M.S. IN PREVENTION SCIENCE AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

Overview

The Master of Science degree program in Prevention Science and Community Health is a 33 credit hour program that is intended to provide students with training in the fundamentals of prevention science, including (a) the assessment of risk and protective factors that predict and modify health and behavior outcomes; (b) the development of preventive interventions that target these risk and protective factors; and (c) the implementation and evaluation of these interventions. Students in the program will develop skills in translating prevention research into demonstrable preventive action, and to successfully partner with communities and organizations for the implementation of evidence-based preventive interventions with fidelity and sensitivity to communities’ diversity and unique strengths.

The focus of this program is in line with the seven priority areas of the U.S. National Prevention Strategy (e.g., tobacco-free living, preventing drug abuse and excessive alcohol use, healthy eating, active living, injury and violence-free living, reproductive and sexual health, and mental/emotional well-being), as implemented through the Strategy’s strategic directions of creating healthy and safe communities, eliminating health disparities, providing clinical and community prevention services, and empowering people. The program is in intended to prepare students for research or technical positions in government, industry, academia, or private institutions, as well as to pursue future doctoral studies in medicine and public health.

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** - The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is not required for the MS in Prevention Science and Community Health program.

- **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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EPH 600</td>
<td>Introduction to the Science Practice of Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPH 623</td>
<td>Determinants of Health and Health Disparities Across the Life Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPH 617</td>
<td>Disease Prevention and Health Promotion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPH 717</td>
<td>Integrating Behavior Health Theories and Models</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPH 731</td>
<td>Developing, Adapting and Evaluating Interventions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPH 732</td>
<td>Introduction to Dissemination and Implementation Science</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Electives**

- Student selects 3 credits of elective with faculty advisor approval, EPH-600 or 700 level courses not already listed

**Statistics/Research Methods Courses**

- Students complete 6 credits of coursework in statistics or research methodology from a pre-approved list of courses.

**Thesis Courses**

- EPH 698 Masters Thesis Proposal 3
- EPH 699 Masters Thesis 3

**Total Credit Hours** 33

Plan of Study

The Master of Science in Prevention Science and Community Health curriculum consists of required coursework in prevention science and public health, required coursework in statistics/research methodology, credit hours in elective coursework (chosen in consultation with the program advisor), and required credit hours dedicated to proposing and completing a research thesis. The average time to completion is 2 years.

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.

The Master of Science in Prevention Science and Community Health (MS-PSCH) degree 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.

Goals

Upon completion of the Master of Science in Prevention Science and Community Health (MS-PSCH) degree, all graduates will be able to:

- Describe the core disciplines of public health and how they apply to improving population health;
- Apply research methods to the measurement and study of prevention science;
- Describe the origins, foundations, and standards of prevention science;
- Design and carry out empirical research studies that contribute to the literature on risk and protective factors, and their influence on associated with health and behavior outcomes across the lifespan;
- Demonstrate knowledge of evidence-based preventive interventions and understand how to apply prevention science to the design, implementation, adaptation, and evaluation of preventive interventions;
- Integrate knowledge of research design, quantitative and qualitative methods, data analysis, and multi-method, multi-domain assessment methods commonly used in prevention science;
- Demonstrate skill in disseminating their work to diverse audiences via formal academic presentations, instructional activities, and professional/academic writing; and
- Demonstrate awareness and understanding of diversity and contextual issues such as culture, identity, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, marginalization, poverty, inequality, and religion in their research, applied activities, and professional behavior.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills in the presentation of prevention science and related areas.
- Students will develop and demonstrate the ability to make scholarly contributions to the field.
- Students will demonstrate mastery of research competencies.