

# Public Health



## About the School of Public Health

Public health has become a major societal and public policy issue in recent decades. Drexel University's School of Public Health, one of only two such schools in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, prepares its students to address the issue by combining systematic perspectives, integrative approaches, and community-based experiences with innovative teaching methods such as problem-based learning, in which students match theory to practice in case studies of real-world health problems. Students graduate from the School of Public Health with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to lead the nation's public health systems.

## Our Mission and Approach

Public health is the science of protecting and improving the health of communities. Where clinical professionals such as doctors and nurses focus on treating individuals after they become sick or are injured, public health professionals are concerned with entire populations, attempting to prevent problems from occurring or recurring through education, policy development and advocacy, service, and research.

The mission of the Drexel University School of Public Health is to promote the health of communities through an integrated program of education, research, service, and practice. We are committed to identifying and promoting healthy social conditions, to advancing practices that improve the health of vulnerable populations, and to enhancing the health of communities by creating partnerships based on common values, strengths, and assets. Both our mission and our curriculum stress the importance of understanding and addressing the relationship between human rights and health status.

## Our Programs

The School of Public Health offers the following graduate degrees:

- Master of Public Health (MPH)
- Master of Public Health, Executive Program
- Master of Science (MS) in Biostatistics
- Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) in Community Health and Prevention
- Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) in Health Policy and Social Justice
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Epidemiology
- Joint Doctor of Medicine and Master of Public Health (MD/MPH)
- Certificate in Epidemiology and Biostatistics

The school is organized into four departments:

- Community Health and Prevention
- Environmental and Occupational Health
- Epidemiology and Biostatistics
- Health Management and Policy

## For More Information

We continuously review and update the content of programs offered. Prospective students are encouraged to visit these websites for the most current information:

The School of Public Health:  
[www.publichealth.drexel.edu](http://www.publichealth.drexel.edu)

Admissions:  
[www.drexel.edu/em/grad/pubhealth](http://www.drexel.edu/em/grad/pubhealth)

The Graduate Catalog:  
[www.drexel.edu/catalog/grad/pubhealth](http://www.drexel.edu/catalog/grad/pubhealth)



## Our History

The School of Public Health was founded in 1994 and opened its doors to students in 1996, offering a single degree, the MPH. In September of 2007, the school was granted full accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), the nationally recognized accrediting body for schools of public health. We now offer three master's degrees and four doctorates as well as interdisciplinary and certificate options, with further growth in the advanced planning stages.

## Faculty

Our world-renowned faculty are on the cutting edge of public health research. One professor received a prestigious MacArthur "Genius Grant" for his work addressing the primary health care needs of young men in the inner city, and researchers from the School of Public Health recently won a \$14.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to lead a study of environmental risk factors for autism. Other interests include epidemiology, urban violence prevention, child hunger, health care equality, environmental/occupational health, and more. Faculty work closely with students in small seminars and case discussions, and as mentors, providing them the benefit of their connections to the local community as well as national and international public health networks.

University-wide, approximately 95 percent of full-time faculty members hold the PhD or highest degree in their field, and the student-to-faculty ratio is 9 to 1.

## Master of Public Health (MPH)

The MPH degree program is designed to prepare students to enter an array of public health fields as well as doctoral programs. The problem-based learning curriculum emphasizes knowledge in core disciplines, development of fundamental skills, and integration of diverse perspectives and values into the mission of public health.

The full-time educational program is structured on a quarter basis and requires a total of 64 credit hours: 34 in practicum and core courses, 18 in the field of concentration, and 12 in a comprehensive, community-based master's project. This is generally completed in two years of full-time study. Students choose a concentration (Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Community Health and Prevention, Environmental and Occupational Health, or Health Management and Policy) at the end of the first year. All coursework must be completed within four years of the date of matriculation.

