PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES

Undergraduate Program Information

The curriculum in public health prepares students for careers in community and public health programs, also in voluntary, private and governmental agencies. Upon completion of the degree, the graduate is eligible to take the national Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) examination administered by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. The Bachelor of Public Health degree has the full approval of the Council on Education in Public Health.

Students seeking admission to the Bachelor of Public Health degree in the Department of Public Health Sciences at NMSU are first admitted as pre-public health (PPHL) students. Students keep this designation until they have met the following admissions requirements:

1. A cumulative grade-point average of at least 2.5 after completing specified general education coursework (the common core).
2. A grade of C- or better in prerequisite departmental courses

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<th>Prefix</th>
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3. A grade of C- or better in MATH 120 Intermediate Algebra.
5. Entrance Exam: A score of 37% or better on the Conventions of Written English assessment and 75% or better on the Math assessment.
6. Submission of an application packet that includes
   a. a brief personal statement of interest in the profession, and
   b. a completed application for the Bachelor of Public Health degree program.

The Bachelor of Public Health (BPH) degree program accepts applicants during the Spring and Fall semesters. The degree program is fully accredited by CEPH, the accrediting agency. The deadlines for accepting application packets are September 15th for Spring admission and February 15th for Fall admission. All applications must be submitted to the Program Advisor at the Center for Academic Advising and Student Support at Garcia Center. Courses are offered both face-to-face and online.

Applicants may receive a conditional acceptance into the program if they are currently enrolled in the last of the required prerequisites at the time that they submit an application to the Bachelor of Public Health degree program. Such conditional acceptance will be revoked if the applicant does not successfully complete each of the prerequisite courses.

Students must attain a grade of C- or better in all required PHL 330 core coursework.

Any student who receives two or more grades of D or F in required PHL 330 core courses must petition, in writing, to continue as a major. Unsuccessful petitioners will be dismissed from the program. Should said student receive any further grades of D or F they will be irrevocably dismissed from the BPH program.

Graduate Program Information

The Department of Public Health Sciences offers the Master of Public Health degree (MPH) in Community Health Education and Health Management, Administration, and Policy. The degree program prepares public health professionals to function in a variety of settings, including health programs at the local, state, and federal government levels; profit and nonprofit organizations and agencies; worksite settings; and educational institutions. The MPH program is fully accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).

Admissions Requirements

Students may be admitted on a full-time or part-time basis to the on-campus program or part-time in the fully online version of the program. The online Community Health Education program has curriculum and degree requirements in common with the on-campus program, and is covered by the same CEPH accreditation. The fully online Health Management, Administration, and Policy program is also fully accredited by CEPH. All coursework for the online degree can be completed off-campus utilizing web-based technologies and they are aimed at meeting the needs of working students and others for whom a campus-based program is not an option. In addition to meeting all admissions requirements of the Graduate School, applicants must meet the following departmental requirements:

- Complete a short biosketch and an essay describing the applicant’s reasons for wishing to pursue the MPH degree at NMSU. Any paid or volunteer work performed in a public health or related agency setting should also be described in detail, including length of work and descriptions of the work typically performed as part of the job.
- Scores from a recent administration (within the past five years) of the GRE are required (verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, and analytical writing scores).
- Submit at least three letters of reference from former faculty and/or employers.

Applications are now completed online. Go to http://gradschool.nmsu.edu/. For more information, contact the Graduate Coordinator at mphapps@nmsu.edu, or obtained via the website: publichealth.nmsu.edu (https://publichealth.nmsu.edu).

Degrees for the Department


Minors for the Department

## Public Health Courses

### PHLS 100. Introduction to Health Science

1 Credit

An overview of professional career opportunities in the realm of health science as well as the functional roles of practice, education, administration, and research. Some field trips will be required.

### PHLS 150G. Personal Health and Wellness

3 Credits

A holistic and multi-disciplinary approach towards promoting positive lifestyles. Special emphasis is placed on major problems that have greatest significance to personal and community health. Topics to include nutrition, stress management, fitness, aging, sexuality, drug education, and others.

### PHLS 275. Foundations of Health Education

3 Credits

Role and responsibility of the health educator with emphasis on small group dynamics, oral and written communication skills, building community coalitions and an introduction to grant writing. Taught with PHLS 375. Cannot receive credit for both PHLS 275 and PHLS 375. May be repeated up to 3 credits.

Prerequisite(s): PHLS 150G, or consent of instructor.

