Degree Available at SIUE
• Master of Public Health

Program Format
Classes are offered in the evening to accommodate working professionals, and most courses are offered in a hybrid format with meetings once a week in the evening.

Master of Public Health at SIUE
The interdisciplinary Master of Public Health program addresses the health of worldwide populations, covering the five core areas of public health:
• biostatistics
• environmental health sciences
• epidemiology
• health policy and management
• social and behavioral sciences

This program emphasizes public health leadership and the administrative skills associated with leadership careers in public health. Coursework and practical experiences are combined to prepare students for leadership roles in a variety of communities, for profit and nonprofit health agencies, universities and other research settings to prevent diseases and promote strategies to improve health. Elective courses are selected in coordination with other departments, and are focused on general leadership and administrative knowledge and skills.

The MPH program prepares students to sit for the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) and Certified in Public Health (CPH) exams. These certifications assure employers that graduates meet the entry-level competencies needed by public health professionals. Graduates will also be prepared to pursue an advanced degree in public health (PhD or DrPH), or a professional degree in medicine, nursing, pharmacy or dentistry.

Career Opportunities and Outlook
The MPH is widely regarded as the entry-level degree for leadership positions in a variety of settings, including local, state, national and international health agencies. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment opportunities for public health professionals are rising faster than the average for all occupations nationally.

Students earning an MPH will graduate with in-depth knowledge, as well as skills to manage, plan, implement, evaluate and disseminate public health programs, and develop and analyze policies. Graduates typically pursue careers in community and public health practice, health policy, management, research, health education, health promotion, consulting or private practice, and education.

siue.edu/grad/public-health
Hands-on Learning
Ample opportunities are available for students to participate in practical experiences on and off campus throughout the program. In their second year, students will complete an applied practice experience where they will work with an organization to complete public health projects. Additionally, students may choose to complete a community-based project for their capstone course.

Global Experiences
Faculty-led travel study courses are available that examine various aspects of public health, life, culture and the geopolitical climate in other countries or culturally diverse areas. Potential areas of research and service include, but are not limited to:
• environmental sustainability
• environmental education and programming
• disaster response and relief
• community development
• health and wellness education
• infectious diseases

Some global health opportunities are appropriate as applied practice experiences, capstone projects or a thesis. Talk with your faculty advisor or the graduate program director to learn more.

Admission Requirements
• Graduate School application and $40 fee
• Submission of all postsecondary academic transcripts
• Minimum GPA of 3.0
• Personal statement that discusses what has led the applicant to pursue a master’s degree in public health at this time, motivations and objectives for graduate study, and their understanding of public health (1-2 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font)
• Current resume
  • Applicants who have significant public health work experience are encouraged to apply. Work experience will be evaluated as a part of the admission package.
• Scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) are recommended, but not required
• International Applicants: Proof of English Proficiency, minimum requirements are TOEFL (79), IELTS (6.5) or equivalent
• Applicants from diverse fields of study are welcome to apply. Competitive applicants are students with an undergraduate degree in:
  • Public Health
  • Community Health
  • Exercise Science
  • Health Education
  • Psychology
  • Nursing
  • Nutrition
  • Pharmacy
  • Sociology
  • Social Work

Application Deadline
The application deadline for the following fall admission is March 1.

Graduation Requirements
In addition to successful completion of the program of study, students are required to complete a capstone project in their second year within the six credit hour capstone course, PBHE 599. Students may choose to complete a thesis as the capstone project, but a thesis is not required.

The capstone project is a community-based project that will incorporate the material learned throughout the program. Students will work with an approved community partner to design, develop, implement and/or evaluate a project that emphasizes one or more of the public health core competencies and demonstrates relevant leadership skills.

Program of Study
The Master of Public Health requires a minimum of 42 semester hours. Students will be required to complete 33 hours of public health core courses and nine hours of leadership-focused electives. Of the 42 semester hours required, at least 28 hours must be completed at SIUE.

In order to remain in good standing, students must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher and earn a grade of B or better in all required core courses.

Required courses (33 hours):

PBHE 500 Core Principles in Public Health & Public Health Leadership (3)
PBHE 520 Public Health Data Analysis (3)
PBHE 530 Epidemiology (3)
PBHE 540 Public Health Policy and Administration (3)
PBHE 550 Research & Evaluation Methods (3)
PBHE 560 Applied Program Planning (3)
PBHE 570 Environmental Health (3)
PBHE 580 Public Health Interventions (3)
PBHE 598 Grantwriting (3)
PBHE 599A Capstone Semester 1 (3)
PBHE 599B Capstone Semester 2 (3)

Approved Electives:
Choose nine hours from the following:

ACS 530 Survey of Health Communication Theory & Practice (3)
ACS 540 Survey of Organizational Communication Research (3)
SOC 431 Employment & Workplace Change (3)
MBA 533 Leadership Influence & Managerial Influence (3)
NURS 510 Healthcare Informatics (3)
NURS 511 Social, Ethical and Legal Issues in the Information Age (3)
NURS 591 Organization and Systems Leadership (3)