## Master of Public Health, Executive Program (Executive MPH)

The Executive MPH is designed for working professionals, whether in the field of public health or considering a change of career. It is modeled on the traditional, full-time MPH program but can be completed in 21 months, with classes meeting one weekend per month and extensive use of web-based applications to communicate with program facilitators and other students. As with the full-time program, students graduate with an intensive knowledge of each of the public health disciplines.

The program requires a minimum of 42 credits, which includes research and a capstone case analysis. The course is divided into blocks of residency and should be completed in five consecutive blocks unless an academic leave is granted. The degree must be completed within five years of matriculation.

## Master of Science (MS) in Biostatistics

Biostatistics applies statistical, mathematical, and computational techniques to scientific research in health-related fields including medicine, epidemiology, and public health. Because biostatisticians play essential roles in designing studies and analyzing research data, graduates with degrees in biostatistics find employment in public health research and service organizations, university research groups, hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, health-related industries, and government. Drexel's Master of Science in Biostatistics provides students with a thorough understanding of biostatistical methods, strong computational skills, and a practicum experience that allows students to apply this knowledge.

In order to graduate, students must complete a minimum of 48 credit hours of coursework with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, and submit a substantial data analysis project (9 credit hours) with a 30- to 50-page written report and an oral presentation.

The school also offers a Certificate in Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

## Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) in Community Health and Prevention

The DrPH in Community Health and Prevention program integrates applied research, education, service, and advocacy, emphasizing the application of interdisciplinary, theoretical, and applied research paradigms to the understanding and prevention of public health problems. The program

aims to produce graduates with a broad-based, systemic understanding of public health and a commitment to effecting meaningful change.

The DrPH requires 60 credit hours of coursework beyond the master's degree: 30 credits of required coursework, 18 of electives, and a 12-credit dissertation. In order to graduate the student must complete a practicum experience, pass a doctoral comprehensive examination, and complete a dissertation involving applied research, policy analysis, or management analysis.

### **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Epidemiology**

Epidemiology deals with the most significant public health questions of our time, questions about health policy and procedure and the maintenance and improvement of the health of entire populations. The School of Public Health's PhD program in Epidemiology prepares students to answer these questions utilizing the most rigorous and parsimonious methods available. Students are encouraged to pursue important and innovative topics of inquiry applicable to diverse social, ethnic, and geographically defined populations.

The PhD in Epidemiology requires a minimum of 70 credit hours of coursework beyond the master's degree with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.3, passing grades in doctoral comprehensive and oral candidacy examinations, a complete dissertation of publishable quality, and a successful defense.

### **Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) in Health Policy and Social Justice**

The DrPH in Health Policy and Social Justice is part of the Department of Health Management and Policy. This program prepares students to develop and implement policy that improves public health by focusing on those who are most vulnerable. By studying important racial, ethnic, social class and gender differences within the larger social justice framework, students will graduate with a sound theoretical and practical foundation for critical scholarship in health disparities, social inequality, and social justice. Furthermore, students will gain the research, analysis, and advocacy skills to create and enact effective policies in both the public and private health sectors.

The DrPH in Health Policy and Social Justice requires 60 credit hours of coursework beyond the master's degree, including 33 credits of required courses, 12 credits of electives, a 3-credit practicum, and a 12-credit dissertation. The student must also pass doctoral comprehensive examinations and successfully defend the dissertation.

### **Doctor of Medicine/Master of Public Health (MD/MPH)**

#### **Dual Degree**

The joint MD/MPH program prepares students for careers as physicians with a public health orientation by combining education in the biomedical sciences with training in the disciplines of public health. In order to be admitted to the joint program, applicants must be accepted by both Drexel University's School of Medicine and the School of Public Health.

Students working toward the joint MD/MPH begin to fulfill the requirements for the MPH in their first two years of medical school, and spend their third year of study in the School of Public Health. Students then enter clinical rotations and residency selection having obtained the MPH.