### PHLS 295. Essentials of Public Health

3 Credits

The course will focus on principles and major areas if public health, including ecological and total personal concept of health care system, epidemiological approaches to disease prevention and control. Consent of Instructor required.

### PHLS 301V. Human Sexuality

3 Credits

Examination of human sexuality from a variety of perspectives: cultural, sociological, physiological and psychological. Issues examined from viewpoints such as gender, individual, family, and professional roles.

### PHLS 305V. Global Environmental Health Issues

3 Credits

Introduction to global environmental health challenges in the 21st century with an emphasis on environmental problems as they affect public health and personal well-being.

### PHLS 375. Foundations of Community Health Education

3 Credits

Role and responsibility of the health educator, with emphasis on small-group dynamics, oral and written communication skills, building community coalitions, and an introduction to grant writing. Equivalent to PHLS 275. May be repeated up to 3 credits.

### PHLS 380V. Women's Health Issues

3 Credits

A focus on the unique issues and problems that confront women today and how they affect the health of women. Same as W S 381V.

### PHLS 395. Foundations of Public Health

3 Credits

The course will focus on principles and major areas of public health, including ecological concepts of healthcare systems and epidemiological approaches to disease promotion and control. Equivalent to PHLS 295. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Restricted to: Public Health majors.

### PHLS 450. Epidemiology

3 Credits

Epidemiologic approaches to disease prevention and control. Factors influencing health status. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Restricted to: Public Health majors.

### PHLS 451. Biometrics and Health Research

3 Credits

Critical analysis of community health research and related methodologies. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Restricted to: Public Health majors.

Prerequisite(s): PHLS 395.

### PHLS 452. Environmental Health

3 Credits

Introduction to environmental health designed to address public health issues. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Restricted to: Public Health majors.

Prerequisite(s): PHLS 395.

### PHLS 457. Administration of Health Programs

3 Credits

Covers administrative responsibilities, organizational theory, strategic planning, and systems theory as applied to the administration of a variety of health programs. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Restricted to: Public Health majors.

Prerequisite(s): PHLS 395, or consent of instructor.
PHLS 458. Public Health Resources and Policy Analysis
3 Credits
Covers issues related to U.S.-health policy and allocation of resources. Examination of local, state, and federal public health and health care funding. Assessment of impact of health policy on health education, medical practice, and the workplace. May be repeated up to 3 credits.

PHLS 459. Infectious and Noninfectious Disease Prevention
3 Credits
History, etiology, and prevention of diseases affecting humans. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Consent of Instructor required. Crosslisted with: MPH 559.
Prerequisite(s): PHLS 395, PHLS 450 and Consent of Instructor.

PHLS 460. American Indian Health
3 Credits
Critical health issues facing American Indians in the contemporary world. Course included in the undergraduate American Indian Program minor. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: MPH 560.

PHLS 461. Health Disparities: Determinants and Interventions
3 Credits
Investigates: descriptions of health disparities and measurement issues; physical environmental factors, behavioral and emotional variables; impact of aging of the populations, increased racial and ethnic diversity, and technological developments; intervention strategies and evaluation results. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: MPH 561.

PHLS 462. Hispanic Health Issues
3 Credits
Covers the application of research and evaluation models for decision-making program and policy development of community health education interventions. Focus on the individual, family, social network levels of practice. Emphasis on applying program-planning models and designs into a grant-writing project. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: MPH 562.

PHLS 464V. Cross-Cultural Aspects of Health
3 Credits
An examination of health practices from a variety of cultural perspectives: communication, observation, research, and assimilation. Issues to be addressed will be examined from a number of viewpoints, such as individual, family, community, and professional roles.

PHLS 465. International Health Problems
3 Credits
Comparison of domestic health programs and problems with those in other parts of the world; emphasis on political parameters and delivery processes. Additional attention is focused on the health issues of the U.S.-Mexico border. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: MPH 565.
Prerequisite(s): PHLS 395 or consent of instructor.

PHLS 466. International Health Practicum
1-3 Credits
Intensive examination of health practices and beliefs from a cultural perspective. Focus on health structure, index of diseases, morbidity, mortality and epidemiological approaches to planning. Required travel (personal travel, lodging, and related expenses are extra). May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: MPH 566. Restricted to: Public Health majors.

PHLS 467. Rural Health Issues
3 Credits
Comprehensive overview of rural health services with Southwestern United States and New Mexico focus. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: MPH 567.

