Master of Public Health

Choosing your Graduate Supervisory Committee
Graduate Supervisory Committee

• Within the first year of study, generally at the beginning of the second semester, work with your advisor in the formation of the supervisory committee.

• You had an advisor assigned to you when you started the MPH program, this is your opportunity “choose” your major professor:
  • If you have a GTA/GRA position, the faculty member supervising you is likely your major professor (there are exceptions)
  • Your advisor may be your permanent major professor (if you choose)
  • Your advisor may become a committee member (if you choose)
  • Your advisor may not be on your official committee (if you choose)

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Supervisory Committee

• Required by the Graduate School – must have 3 members
• Major professor – MPH program faculty
• 1 or 2 from MPH program faculty OR
• 1 other graduate faculty member
• Committee members assist with:
  o Program of Study
  o APE & ILE
  o Completion of Report and Presentation

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How to identify members

- Faculty teaching your courses
- Faculty in your emphasis areas
- Faculty whose research align with your interests
- [https://www.k-state.edu/mphealth/faculty/faculty-staff.html](https://www.k-state.edu/mphealth/faculty/faculty-staff.html)
How to ask faculty to be on your committee

• Send the faculty member an email
  • Explain your interests and background
  • Indicate your emphasis area
  • Request them to consider being a member of your committee

• Follow up with a phone/Zoom call/appointment

• Ask the faculty members about their expectations
  • Is a thesis required?
  • Or is the APE and ILE required by the MPH program enough
  • Are presentations at conferences required/expected?
  • What is the expected timeline for the project writing/editing/defense?

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How to formalize the committee

• The graduate committee is formalized once the program of study (POS) is submitted
• All members must approve and sign your POS for this to occur
• September 30 Session – we will talk specifically about the POS
Resources

- https://www.k-state.edu/mphealth/current/ (MPH website)
- https://www.k-state.edu/mphealth/faculty/faculty-staff.html (MPH website)
- Electronic POS https://www.k-state.edu/grad/academics/forms/ (Graduate School’s website)
- MPH Graduate Handbook, see 4.1, 5.1 (p13) https://www.k-state.edu/mphealth/pdf/mph_handbooks/18-19%20MPH%20GRADUATE%20STUDENT%20HANDBOOK.pdf
- Masters Supervisory Committee https://www.k-state.edu/grad/graduate-handbook/chapter2.html#Supervisory%20Committee (Graduate School’s website)
Contact us with any questions

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