

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is an MPH degree?

An MPH is a Master of Public Health professional degree. It is awarded for studies in areas related to public health. The MPH degree focuses on public health practice, as opposed to research or teaching.

2. What is unique about the MPH Program at Kansas State University?

The K-State MPH Program allows students to complete an MPH degree in one of following emphasis areas:

- food safety and biosecurity
- infectious diseases and zoonoses
- public health nutrition
- public health physical activity

These areas utilize the core strengths within the University and the Colleges of Agriculture, Arts and Sciences, Human Ecology and Veterinary Medicine.

3. What are the differences between the Graduate Certificate in Public Health Core Concepts and a Master's Degree in Public Health (MPH)?

The Graduate Certificate in Public Health Core Concepts is a 14-hour minimum program designed to provide individuals a strong foundation of knowledge in the five core concept areas in public health: biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental health sciences, health services administration, and social and behavioral sciences. There is a 16-hour option for those wishing to take two epidemiology classes.

The certificate program of study can be pursued either as a stand-alone certificate or in connection with another graduate degree. Unlike the MPH degree, the certificate is not intended as a graduate degree. If you are not a current graduate student at K-State, you will be admitted to the Graduate School as non-degree student. The certificate program emphasizes applied public health content, and provides students with the opportunity to immediately apply new knowledge and skills.

The MPH is a 42-hour graduate degree program requiring 6 hours of formal field experience work and report OR 6 hours of thesis research with 3 hours of formal field experience and a thesis and field experience report at completion of coursework. Formal admittance to the Graduate School and the MPH Program is required.

4. Are there any pre-requisite requirements? What is the minimum GPA requirement for admission to the MPH Program?

To be admitted to the program you must first apply to the Graduate School. The program's pre-requisites are the same as the Graduate School's pre-requisites, which are a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and a minimum GPA of 3.0. However, applications will be considered individually based on a number of factors including undergraduate training and a "B" average or higher in the last 60 hours of courses.

You may be admitted in a "probationary" status to prove your ability to succeed if your grade point average is from 2.65 to 2.99 (A=4.00) in the last two years of undergraduate work. If work has shown a marked improvement in later semesters and there are grades of "B" or better in demanding courses in the major and related professional areas, admission is considered.

5. What is the minimum Graduate Record Exam (GRE) score required?

GRE scores are required for all applicants. There is no minimum score required, but we still want to see your GRE scores. They are used, in combination with other application materials, to help us determine the best students for our graduate program. This requirement is waived for applicants who already hold a graduate degree (MS or PhD); a graduate professional degree (DVM, MD, DDS, etc.); or have completed 9 hours of core courses in the Graduate Certificate in Public Health Core Concepts program with a 3.25 GPA or better.

6. I am a foreign student, what TOEFL score is required?

A score of at least 550 (paper-based) or 79 (IBT - internet-based) on the TOEFL is required to be considered for admission. Applicants with scores of 600 (paper-based) or 100 (IBT) or above may be considered for regular admission, those with lower scores (550 and 79) may be admitted provisionally and must demonstrate proficiency in reading and writing English and in understanding spoken American English to the satisfaction of the Graduate School through completion of the English Proficiency Test (EPT) **prior to enrollment**.

7. Where and what time are classes held?

MPH classes are held at Kansas State University's campus in Manhattan, Kansas or via the Internet. Courses are scheduled throughout the day including afternoons and evenings to accommodate working students.

8. Do you offer any classes online?

Yes! All of our core classes are online, and depending on the emphasis area, many of the elective courses are taught online and the list is increasing every year. In addition, instructors rely on the Internet for course communication, dissemination of course content, and testing.

9. What is the policy for transfer of credits?

Students who have completed graduate courses (but not used for a degree) at other accredited institutions prior to enrollment at Kansas State University may request that any such courses be evaluated for transfer credit. The student must have earned a grade of "B" or better in all transferrable courses. The maximum number of credits that may be transferred for a Masters program is 10 semester hours.

Exceptions to this rule are granted on an individual basis to post and current DVM students. Credits transferred from an AVMA accredited DVM curriculum can be applied for up to 12 credit hours: Transferrable elective credit will be determined by the student's supervisory committee on a case-by-case basis but cannot exceed 10 hours.

10. Who should write the letters of recommendation?

Letters of recommendation should be from former professors or employers and should emphasize your potential as a graduate student.

11. What information must be included in the letter describing my objectives for pursuing the MPH degree and plans for completion of the requirements?

Your narrative letter should be directed to the MPH Program Director and contain the following:

- Describe the experiences that have shaped your interest in the field of public health.
- Comment on your current training and tell us the area of emphasis you wish to pursue at K-State.
- Describe the one academic experience that has meant the most to you in your educational career.
- Outline your professional goals, both immediate and long term.
- Discuss why you are interested in pursuing the MPH degree, your strengths, and those areas in which you would like to increase your expertise, competencies and personal development.
- Indicate which MPH emphasis area you are interested in pursuing (Infectious Diseases/Zoonoses, Food Safety/Biosecurity, Public Health Nutrition, or Public Health Physical Activity).

12. How do I apply?

Go to the Graduate School's application webpage and fill out the online application, upload all documents requested and pay the fee: <http://www.k-state.edu/grad/gsprospective/apply/index.htm>.

13. How will I know if my materials have been received?

Once all your application materials are complete and uploaded to the online system, your materials will be reviewed for admission. If accepted to the program the Graduate School will e-mail you a formal letter of acceptance which includes the name of your advisor and instructions on how to set up your eID for enrollment. The MPH Program office will also e-mail you acceptance notification for the MPH degree.

14. How can I check on my application status?

Call the MPH Program office at 785-532-2042 or send an e-mail to: mphealth@ksu.edu

15. How much does tuition cost and how can I check on my financial aid process?

For tuition information, please check the K-State's Controller's webpage at: <http://www.k-state.edu/controller/cashiers/TuitionFees.htm>

Information about financial aid and scholarships can be found at: <http://consider.k-state.edu/financialaid/>

16. What should I do if I would like more information about the program?

Visit our website at: <http://www.k-state.edu/mphealth/>; contact us by phone 785-532-2042 or email mphealth@ksu.edu.