PHLS 468. Coping with Loss and Grief: A Cross-Cultural Perspective
3 Credits
A cross-cultural perspective to death, loss and grief. Hospice philosophy of caring for the dying will be included.

PHLS 469. U.S.-Mexico Border Health Issues
3 Credits
Interdisciplinary analysis of the impact of living conditions and health issues of communities along the U.S.-Mexico border and of the strategies and initiatives to address these issues. Problem-based learning, case analysis, lecture, guest speakers, computer based instruction, and field trips. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: MPH 569.

PHLS 471. Health Informatics
3 Credits
The application of technology to engage communities and individuals in behavioral and environmental change processes. The course will focus on the use of technology to describe the magnitude of health problems and their sources; analyze risk factors; identify community strengths from which strategies may be defined and tools created to intervene, prevent problems, and promote health and well-being; and continuously evaluate, refine, and implement what works. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: MPH 571.
Prerequisite(s): PHLS 395 or consent of instructor.

PHLS 473. Health Program Planning
3 Credits
Planning and development of community health education interventions for behavior change at the individual, family, social network levels of practice. Emphasis on applying program-planning models and designs into a grant-writing project. May be repeated up to 3 credits.
Prerequisite(s): PHLS 375 and PHLS 476.

PHLS 475. Methods of Community Health Education
3 Credits
Responsibilities of health educators, analysis of social forces affecting health needs, application of wide range of health education methods and instructional media, and program implementation skills. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: MPH 575.
Prerequisite(s): PHLS 395.

PHLS 476. Theoretically-Based Interventions
3 Credits
Identifying and developing interventions to problematic health-related behaviors. May be repeated up to 3 credits.
Prerequisite(s): PHLS 395.

PHLS 478. Health Program Evaluation and Research
3 Credits
Covers the application of research and evaluation models for decision-making program and policy development of community health education interventions. Focus on the individual, family, and social network levels of practice. May be repeated up to 3 credits.
Prerequisite(s): PHLS 473.

PHLS 481. Public Health Preparedness and Response
3 Credits
This course is designed to teach students about the role of public health in emergency preparedness and response. It focuses on the nature of public emergencies as well as the role various sectors have in responding to them. One purpose of this online course is to introduce students to the basics of disaster preparedness and responding to disasters, and to build a base for further development in responder training. The course provides training and resources for a basic understanding of the Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS). May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: MPH 581.
PHLS 486. Special Topics
3 Credits
Specific subjects to be announced in the Schedule of Classes. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits.

PHLS 490. Independent Study
1-6 Credits
Individual studies with prior approval of department head. Maximum of 12 credits. May be repeated up to 12 credits. Consent of Instructor required.

PHLS 496. Community Health Education Field Experience
1-6 Credits
Senior-standing community health education majors will integrate and apply various concepts related to actual community health education practice. Experience aims to prepare students to integrate the competencies and responsibilities of community health education. Approximately 55 hours at field agency required per credit hour. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. May be repeated up to 6 credits. Consent of Instructor required. Restricted to: Public Health majors.
Prerequisite(s): PHLS 475 or concurrent enrollment.

PHLS 497. Public Health Seminar in Community Health Education
1 Credit
Critical analysis of issues in CHE and health care. Readings focus on social, economic, cultural, and political issues as they affect the profession and practice. Emphasis on future, local, national, and international health trends. May be repeated up to 1 credits. Restricted to: Public Health majors.
Prerequisite(s): PHLS 450, PHLS 473, and PHLS 476 or consent of instructor.

PHLS 499. Problems in Health Education
3 Credits
Provides opportunity for synthesis of program planning, implementation, and evaluation methodologies in the preparation and delivery of health education topics. Some field trips will be required. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Restricted to: Public Health majors.
Prerequisite(s): Either PHLS 395, PHLS 478, PHLS 476, or consent of instructor.

Master of Public Health Courses

MPH 500. Orientation to Public Health
3 Credits
Introduction to the historical and contemporary perspectives of public health theory and practice. Includes an investigation of public health as a discipline, a profession, and the programmatic attempts to improve health status.

MPH 510. Community and Psychosocial Aspects of Public Health
3 Credits
Social, behavioral, and educational aspects of disease prevention and health promotion programs. Restricted to MPH majors.

MPH 515. Introduction to Gerontology
3 Credits
Social, psychological, and physiological aspects of aging with an interdisciplinary emphasis on health promotion. Demographic characteristics of the aging population.

