



SCHOOL OF
GRADUATE
STUDIES

Master of Public Health Degree



Southern Connecticut State University



The field of public health has finally become recognized for its important role in protecting society. This role will only expand in the 21st century. Experts agree that the future of public health lies in health promotion and disease prevention, and that promoting better health practices requires understanding of cultural and environmental influences.

Southern Connecticut State University's nationally accredited Master of Public Health (MPH) degree program is the ideal path for students who are concerned with the global and local issues that affect the health of individuals, neighborhoods, communities, and society. Southern's curriculum in public health, with a specialization in community health education, —the only program of its kind in the state—offers a general background in public health issues and more specialized study of community health education concepts, challenges, and solutions.

Designed to prepare health and human service professionals who can provide leadership in primary prevention, the program focuses on developing the capacity to plan, administer, and evaluate health promotion and disease prevention interventions and programs. There is a particular emphasis on preparing culturally diverse and culturally sensitive health care practitioners. Thus, nearly 30 percent of the students in the program are people of color, many of them from countries other than the United States.

Part-time and full-time study cohorts are available for two- or three-year programs of study with all courses available in the evening for the working student. Southern's Master of Public Health is fully accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).

Program Description

The Master of Public Health degree program consists of a minimum of 48 credits of study, including 33 credits of core work in such courses as *Foundations of Public Health*, *Introduction to Community Health Education*, *Environmental Determinants of Health*, *Public Health Research*, *Health Behavior*, *Public Health Administration*, *Health Systems and Policy*, *Epidemiology*, *Health Promotion Methods and Strategies*, and *Community Health Education Planning and Evaluation*. A three- or six-credit (150 or 300 hours) internship is required to provide students with practical experience that enables them to apply and refine concepts and skills learned from their coursework and to develop a sense of professional identity and ethics. A six-credit thesis or special project is required, as well. The remaining three or six credits can be taken as electives to fit each student's particular interests or goals. Consistent with the national public health agenda on closing the gap in health disparities among and within population groups, Southern's coursework is infused with issues relating to diversity and cultural behavior that impacts health. Students are required to complete a five-hour Cultural Competency Training Workshop aimed at addressing their own thinking related to healthcare issues.

Finally, students in the Master of Public Health program are required to sit for the national Certification Examination for Health Education Specialists (CHES).

Students must achieve a final course grade of C+ or higher in all public health core, specialization, elective, and culminating courses used to fulfill the requirements of the M.P.H. degree. Any course with an earned grade of less than C+ must be repeated the next time the course is offered and must be passed with a minimum grade of C+. In addition, students cannot repeat a course in the core or specialization more than once. An overall grade point average of B is required to begin the culminating experience and public health internship, as well as for graduation.

A limited number of graduate assistantships is available to full-time students; these assistantships provide partial financial support.





Admission Requirements

Public health graduate students come from a wide variety of undergraduate specialties and professional backgrounds, including education, business, nursing, medicine, dentistry, communications, computer science, social work, biology, social and behavioral sciences, and public health. Admission to the Master of Public Health program is highly competitive and requires the following:

- A bachelors degree from an accredited institution and an undergraduate grade point average equivalent to a 3.0 or higher, on a scale of A=4. In extraordinary cases, a student not meeting this requirement may be considered for admission under “conditional acceptance.”
- A personal essay
- Two letters of recommendation
- Updated resume or Professional Experience Form
- M.P.H. Screening Matrix

Additional documentation, including the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), is required for international applicants seeking admission to the program.

How to Apply

Application to the Master of Public Health program is a two-tiered process, beginning with application to the university's School of Graduate Studies. The graduate public health program has rolling admissions but encourages applicants to complete their application files by June 1 for fall admission. It is best to contact the Graduate Program Coordinator in the Department of Public Health to obtain all the necessary forms. These forms are also accessible on the Web at www.SouthernCT.edu/departments/publichealth. The completed application and a \$50 check made payable to SCSU as well as official transcripts from all graduate and undergraduate universities attended are mailed to:

Dean, School of Graduate Studies
Southern Connecticut State University
501 Crescent Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06515-1355

Letters of recommendation, a personal essay, the professional experience form, and M.P.H. screening should be sent directly to:

Coordinator of Graduate Studies
Department of Public Health
Southern Connecticut State University
144 Farnham Avenue
New Haven, CT 06515-1355

The Department of Public Health, with the approval of the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, will select the most outstanding applicants from the applicant pool for admission to the M.P.H. program for the following fall.



Faculty

The members of the graduate faculty of the Department of Public Health are doctoral-level specialists in their areas of teaching responsibilities and have many years of both successful teaching and practical public health experience. They are devoted to their profession and dedicated to preparing students to assume leadership positions in the field of public health. Faculty members are well known for their availability to students and for their expertise in facilitating the learning process.



Careers

Most of the students in the graduate public health program are seeking either a career change or career advancement. For M.P.H. graduates, there are career opportunities in epidemiology, health administration, health policy, research, management, planning and evaluation, community health education, and clinical work, to list just a few. Southern graduates are employed by federal, state, and local governments, hospitals, private corporations, non-profit agencies, insurance companies, and international public health programs. They are qualified to design, conduct, and evaluate health and health-related programs in schools,

worksites, healthcare facilities, non-profit agencies, communities, and universities. Graduates who pass the Certified Health Education Specialist (C.H.E.S.) Exam, sponsored by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. (NCHEC), earn a national professional certification that enhances career opportunities.

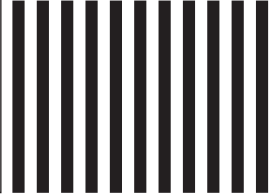


Contact Information

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New Haven, CT 06515-1355
(203) 392-5240 or 1-800-448-0661
gradinfo@SouthernCT.edu
www.SouthernCT.edu/grad



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Graduate Admissions Information

For more information about the Master of Public Health Degree, please complete this card and return it to us.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (home) _____ Telephone (work) _____

E-mail _____

Bachelor's Degree (College, Year Awarded) _____

Undergraduate Major _____

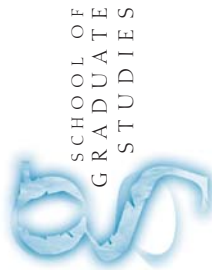
Check as many as apply.
Please send:

Application materials for graduate programs in the Master of Public Health Degree

The SCSU Graduate Catalog

The schedule of courses for the up-coming semester

Other _____



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