### **Facilities and Resources**

The School of Public Health is located at Drexel University's Center City Hahnemann Campus, adjacent to Hahnemann University Hospital. Proximity to this and several other major medical centers provides a first-rate environment for study. In addition, the School of Public Health is home to several research centers including the Center for Health Equality (in collaboration with the College of Nursing and Health Professions), the Center for Public Health Readiness and Communication, the Center for Academic Health Practice, and the Philadelphia GROW Project.

### **Libraries**

The Hahnemann Library, located on the Center City Campus, supports the curricula of the School of Public Health, the College of Nursing and Health Professions, and the College of Medicine, including materials in clinical medicine, public health, and basic sciences, particularly physiology and pharmacology.

Audiovisual materials are available for viewing and listening at home, in fully equipped study carrels, and in group viewing rooms. Scanning; printing; and word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, and other software programs are available in the Computer Center. A large study area and various library computers, printers, and photocopiers are available 24 hours a day for use by University students, faculty, staff, and residents.

Drexel University has three other libraries: Hagerty Library and the College of Law Library, located on the University City Campus, and the Queen Lane Library, located on the College of Medicine Campus. Drexel graduate students also have access to the library resources of the University of Pennsylvania, the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, and the Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College.



## About Drexel

Drexel University is a private, nonsectarian co-educational university, founded in 1891 by financier and philanthropist Anthony J. Drexel. Today it is a top-tier, comprehensive research university, enrolling more than 13,000 undergraduates and 7,000 graduate, professional, and certificate students on four separate campuses. The University's 13 colleges and schools offer 73 undergraduate majors, 78 master's, and 32 doctoral programs. Drexel is fully accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, with additional programs accredited by their respective top professional accreditation bodies. Students come from 48 U.S. states and 103 foreign countries.

## Philadelphia

Philadelphia is the nation's sixth largest city, with a metropolitan population of nearly six million. It is renowned for its historical sites and the diversity of its neighborhoods, and as a hub of the pharmaceutical, electronics, and finance industries.

The city offers countless arts, entertainment, and recreational attractions including museums, theaters, major league sports franchises, and the nation's largest urban park system, as well as first-class shopping, dining, and nightlife.

Drexel's Main Campus is located in the University City neighborhood, which is also home to the University of Pennsylvania, the University of the Sciences, and the Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College. Most School of Public Health classes are held at the Center City Hahnemann Campus, situated in the heart of the city.



## Admission

Acceptance for graduate study at Drexel University requires a four-year bachelor's degree from an accredited institution in the United States or an equivalent international institution. Although admission requirements vary by program, regular acceptance typically requires a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 for the last two years of undergraduate work. The GPA for any graduate work must be at least 3.0. Applicants for post-master's status must show potential for further study by having maintained at least a 3.0 GPA in their master's-level studies. (Individual departmental requirements may exceed this minimum.)

The admissions committee evaluates all credentials submitted by applicants to determine a student's ability and potential to succeed in graduate study. In addition, the committee is interested in the applicant's ability to contribute to his/her program of study and to the University community as a whole.

Applicants may only apply to one program at a time. Drexel will waive the application fee if you apply online or submit your application during a campus visit. For more information on the application process, see [www.drexel.edu/apply/pubhealth](http://www.drexel.edu/apply/pubhealth).

Students applying for the full-time MPH should use the Schools of Public Health Application Service (SOPHAS) website, [www.sophas.org](http://www.sophas.org).

## Financing

Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to receive federal, state, or institutional aid. Students must complete this form annually to determine eligibility. File online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Drexel's school code is 003256. To learn more, visit [www.drexel.edu/financialaid](http://www.drexel.edu/financialaid).

Merit-based aid in the form of teaching, research, and graduate assistantships is awarded by the graduate departments based on need and availability of funds. Questions should be directed to the graduate advisor.

## Contact Us

### *Graduate Admissions*

Drexel University  
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Philadelphia, PA 19104  
215-895-6700  
1-800-2-DREXEL  
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[www.drexel.edu/em](http://www.drexel.edu/em)

### *School of Public Health*

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