MPH 520. Biostatistical Applications in Public Health
3 Credits
Quantitative methods for public health students including tabular, graphical, and numerical descriptive methods, random sampling, principles of statistical inference, confidence intervals, statistical tests of hypothesis through analysis of variance and regression. Restricted to MPH majors.

MPH 530. Epidemiological Approaches to Disease Control and Prevention
3 Credits
Basic epidemiological principles applicable to infectious and noninfectious disease. Descriptive techniques and analytic designs, and application of statistical and epidemiological investigation methods included. Restricted to MPH majors.

MPH 540. Health Services System: Administration and Organization
3 Credits
This course focuses on using a systems approach to identify and analyze factors and interrelationships that influence the operation of health services organizations. Specific attention is to administrative structures and operations, finance and quality among public health departments, hospitals, multi-institutional systems, integrated health systems and strategic alliances. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Restricted to: MPH majors.

MPH 541. Principles of Health Program Management
3 Credits
This course prepares the student to assume a supervisory role in the management of health and human services programs. The course will cover essential management functions such as leadership, organizational assessment, planning, decision-making, organizational structure, budgeting, marketing, and human resource management. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Restricted to: MPH majors.

MPH 545. Health Services Organization and Delivery
3 Credits
This course includes the framework of the United States healthcare system; organization and administration of health services; alternate ways of organizing and financing health systems; the roles of the government and free market on health care services; and the barriers to health services delivery. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Restricted to: MPH majors.

MPH 546. Public Health Finance and Budget Management
3 Credits
Introduces health care accounting and finance to non-financial students. Students are exposed to the financial structure of health care organizations and the environment within which they operate. Instruction also introduces the use of accounting and financial information in investor-owned and not-for-profit organizations in the health care industry. Topics include understanding the creation and interpretation of financial statements, financial accounting and reporting requirements, financial analysis, budgeting, and resource allocation. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Restricted to: MPH majors.

MPH 547. Public Health Law and Ethics
3 Credits
This course examines major legal and ethical concepts and their impact on public health policy and practice. The course examines governmental authority at various jurisdictional levels, to improve public health. This course will focus on public health law in the United States. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Restricted to: MPH majors.
MPH 550. Environmental Public Health Issues
3 Credits
Environmental health issues from a public health perspective. Restricted to MPH majors.

MPH 557. Health Promotion for the Older Adult
3 Credits
Common health concerns and lifestyle issues relevant to older adults. Facts about the content area, health behaviors, and practices to promote health and prevent disease; program development strategies applicable to a variety of settings.

MPH 558. Public Health Policy Analysis
3 Credits
Covers issues related to U.S.-health policy and allocation of resources. Examination of local, state, and federal public health and health care funding. Assessment of impact of health policy on health education, medical practice, and the workplace. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Restricted to: MPH majors.

MPH 559. Infectious and Noninfectious Disease Prevention
3 Credits

MPH 560. American Indian Health
3 Credits
Critical health issues facing American Indians in the contemporary world. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: PHL5 460.

MPH 561. Health Disparities: Determinants and Interventions
3 Credits
Investigates: descriptions of health disparities and measurement issues; physical environmental factors, behavioral and emotional variables; impact of aging of the populations, increased racial and ethnic diversity, and technological developments; intervention strategies and evaluation results. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: PHL5 461.

MPH 562. Hispanic Health Issues
3 Credits
Cultural differences that aid or hinder communication with Hispanic clients and the application of cross-cultural communication skills. Some field trips may be required. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: PHL5 462.

MPH 564. Cross-Cultural Aspects of Health
3 Credits
An examination of health practices from a variety of cultural perspectives; communication, observation, research, and assimilation. Issues to be addressed will be examined from a number of viewpoints, such as individual, family, community, and professional roles. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: PHL5 464V.

MPH 565. International Health Problems
3 Credits
Comparison of domestic health programs and problems with those in other parts of the world; emphasis on political parameters and delivery processes. Additional attention is focused on the health issues of the U.S.-Mexico border. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: PHL5 465.

MPH 566. International Health Practicum
1-3 Credits
Intensive examination of health practices and beliefs from a cultural perspective. Focus on health structure, index of diseases, morbidity, mortality and epidemiological approaches to planning. Required travel (personal travel, lodging, and related expenses are extra). May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: PHL5 466.

MPH 567. Rural Health Issues
3 Credits
Comprehensive overview of rural health services with southwestern United States and New Mexico focus. Crosslisted with: PHL5 467.

