
Program Overview

Mission

The mission of the Master of Public Health (MPH) program at the University of Southern California (USC) is to assist in creating healthy communities by preparing graduates to lead and collaborate with others in organized community efforts across a variety of settings, focusing on disease prevention and health promotion among diverse populations.

Goals and Objectives

To achieve its mission, the school has devised the following goals and objectives related to its major function of instruction, research and service:

Instruction

Goal 1: To educate individuals for professional careers in public health through a master's degree program that prepares them to assess community needs of populations, design, implement and evaluate health promotion programs to diverse audiences

- Objective 1 Conduct yearly assessments of learning for program courses
- Objective 2 Conduct yearly assessments of published recommendations for the field of public health and compare these with program requirements
- Objective 3 For each MPH course, reach a mean rating of 4.0 on student evaluations (1=poor to 5=excellent)
- Objective 4 Fifty percent of students will report a mean competency rating of 2.5 for all MPH learning outcomes (1=not competent, 2=somewhat competent, 3=competent)
- Objective 5 Obtain program feedback from current/former students, faculty, community members and practicum supervisors on an annual basis
- Objective 6 Attain a 3:1 practicum to student ratio
- Objective 7 At least 85% of students will receive a performance rating of at least 4 from their practicum supervisors (1=below expectation, 3=satisfactory, 5=beyond expectation)
- Objective 8 Each graduating student will develop a professional portfolio of their MPH practicum experience which reflects their mastery of the knowledge, competencies and skills involved in public health practice and/or research activities

Goal 2: To provide an environment conducive to student learning and professional development

- Objective 1: Provide financial support for education by offering at least 20 student assistantships per year
- Objective 2: Increase student space on the Alhambra campus by constructing a large classroom and a student computer lab
- Objective 3: Support at least three mechanisms for student communication
- Objective 4: Support an electronic student application system
- Objective 5: Staff will attend at least one student services training event per year
- Objective 6: Make annual contributions to the MPH student association budget
- Objective 7: Support an online MPH career page
- Objective 8: Utilize a student database that coordinates and integrates information from admissions, degree progress and post-graduation placements, practicum assignments, and funding history
- Objective 9: Provide financial support for student attendance at local/national conferences for a least 2 students per year

Goal 3: To prepare graduates to practice successfully in diverse public health/social service settings or to pursue advanced professional/academic training

- Objective 1: Maintain less than a 5% cumulative attrition rate among those students who matriculate per year
- Objective 2: Attain a 80% pass rate among those students who take the Certified Health Education Specialist Exam
- Objective 3: At least 90% of students will obtain employment in public health or matriculate into an academic/professional degree program within one year of graduation

Research

Goal 4: To conduct basic and applied research that contributes to the identification, management and resolution of public health problems

- Objective 1: Seventy-five percent of faculty will have funded research per year

- Objective 2: Faculty will conduct at least 50 research projects annually that address public health problems in diverse populations
- Objective 3: Seventy-five percent of the faculty will publish two peer-reviewed articles per year
- Objective 4: Seventy-five percent of the faculty will conduct presentations at professional meetings per year
- Objective 5: Maintain one interdisciplinary research center/program
- Objective 6: At least three MPH students will have the opportunity to work as research assistants per year

Service

- Goal 5: Collaborate and consult with local, national and international public health social service agencies to provide technical and programmatic support to assist in meeting the needs of their service population
 - Objective 1: Provide training opportunities that will reach at least 500 public health professionals per year
 - Objective 2: At least two training opportunities will provide continuing education units for physicians (CME) and health educators (CHEC)
 - Objective 3: Maintain at least five formal collaborations/agreements with public health agencies and/or schools to promote public health practice
 - Objective 4: At least 75% of the faculty will serve on panels/boards or provide technical assistance to community-based agencies
 - Objective 5: At least two courses in the MPH program will provide student service opportunities
 - Objective 6: The MPH student association will coordinate/participate in at least two community service events per year