

# M.S.P.H. MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

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## Overview

The Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH) is an academic research degree designed for students who wish to prepare for further study at the doctoral level, or to prepare for research or technical positions in government, industry, academia, or private institutions. Studies will include many of the core disciplines included in the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree with an additional emphasis on advanced research methods and quantitative, computational analysis skills. The MSPH program is a 45 credit hour program that is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health.

Full-time students can expect to complete the MSPH degree requirements within 2 years. An elective credit waiver may be available for students who enter the MSPH degree program with an earned advanced degree (e.g., MD, DDS, DVM, JD).

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## 4+1 BSPH and MSPH

The University of Miami's School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) and the Department of Public Health Sciences (DPHS) offer a 4+1 program that combines a Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) and a Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH). SONHS academically-qualified juniors are eligible to apply to the MSPH program. Applicants must be enrolled in the BSPH program with the SONHS and apply separately into the 4+1 BSPH/MSPH. Applicants must be in good academic standing as defined by the School of Nursing at the time of submission. Acceptance into the BSPH program does not in any way indicate or guarantee acceptance to the MSPH degree program. The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) admissions requirement is waived for the BSPH students. If accepted, students complete the combined bachelor's and master's degree in 5 years. Accepted students take 12 credits of graduate level public health courses during their undergraduate senior year, then 3 to 6 graduate level credits the summer after completing the bachelors and the rest of graduate courses in the subsequent fall and spring semesters to complete the 45 credit MSPH degree.

BSPH students must apply through SOPHAS during the undergraduate junior year by March 1 to start the program in the fall. Admission decisions regarding the entry of BSPH students into the MSPH program are made solely by the Admissions Committee of the Department of Public Health Sciences.

BSPH students interested in pursuing the 4+1 program must meet with their undergraduate advisor to develop an academic plan. The advisor will also explain the policies and procedures of the program and link the student with the graduate program advisor.

## Admission Requirements

- **Application** - Applicants must submit their application online through SOPHAS (<https://sophas.org/>), the centralized application service of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) (<https://www.aspph.org/>). All application materials, including transcripts, test scores, statement of purpose/personal statement, resume/CV, and letters of recommendations, must be submitted directly through SOPHAS.
- **Transcripts** – Applicants must submit official transcripts from all previously attended colleges and universities. All foreign transcripts must be official and submitted in the original language. If the original language is not English, an official translation must be submitted along with the transcript. We do not accept evaluations from foreign credentialing service organizations. All non-U.S. transcripts must be evaluated by the World Education Service (<https://www.wes.org/>) (WES) using ICAP course-by-course evaluation service.
- **Standardized Test Scores** - Applicants are required to submit GRE general exam scores ([http://www.ets.org/gre/revised\\_general/about/](http://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/about/)) taken within the last five years. Alternatively, MCAT and LSAT scores are acceptable for the MSPH degree programs only. Applicants to the MSPH program who hold advanced degrees (MD, JD, PhD, MBBS, and other doctoral degrees) are encouraged, but not required to submit test scores. Standardized test waivers are available on a case-by-case basis.
- **English Proficiency Exam** - International students whose native language is not English and/or did not graduate from an English-teaching institution are required to submit TOEFL (<https://www.ets.org/toefl/>) or IELTS (<https://www.ielts.org/en-us/>) scores.
- **Resume/Curriculum Vitae** – Applicants must include a detailed resume including employment, public health experiences, community service, research, and academic or professional honors.
- **Statement of Purpose/Personal Statement** – Applicants are required to submit a statement of purpose that details their academic interest in the program. The statement should discuss any experiences in public health including field experience, research, training, education or other related qualifications. Applicants should discuss how earning the degree will contribute to their future professional and career goals, as well as to the future of public health. Applicants should also address any academic deficiencies, if applicable.
- **Letters of Recommendation**– Applicants must provide three letters of recommendation from individuals who are best able to assess their ability to be successful in a graduate degree program. Ideally, recommenders are recent professors, researchers or employers in a related field. Letters must be signed and on letterhead. Applicants will be asked to include the contact information of their recommenders on the SOPHAS application and recommenders will be sent an online form to complete via email.

For more information about our application process, please click here (<https://graduatestudies.publichealth.med.miami.edu/admissions/application-process/>). To obtain detailed curricula on all our program offerings, please visit our website (<http://publichealth.med.miami.edu/>).