MPH 568. Coping with Loss and Grief: A Cross-Cultural Perspective
3 Credits
A cross-cultural perspective to death, loss and grief. Hospice philosophy of caring for the dying will be included. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: PHL5 468.

MPH 569. U.S.-Mexico Border Health Issues
3 Credits
Interdisciplinary analysis of the impact of living conditions and health issues of communities along the U.S.-Mexico border and of the strategies and initiatives to address these issues. Problem-based learning, case analysis, lecture, guest speakers, computer based instruction, and field trips. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: PHL5 469.

MPH 570. Foundations of Public Health Education
3 Credits
Social, behavioral, and educational aspects of disease prevention and health promotion. Includes history and theoretical basis of health education.

MPH 571. Health Informatics
3 Credits
The application of technology to engage communities and individuals in behavioral and environmental change processes. The course will focus on the use of technology to describe the magnitude of health problems and their sources; analyze risk factors; identify community strengths from which strategies may be defined and tools created to intervene, prevent problems, and promote health and well-being; and continuously evaluate, refine, and implement what works. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: PHL5 471.

MPH 572. Techniques of Health Communication/Education
3 Credits
Application of a wide range of communication and education theories/methods, including program planning and evaluation, in public health programming. Restricted to: MPH majors.

Prerequisite(s): MPH 510.

MPH 573. Community Organization in Public Health
3 Credits
Strategies for identifying and involving community leaders, community needs assessment, small area analysis and planning, and community-level development strategies. Restricted to: MPH majors.

Prerequisite(s): MPH 510.

MPH 574. Health Program Planning
3 Credits
Covers process of successful public health education program planning and grant writing. Restricted to: MPH majors.

Prerequisite(s): MPH 510.
MPH 575. Methods of Community Health Education  
3 Credits  
Responsibilities of health educators, analysis of social forces affecting health needs, application of wide range of health education methods and instructional media, and program implementation skills. Crosslisted with: PHLS 475.  
Prerequisite(s): MPH 510.

MPH 576. Theoretically-Based Interventions  
3 Credits  
Identifying and developing interventions to problematic health-related behaviors. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: PHLS 476.  
Restricted to: MPH majors.  
Prerequisite(s): MPH 520.

MPH 578. Evaluative Approaches in Public Health  
3 Credits  
Survey and analyses of health testing and evaluation procedures, uses and limitations of knowledge and attitude tests, behavioral inventories, check lists, questionnaires, interviews, and other techniques. Restricted to: MPH majors.  
Prerequisite(s): MPH 520.

MPH 579. Research and Resources in Community Health  
3 Credits  
Exploration of available public health research studies, data, results and implications. Restricted to MPH majors.  
Prerequisite(s): MPH 520.

MPH 581. Public Health Preparedness and Response  
3 Credits  
This course is designed to teach students about the role of public health in emergency preparedness and response. It focuses on the nature of public emergencies as well as the role various sectors have in responding to them. One purpose of this online course is to introduce students to the basics of disaster preparedness and responding to disasters, and to build a base for further development in responder training. The course provides training and resources for a basic understanding of the Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS). May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: PHLS 481.

MPH 586. Special Topics  
3 Credits  
Specific subjects to be announced in the Schedule of Classes. May be repeated up to 12 credits. Restricted to: MPH majors.

MPH 590. Independent Study  
1-6 Credits  
Individual studies with prior approval of department head. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. May be repeated up to 6 credits. Consent of Instructor required.

MPH 593. Adulthood and Aging  
3 Credits  
Normal transitions in later life; those occurring from 40 years of age to the end of life are discussed. Changes in interpersonal relationships and adaptations commonly made by individuals and meeting those alterations are presented through research findings, case studies, and autobibliographies.

MPH 594. Aging in a Multicultural Society  
3 Credits  
Study and comparison of aging in the southwestern multi-cultural society with emphasis on health care. Same as GERO 494 with differentiated assignments for graduate students.

MPH 596. Field Experience  
1-4 Credits  
Student will work in a public health setting under the supervision of an experienced public health professional and will use acquired knowledge and skills to conduct a project which addresses a specific public health problem or program need. Projects are agreed upon by the student and faculty. May be repeated for a maximum of 4 credits. Restricted to MPH majors.  
Prerequisite: consent of department head.

MPH 597. Graduate Public Health Seminar  
1 Credit  
Inter-professional Education Seminar for MPH students.

MPH 599. Master’s Thesis  
1-6 Credits  
Minimum of 4 credits required but may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. May be repeated up to 6 credits. Consent of Instructor required.  

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