
The Department of Global and Community Health prepares students to protect the health and wellness of individuals, families, and communities—locally and globally. Our students work with government, private, and nongovernment and community organizations, all focused on solving community and global health challenges. We educate students to become critical thinkers and successful public health practitioners through strong educational programs by emphasizing the importance of protecting public safety, preventing illness, and promoting wellness in all populations, domestically and internationally.

Graduate Degrees

The Department of Global and Community Health offers two graduate degrees: a Master of Public Health (MPH) and a Master of Science in Global Health.

The **Master of Public Health (MPH)** is a widely recognized professional degree for those wishing to enter or advance in the field of public health. Mason's MPH program provides coursework in all five core disciplines of public health: epidemiology, biostatistics, health administration, social and behavioral sciences, and environmental health. Students choose from six concentration areas: community health promotion, epidemiology, global health, health policy, public health communication, and public health practice (online only).

- The **Community Health Promotion** concentration prepares health promotion specialists to work in local, state, and federal public health agencies, non-governmental health organizations, the health care sector, and private industry. Students in this concentration examine the social, behavioral, and environmental determinants associated with the most pressing health problems, and design, implement, and evaluate appropriate health promotion programs and preventive services to improve population health.
- The **Epidemiology** concentration prepares students to investigate and analyze factors that influence the occurrence, distribution, prevention, and control of disease. Emphasis is placed on the development of such skills as study design, data collection and management, data analysis and interpretation, and communication of research findings.
- The **Global Health** concentration prepares students to apply the tools of public health to the promotion of health in communities, countries, regions, and the world. Concentration coursework emphasizes comparative global health metrics; the socioeconomic, environmental, and other risk factors associated with transnational health concerns; and ethical and effective strategies for preventing and controlling infectious and non-communicable diseases in diverse populations.
- The **Health Policy** concentration addresses the nature and importance of policy and policymaking in today's public health system. Students graduate with the knowledge and abilities needed to engage with public health and advocacy organizations on policy issues, and to analyze and support policy approaches in an era of scarce public resources and ever-changing priorities.
- The **Public Health Communication** concentration prepares students to effectively use communication strategies to inform and influence individual and community decisions that affect health. The public health communication concentration emphasizes designing, evaluating, and implementing effective communication strategies and messages to address the health needs of diverse audiences.
- The **Public Health Practice** concentration (fully online beginning fall 2017) is designed to advance the competencies of public health practitioners and other health professionals to fulfill their roles and responsibilities in local, state, and federal public health agencies and non-governmental health-related organizations. This concentration emphasizes public health practice, which comprises disease prevention; community-based participatory approaches; health assessment; planning and evaluating interventions; risk communication; and leadership and management.

The **MS in Global Health** incorporates epidemiology and biostatistics, region-based nutrition, cross-cultural perspectives in mental health issues, community health assessment, program evaluation, human resource concerns, international health systems and organizations, refugee and internally displaced people health issues, and international health research. Practicum or thesis options allow students to explore *in situ* current dilemmas, demands, and health services with a global focus and perspective.

Graduates of the global health program develop the knowledge base and skills to work and conduct research within the global health environment. Students are prepared to work in the diverse cultural and multidisciplinary environments inherent to global health. Students learn the fundamentals of global public health, including epidemiology, environmental health, global health policies, and sociocultural influences on health and behavior. Students also are trained on how to collaborate among nonprofit, governmental, and business sectors. Graduates may pursue careers in a variety of international health organizations or may choose to pursue a research pathway and continue toward a terminal degree.

Graduate Certificates

The department also offers a graduate certificate in **public health**. Please visit gch.gmu.edu for detailed information about this certificate.

Admission Requirements

Applicants to each program must hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution and have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA. Admission to each programs is competitive, and a variety of criteria are evaluated in the admissions process, including the strength of the undergraduate record and any post-baccalaureate coursework, the GRE general examination (if required), career goals, letters of recommendation, professional and volunteer experience in public health, and evidence of the ability to write and conduct research at the graduate level and any additional evidence of potential success in the program. Some background in statistics, biology, and the social sciences is preferred but not required. For application deadlines and detailed application requirements, please refer to the GCH Department Website at <http://chhs.gmu.edu/gch/graduate-admissions.cfm>. Meeting the minimum application criteria does not guarantee admission. Late applications will be considered on a space-available basis.

Applicants must apply to one of the concentration areas described above, and offers of admission are made only for the concentration area selected. Students may apply to switch concentration areas after enrollment; however, approval for such requests is not guaranteed. Applicants are strongly encouraged to select the concentration that is best suited to their career goals. Applicants interested in the MPH, MS in Global Health, or the graduate Certificate in Public Health, will apply using SOPHAS, a centralized application system at <http://sophas.org/>.

MPH and MS in Global Health: Admission is offered for the **fall semester only**. Please visit the CHHS Graduate Admissions website listed above for detailed application information. **GCH Graduate Certificates:** New students are admitted for both **fall and spring semesters**.

Non-Degree Study

Students interested in enrolling in graduate-level courses prior to applying to their program of interest may have the option to do so through non-degree study. Please note that non-degree enrollment requires a formal application to the university, and no more than nine credits of non-degree coursework may be applied to a degree. For more information, please visit the CHHS Non-Degree website at <http://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/non-degree.cfm>

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Office of Graduate Admissions

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The above information is based on the 2016–2017 University Catalog and is subject to change without notice or obligation. It is not to be regarded as a contract. Please refer to the catalog for full course descriptions, department information, and university policy governing graduate degree programs at catalog.qmu.edu.

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