

Master of Public Health and Graduate Certificate in Public Health

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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 College: 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.

Vision

Inspired students committed to creating conditions under which people can be healthy.

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.

Program Outcomes

Graduates of the MPH program will be prepared to:

1. Assess, monitor, and review the health status of populations and their related determinants of health and illness.
2. Demonstrate the ability to utilize the proper statistical and epidemiologic tools to assess community needs and program outcomes.
3. Interpret quantitative and qualitative data.
4. Use methods and instruments for collecting valid and reliable quantitative and qualitative data.
5. Identify and prioritize the key dimensions of a public health problem by critically assessing public health literature—both quantitative and qualitative sources.
6. Describe the direct and indirect human, ecological, and safety effects of major environmental and occupational agents.
7. Determine approaches for assessing, preventing, and controlling environmental hazards that pose risks to human health and safety.
8. Identify the causes of social and behavioral factors that affect the health of individuals and populations.
9. Apply theoretical constructs of social and health behavior in planning community interventions.
10. Articulate the relationship between health care delivery and financing, public health systems, and public policy.
11. Apply the principles of program planning, development, budgeting, management, and evaluation in public health organizations and initiatives.
12. Function as collaborators on public health projects with the ability to assume leadership roles effectively.
13. Identify and apply ethical, moral, and legal principles in all aspects of public health practice.
14. Develop public health programs and strategies responsive to the diverse cultural values and traditions of the communities being served.
15. Apply evidence-based principles and the scientific knowledge base to develop evaluation methods and critically evaluate public health program outcomes.
16. 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:

- 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 2-year (5-semester) 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:

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

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 College:

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

Please note that 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	690	Capstone II Research Project (6)	MPH 500, 510, 520, 530, 540, 600, 630, 635

II. Elective Courses		6	
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MPH	555	Global Health (3)	
MPH	575	Introduction to SAS Programming (3)	
MPH	645C	Health Disparities (3)	
MPH	645D	Emergency Preparedness in P.H. (3)	
MPH	645E	Violence and Public Health (3)	
MPH	645G	Health Informatics (3)	
MPH	655	Infectious Disease Epidemiology (3)	

Other elective courses must be approved by the director

Total hours for the MPH Program		45	
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Recommended Plan of Study for Master of Public Health

	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Summer Semester
Year 1	MPH 500 (3) MPH 510 (3) MPH 630 (3)	MPH 520 (3) MPH 530 (3) MPH 540 (3) MPH 621 (3)* MPH 622 (3)*	MPH 621 (3) MPH 622 (3) Elective (3)
Year 2	MPH 600 (3) MPH 635 (3) MPH 645B (3)	MPH 690 (6) Elective (3)	–

* MPH 621 and MPH 622 only need to be completed once; however, they are offered both spring and summer semesters.

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 College's MPH degree with approval from the director.

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	