

## Master of Public Health Program

The Department of Preventive Medicine offers the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree for motivated students and professionals in the application of health promotion and disease prevention technologies and interventions designed to improve and enhance the quality of life.

The MPH program is a product of the University's commitment to the health and wellbeing of its surrounding communities, as well as to Southern California and the nation. The mission of the program 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.



### AREAS OF STUDY

The curriculum is designed to prepare community health/preventive medicine practitioners to assess community needs of populations, design, implement and evaluate health promotion programs to diverse audiences. Students begin with coursework in the core areas of public health designed to provide an overview of related issues and competencies required to address community health problems. The following courses fulfill this requirement:

- Environmental Health: An Epidemiological Approach
- Foundations in Health Education and Promotion
- Health Service Delivery in the U.S.
- Principles of Biostatistics
- Principles of Epidemiology
- Practicum in Public Health

Students have the opportunity to define their specialty and tailor their course of study by pursuing one of six available tracks: health education & promotion, biostatistics & epidemiology, nutrition, health communication, child & family health, and global health leadership.

### *Health Education & Promotion*

Health Promotion involves the use of health education and specific interventions at various levels of prevention to facilitate behavioral and environmental changes conducive to health enhancement among individuals and communities. The program of study will be designed from the following courses:

- Biological Basis of Disease
- Culture and Health: An International Perspective
- Communication in Public Health
- Detection and Control of Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Intervention Approaches for Health Promotion & Disease Prevention
- Organizing & Mobilizing Communities for Global Health
- Program Evaluation & Research
- Program Design & Evaluation
- Public Health Leadership & Management
- Training and Curriculum Design in Public Health



### *Biostatistics and Epidemiology*

Epidemiology is the study of disease and disability including its distribution, occurrence, determinants and controls in human populations. Biostatistics involves research and management focused on guiding the design, analysis, interpretation and presentation of health science data. The program of study will be designed from the following courses:

- Behavioral Epidemiology
- Bioinformatics
- Biological Threats & Terrorism
- Chronic Disease Epidemiology
- Data Analysis (SAS & STATA)
- Design of Clinical Studies
- Detection and Control of Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Genetics in Public Health & Preventive Medicine
- Infectious Disease Epidemiology
- Program Evaluation and Research
- Social Network Analysis



### *Nutrition*

Nutrition assesses the food and nourishment needs and available resources for individuals, groups, and communities, providing consultation to prioritize nutritional care and service delivery within different segments of the community and various stages throughout the life span. The program of study will be designed from the following courses:

- Maternal & Child Health and Nutrition
- Nutrient - Drug Interaction
- Nutrition in Public Health
- Obesity, Metabolism and Health
- Promoting Dietary Change
- Research Methods in Nutrition
- Seminar in Nutrition



### *Global Health Leadership*

The purpose of this track is to equip students and develop leaders with world-class knowledge and technology in population-based disease prevention and control and public health leadership and management principles to work with international partners to strengthen regional public health systems, enhance public health preparedness and emergency response, and protect and improve global health as a whole. Graduates of this track will be equipped with knowledge, skills and abilities to lead multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral and multi-national initiatives to enhance the health status and wellbeing of individuals, families, and communities around the world. The program of study will be designed from the following courses:

- Culture and Health: An International Perspective
- Public Health Leadership & Management
- Emerging Trends in Global Health: A Public Health Seminar
- Global Entertainment Education Programs
- Organizing and Mobilizing Communities for Global Health
- Public Health in China: A System and Country in Transition
- Floods, Quakes & Human Folly: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Disaster Study
- Ethical Issues in International Health Research, Promotion and Intervention

### *Health Communication*

Health communication encompasses the study and use of communication strategies to inform and influence individual and community decisions that enhance health. The track builds upon the existing knowledge of persuasion and attitude change, social service and public relation campaigns, and health care media programs. The program of study will be designed from the following courses:

- Audience Analysis
- Communication in Public Health
- Communication, Values Attitudes and Behavior
- Global Entertainment Education Programs
- Intervention Approaches for Health Promotion & Disease Prevention
- Introduction to Strategic Public Relations
- Patient-Provider Communication
- Public Relations Media Strategies
- Program Evaluation and Research
- Social Network Analysis
- Web Designs for Organizations



### *Child & Family Health*

This track is designed to provide both broad-based and in-depth learning experiences focusing on public health issues for children and adolescents in the context of their families and social environments. The ultimate goal of training public health professionals is to improve the health status of children and their families, allowing students interested in a career working with children, adolescents, and families to apply the methods of public health research and practice to services provided to these populations. The program of study will be designed from the following courses:

- Program Design and Evaluation
- Foundations of Child Health
- Quality & Inequality in Health Care: Examination of Health Services
- Maternal & Child Nutrition
- Epidemiology and Prevention of Pediatric Injury
- Foundations of Early Childhood Mental Health
- Systems of Care for Children with Special Needs
- Child Health Policy

### **PRACTICUM**

An integral part of the USC MPH program is the practicum, a structured, supervised professional experience with an approved agency for which students receive academic credit. As a working partnership between students and public health agencies, the field training experience offers students a rotation through an area of public health practice in a county, state, federal or community based agency. The goal of the practicum is to further students' practical experience while enhancing the work of public health. Through field training and the associated grant writing seminar, students have the opportunity to demonstrate an integration of coursework into a real-world setting, preparing them for a professional career in public health.

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION**

To be eligible for admission, prospective students must have completed a bachelor's degree or the equivalent from an accredited college or university, earning a minimum grade point average of 3.0. Students must submit Graduate Record Examination scores with a minimum combined total of 1000 (verbal and quantitative). The MPH program offers admission for fall, spring and summer semesters.



### **MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR**

Our program faculty and staff are committed to the development of the next generation of public health leaders for Southern California and the nation. We meet this challenge by providing personalized expertise in our instruction and mentorship.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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