritize the key dimensions of a public health problem by critically assessing public health literature—both quantitative and qualitative sources.
- Describe the direct and indirect human, ecological, and safety effects of major environmental and occupational agents.
- Determine approaches for assessing, preventing, and controlling environmental hazards that pose risks to human health and safety.
- Identify the causes of social and behavioral factors that affect the health of individuals and populations.
- Apply theoretical constructs of social and health behavior in planning community interventions.
- Articulate the relationship between health care delivery and financing, public health systems, and public policy.
- Apply the principles of program planning, development, budgeting, management, and evaluation in public health organizations and initiatives.
- Function as collaborators on public health projects with the ability to assume leadership roles effectively.
- Identify and apply ethical, moral, and legal principles in all aspects of public health practice.
- Develop public health programs and strategies responsive to the diverse cultural values and traditions of the communities being served.
- Apply evidence-based principles and the scientific knowledge base to develop evaluation methods and critically evaluate public health program outcomes.
- Effectively communicate public health messages to a variety of audiences from professionals to the general public.

### Progression in the Program

A student in the MPH program must:

- Have completed a bachelor's degree
- Receive a grade of B or higher in all courses
- Complete the master's degree in 4 years from the time of initial admission. Students are encouraged to complete the degree in the 10-month cohort schedule
- Complete all master's project requirements according to identified time schedules

A student in the Graduate Certificate in Public Health (Cert.PH) program must:

- Have completed a bachelor's degree
- Receive a grade of B or higher in all courses
- Complete the certificate in 2 years from the time of initial admission

### 10-Month Program Format

The MPH 10-month program is designed for working public health and health care professionals who desire to acquire the knowledge and skills that will help them advance in public health leadership positions. The program runs from August through June each year. Courses are offered in a worker friendly hybrid format. The in-class meetings are on Fridays and online on Saturdays (synchronous). There are five blocks (eight weeks each) that cover three semesters (fall, spring, and summer). Thus, earning an MPH degree in as little as three semesters.

### Graduation Requirements

To be eligible for a MPH degree or Graduate Certificate in Public Health (Cert.PH), students must satisfy the following conditions to qualify for graduation from Westminster University:

- Meet all credit hour and other course requirements
- Be enrolled at Westminster during the semester in which they wish to graduate
- Maintain good academic standing
- Earn a grade of B or higher in all graduate courses

**Note:** The program requires that students must earn a grade of B or higher in all graduate courses to qualify for graduation, regardless of their cumulative GPA. The final responsibility for being informed about, and adhering to, graduation requirements rests with the individual. Continued communication with the faculty advisor is recommended.

### Program Requirements

Requirement Description	Credit Hours	Prerequisites
I. Core Courses	39	
MPH 500 Principles of Public Health and Health Promotion	3	
MPH 510 Social and Behavioral Sciences in Public Health	3	
MPH 520 Environmental Health	3	
MPH 530 Principles of Epidemiology	3	
MPH 540 Health Policy and Management	3	
MPH 600 Public Health Ethics and Leadership	3	
MPH 621 Practicum I	3	MPH 510, 530, 540, 630
MPH 622 Practicum II	3	MPH 510, 530, 540, 630
MPH 630 Statistical Methods for Public Health	3	
MPH 635 Capstone I: Research Design & Statistical Analysis	3	MPH 500, 510, 530, 540, 630
MPH 640 Program Planning and Evaluation	3	MPH 510, 530, 540, 630
MPH 690A Capstone II A Research Project	3	MPH 500, 510, 520, 530, 540, 600, 630, 635
MPH 690B Capstone II B Research Project	3	MPH 500, 510, 520, 530, 540, 600, 630, 635
II. Elective Courses	6	
MPH 555 Global Health	3	
MPH 575 Introduction to SAS Programming	3	
MPH 645C Health Disparities	3	
MPH 645D Emergency Preparedness	3	
MPH 645E Violence and Public Health	3	

Requirement Description	Credit Hours	Prerequisites
MPH 645G Health Informatics	3	
MPH 645J Statistical Programming in R	3	
MPH 655 Infectious Disease Epidemiology	3	
Other elective courses must be approved by the MPH director		
Total hours for the MPH Program	45	

**Recommended Plan of Study for Master of Public Health**

	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Summer Semester
MPH 10 (10-month program)	<b>Block 1</b> MPH 500 (3) MPH 510 (3) MPH 630 (3)  <b>Block 2</b> MPH 520 (3) MPH 530 (3) MPH 540 (3)	<b>Block 3</b> MPH 640 (3) MPH 600 (3) MPH 635 (3)  <b>Block 4</b> MPH 690A (3) MPH 645 Elective (3) MPH 621 (3)	<b>Block 5</b> MPH 690B (3) MPH 645 Elective (3) MPH 622 (3)

**Graduate Certificate in Public Health Program Requirements**

The Graduate Certificate in Public Health (Cert.PH) provides formal education for those who are currently working in the public health arena or those interested in public health. Students who want to continue to pursue their education in public health will be permitted to apply certificate credits towards Westminster University's MPH degree with approval from the MPH director. The certificate program runs from August to December.

Requirement Description	Credit Hours	Prerequisites
I. Required Courses	18	
MPH 500 Principles of Public Health and Health Promotion	3	
MPH 510 Social and Behavioral Sciences in Public Health	3	
MPH 520 Environmental Health	3	
MPH 530 Principles of Epidemiology	3	
MPH 540 Health Policy and Management	3	
MPH 630 Statistical Methods of Public Health	3	
Total Hours for the Graduate Certificate in Public Health (Cert.PH)	18	