

Master of Public Health in Public Health Practice

Public health seeks to understand and address the relationships between determinants of health and health outcomes. This 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, 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 because all required courses are offered via distance format.

The MPH 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:
 - 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 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 twice each year. The deadline for fall admission to the MPH is March 1. If openings remain available, applications will be accepted until July 1. Students are asked to contact the MPH office prior to submitting an application after March 1. The deadline for spring admission to the MPH is October 1. UAA admission must be successfully processed before the MPH 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:

- Potential out-of-state applicants should be aware of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA), which could affect their eligibility to enroll in the UAA MPH Program.
- Decisions by the admissions committee are considered final. Those not admitted to the program may reapply during the next review period but are encouraged to strengthen their application before reapplying.

Accelerated MPH in Public Health Practice Option

UAA Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences (BSHS) students interested in pursuing an MPH are encouraged to discuss the Accelerated MPH in Public Health Practice option with a BSHS or MPH faculty academic advisor, and plan on applying for the Accelerated MPH in Public Health Practice option during their junior year. Applicants must meet the general admission requirements listed for graduate degrees, and the MPH. Additionally, the Accelerated MPH in Public Health Practice applicant must:

- Have completed at least 60% of the credits toward their bachelor's degree program requirements.
- Have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.00.
- Have completed at least 24 course credits at UAA.

Students admitted to the Accelerated MPH in Public Health Practice option are required to take the following courses that can be applied to both their BSHS and MPH degrees:

- HS A605 instead of HS A433
- Complete 6 credits from the following MPH courses to be applied toward the BSHS required program approved electives: HS A610, HS A615, HS A624, or HS A630.

Academic Requirements

- See also General University Requirements for Graduate Degrees (<http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/graduateprograms/degree requirements/>) for requirements to remain in good standing and to meet academic expectations toward the degree.

Candidacy Requirements

- See the Advancement to Candidacy (<http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/graduateprograms/degree requirements/>) section.

Graduation Requirements

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

Code	Title	Credits
Core Courses		
HS A605	Public Health and Society	3
HS A610	Environmental and Occupational Health	3
HS A615	Health Services Administration	3
HS A624	Circumpolar Health Issues	3
HS A625	Biostatistics for Health Professionals	3
HS A626	Principles of Epidemiology	3
HS/SWK A628	Program Evaluation	3
HS A629	Public Health Research Tools and Methods	4
HS A630	Public Health Emergencies and Disasters	3
Complete three focused public health-related emphasis courses at the 600-level with advisor-approval		9
HS A695	Applied Practice Experience	3
HS A696	Integrative Learning Experience	2
Total		42

A minimum of 42 credits is required for the degree.