Master of Public Health in Public Health Practice

Public health seeks to understand and address the relationships between determinants of health and health outcomes. Our graduate program prepares public health practitioners to assess the needs of populations; plan, implement and evaluate programs to address those needs; and otherwise assure conditions that protect and promote the health of populations. The Master of Public Health (MPH) in Public Health Practice Program, within the Division of Population Health Sciences (DPHS), is designed to meet the challenges of the diverse and complex field of public health, with a particular focus on the needs of Alaska and the Circumpolar North. Students with backgrounds in the natural sciences, social sciences, business, health professions, human services, education, and law have successfully entered the field of public health at the graduate level.

Students may pursue their careers with minimal disruption while working on the MPH degree because all required courses are offered via distance format.

The MPH degree requires core courses in health education, environmental and occupational health, health management and policy, biostatistics, and epidemiology. It also includes coursework in research methods, program evaluation, circumpolar health issues, and management of public health emergencies and disasters, as well as the opportunity to create an individualized emphasis as the foundation for the required Applied Practice Experience (APE) and Integrated Learning Experience (ILE).

Admission Requirements

Complete the Admission Requirements for Graduate Degrees (http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/academicpoliciesprocesses/admissions/graduate/). In addition, students should also meet the following criteria when applying for admission to the MPH program:

- Submit an essay in response to the following prompt: Identify a major public health challenge in your community, describe its extent, and discuss one to two evidence-based solutions to address this challenge. Essays must be no more than 2 double-spaced pages long, be typed using 11 or 12 point font, and include citations and references. The list of references does not count in the page limitations.
- Provide a current resume or curriculum vitae (CV).
- Submit a personal statement explaining how and why obtaining the MPH degree in Public Health Practice would contribute to the student’s career goals. The personal statement must be no more than 2 double-spaced pages long and typed using 11 or 12 point font.
- Completed applications are reviewed once each year. The deadline for fall admission in the MPH Program is March 1. If openings remain available, applications will be accepted until July 1. Students are asked to contact the MPH Program Office prior to submitting an application after March 1. UAA admission must be successfully processed before the MPH Program will consider an application complete. The UAA process may take as long as four months, so applicants are encouraged to apply to the university first and early.

Note also that:

- To the extent that there are limited positions available in the program, preference may be given to residents of the state of Alaska as defined by the university’s policy on residency for tuition purposes. Potential out-of-state applicants should also be aware of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA), which could affect their eligibility to enroll in the UAA MPH Program. Preference may also be given to applicants with two or more years of work experience in the field of public health, from underrepresented populations, and/or have completed undergraduate or graduate course(s) in statistics or quantitative analysis.
- Decisions by the admissions committee are considered final. Those who are not admitted to the program are encouraged to strengthen their application before re-application.

Professional Program Fee

A professional program fee is required of all students in the MPH program in addition to course tuition fees, lab fees, course material fees, and student activity fees. The professional program fee is a sum equal to 50 percent of resident tuition, and is charged upon enrollment in MPH courses. The fee contributes directly to program support.

Academic Requirements

A student in the MPH program is expected to complete a minimum of 6 semester credits each academic year, beginning with the first semester of enrollment. The 6 semester credits may consist of prerequisite courses or program courses. Failure to comply with the 6 credit minimum each academic year may result in the removal from the program. See also General University Requirements for Graduate Degrees (http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/graduateprograms/degreerequirements/) for additional requirements to remain in good standing and to meet academic expectations toward the degree.

Candidacy Requirements

See the section Advancement to Candidacy (http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/graduateprograms/degreerequirements/).

Graduation Requirements

- Complete the General University Requirements for Graduate Degrees (http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/graduateprograms/degreerequirements/).
- Complete the following program requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HS A605</td>
<td>Public Health and Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS A610</td>
<td>Environmental and Occupational Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS A615</td>
<td>Health Services Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS A624</td>
<td>Circumpolar Health Issues</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A minimum of 42 credits is required for the degree.