**For further information, please contact:**

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Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Core Courses</b>		
EPH 600	Introduction to the Science Practice of Public Health	3
EPH 601	Medical Biostatistics I	4
EPH 602	Biostatistics II	3
EPH 617 or EPH 620	Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Health Education and Behavior	3
EPH 621	Fundamentals of Epidemiology	3
EPH 631 or EPH 632	Public Health Administration U.S. Health Systems	3
EPH 641	Environmental Health	3
<b>Choose two Methods Courses</b> <sup>1</sup>		<b>6</b>
<b>Elective Courses</b> <sup>2</sup>		<b>11</b>
EPH-600, 700 level courses not already listed		
BST-600, 700 level courses not already listed		
<b>Research Thesis Project</b>		
EPH 698	MSPH Thesis Proposal	3
EPH 699	MSPH Thesis <sup>3</sup>	3
Total Credit Hours		45

<sup>1</sup> List of approved Method Courses. Select 2 courses from this list: BST 605, BST 625, BST 630, BST 692, EPH 604, EPH 644, EPH 647, EPH 651, EPH 656, EPH 703, EPH 705, EPH 722, EPH 727, EPH 751, EPH 752, EPH 772, EPH 774, EPH 776

<sup>2</sup> After completion of the core courses, the student may select courses to fit his/her own area of interest. This allows for personal tailoring of the academic program to fit the student's individual needs and career goals.

<sup>3</sup> The MSPH Thesis project requires an individual investigation of a current public health problem and allows the student to demonstrate competency in the development and implementation of a research question. Students will work closely with a faculty advisor and thesis project committee during their investigation. Formal MSPH thesis project presentation is required.

## Sample MSPH Study Plan to complete in 2 years

This is a sample Plan of Study for the MSPH. Your actual course sequence may vary depending on your previous academic experience as well as current course offerings. Students should meet with their academic advisor each semester to determine the appropriate course selection.

Year One		Credit Hours
<b>Fall</b>		
EPH 600	Introduction to the Science Practice of Public Health	3
EPH 601	Medical Biostatistics I	4
EPH 620	Health Education and Behavior	3
EPH Elective		3
Credit Hours		13
<b>Spring</b>		
EPH 621	Fundamentals of Epidemiology	3

EPH 632	U.S. Health Systems	3
EPH 602	Biostatistics II	3
Methods Course <sup>1</sup>		3
	Credit Hours	12
<b>Summer</b>		
EPH Elective		3
	Credit Hours	3
<b>Year Two</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
EPH 641	Environmental Health	3
EPH 698	MSPH Thesis Proposal <sup>2</sup>	3
EPH Elective		3
Methods Course <sup>1</sup>		3
	Credit Hours	12
<b>Spring</b>		
EPH Elective		2
EPH 699	MSPH Thesis <sup>2</sup>	3
	Credit Hours	5
	Total Credit Hours	45

<sup>1</sup> **Methods Courses:** Must be selected from the approved method course listed in the "Curriculum" tab

<sup>2</sup> **Thesis courses:** EPH 698 must be completed prior to enrolling in EPH 699

## Mission

The mission of the Graduate Programs in Public Health is to develop leaders who can translate knowledge into policy and practice to promote health and prevent disease in human populations.

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## Goals

Upon completion of the Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH) degree, all graduates will be able to:

- Apply statistical reasoning and quantitative methods for the purpose of analyzing public health data and participating in population-based research
- Identify and apply the most appropriate statistical tests for the purpose of performing hypothesis-driven research to solve public health problems
- Explain the role of multi-level occupational and environmental conditions which directly or indirectly impact the health of individuals, communities and populations
- Apply epidemiological methods to the measurement and study of population health and the prevention of infectious and chronic disease
- Examine the main components and issues of the organization, financing, and delivery of health services and public health systems
- Identify social and behavioral concepts, models and theories that form the foundation of health promotion and disease prevention
- Analyze the effects of political, social, and economic policies on public health systems at the local, state, national and international level
- Recognize sociocultural factors that promote and inhibit health in vulnerable and underserved populations
- Differentiate between qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods in relation to their strengths, limitations and appropriate uses and emphases on reliability and validity
- Identify public health research questions and hypotheses, analyze data and communicate findings effectively to diverse stakeholders
- Demonstrate effective written and oral skills for communicating with different audiences in the context of professional public health activities
- Assess the strengths and limitations of various research designs in collecting, analyzing and interpreting information from public health studies
- Use statistical software effectively to analyze complex public health data and convert the results into publishable reports and presentations.

## Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will develop and demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills in the presentation of public health information to a diverse audience.

- Students will develop and demonstrate the ability to make scholarly contributions to the field.
- Students will demonstrate mastery of research competencies.