



GRADUATE STUDIES FACT SHEET

PUBLIC HEALTH

PROGRAM OF STUDY

West Chester University offers the master of public health (M.P.H.) in the Department of Health, College of Health Sciences, to prepare individuals from diverse backgrounds for public health careers in community agencies, health care facilities, county and state health departments, academia, and the private sector. The program is designed to address students' diverse learning needs by providing courses and educational activities in innovative formats and venues. Most core courses and many electives can be taken in an accelerated seven-week format; summer session offerings are typically one-week seminars. The M.P.H. program is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).

PROGRAM GOALS

Students in the M.P.H. program will work in multiple disciplines and develop the skills necessary to promote health in human populations. They will learn how to become effective practitioners and leaders in community health, health administration, environmental health, integrative health, or nutrition.

In helping students reach these goals, the program strives to provide quality education, research, and service in public health, and to accomplish the following:

- graduate students who are competent in core areas of public health for career roles in practice, research, and/or teaching;
- provide students and faculty the opportunity to participate in research activities, which contribute to the theory and practice of public health; and
- involve students and faculty in activities that promote and support service to the University, public health profession, and the community.

THE CURRICULUM

The M.P.H. is a 45-credit program in which all students learn the following core concepts in public health:

- Epidemiology
- Biostatistics
- Health management
- Environmental health
- Behavioral/social aspects of health

In addition, students will elect an area of specialized study from among the following professional tracks:

- Community health
- Health care management
- Environmental health
- Integrative health
- Nutrition

Students will participate in a practicum, Applied Learning Experience, that enables them to gain career-enhancing experiences in their professional tracks.

BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM

- Specialized tracks in community health, environmental health, health care management, integrative health, and nutrition.
- Strong theoretical foundations connected to effective public health practices
- Evening courses in an accelerated, seven-week format and in traditional semester format
- Career-enhancing applied learning experiences
- Accommodations for the working professional
- Convenient southeastern Pennsylvania location
- Affordable tuition

FACULTY

Students in the M.P.H. program benefit from a faculty with diverse and extensive professional expertise in their disciplines. All core courses are taught by faculty with doctorates; many have also earned an M.P.H. All are teacher/scholars with distinguished records of publication, research, presentations, and community and professional service. Students also benefit from interacting with regional public health and medical professionals in special, selected electives. In addition, the M.P.H. program provides a wide array of community service placements supervised by highly trained professionals in real-world public health settings.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should submit the following materials to the Office of Graduate Studies and Extended Education:

- Completed graduate application, including goals statement relating the area of public health specialization to be studied (apply online at www.wcupa.edu/grad)
- Two letters of recommendation
- Transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate courses
- Resume

Applicants must meet the entry requirements of West Chester University for admission to graduate study and must present evidence of an earned baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university attained in a health or equivalent field. Students who do not have adequate academic and professional preparation will be required to take foundation courses.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Office of Graduate Studies and
Extended Education

McKelvie Hall
102 West Rosedale Avenue
West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2943

Fax: 610-436-2763

E-mail: gradstudy@wcupa.edu

Web: www.wcupa.edu/grad

Visit: www.facebook.com/wcugrad

Or contact the department:

Write: Dr. Lynn Carson, Director,
M.P.H. Program
Department of Health
Sturzebecker Health Sciences
Center 304
West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2138

Fax: 610-436-2860

E-mail: lcarrson@wcupa.edu

Web: www.wcupa.edu/_academics/healthsciences/health

The Graduate Catalog is available online at www.wcupa.edu/_information/officialdocuments/graduate.catalog/.

ABOUT GRADUATE STUDIES

West Chester University offers high-quality graduate degrees in more than 70 disciplines or areas of study, as well as certificate and certification programs. The graduate studies program has grown remarkably since its introduction in 1960. West Chester University's program is the largest within the 14 institutions in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education enrolling more than 2,100 graduate students.

Programs can be taken on a part-time basis, and most of the graduate classes are scheduled during late afternoons and evenings for the benefit of in-service teachers and other employed persons.

ABOUT WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

A regional, public institution, West Chester University of Pennsylvania offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degrees, as well as certification and certificate programs, in more than 100 subject areas. As the second largest member of the State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating back to the

19th century, West Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School for the purpose of training teachers for the Commonwealth's newly established public schools. In 1960, West Chester State Teachers College expanded its programs to include liberal arts and graduate degrees and, as a result, dropped "Teachers" from its name. In 1983, West Chester State College became one of the 14 institutions in the State System of Higher Education. Along with its university status, the school acquired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs.

Today, more than 15,400 graduate and undergraduate students, as well as 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus. Situated in the Borough of West Chester, the campus is a picturesque mix of Gothic, Victorian, and modern architecture with pleasant, tree-shaded walks.

Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor, West Chester University is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington, Del. The campus is convenient to major cultural institutions, recreational activities, and commercial businesses, many of which provide internship opportunities for WCU's students.

