



ST. JOHN'S
UNIVERSITY

College of Pharmacy
and Health Sciences

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH) FAQ

What is public health?

Public health is "The science and the art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting health through the organized efforts of society." (C.E.A. Winslow)

What roles do public health professionals undertake?

Public health professionals' responsibilities can include the following:

1. Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community
3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues
4. Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
7. Link people to personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable
8. Ensure competent public and personal health care workforce
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services
10. Research new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

Why should I pursue a degree in public health?

Public health is a rewarding career well suited for individuals who are committed to improving the lives of individuals and at-risk populations. The field of public health is diverse and multidisciplinary in nature and offers a variety of rewarding careers to suit many interests and skills. For example, a public health professional may work as an epidemiologist monitoring new epidemics or as a program planner developing population health programs for the evolving needs of communities.

What is an MPH degree?

The MPH degree is considered the terminal professional degree in public health. This degree provides students with a broad mastery of the subject matter and methods necessary in a field of practice. Students are required to develop the capacity to organize, analyze, interpret, and communicate knowledge in an applied manner. Possible careers for MPH degree holders include epidemiologists, researchers, health educators, and health managers. This degree program is approved by the New York State Education Department and is currently seeking accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).

What are the core areas of study?

According to the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), the five core areas of public health study include:

1. **Biostatistics** – the collection, storage, retrieval, and interpretation of health data; design and analysis of health data; design and analysis of health-related surveys and experiments; and concepts and practice of statistical data analysis
2. **Epidemiology** – distributions and determinants of disease, disabilities, and death in human populations; the characteristics and dynamics of human populations, the natural history of disease, and the biologic basis of health
3. **Environmental health sciences** – environmental factors including biological, physical, and chemical factors that affect the health of a community
4. **Health services administration** – planning, organization, administration, management, evaluation, and policy analysis of health and public health programs
5. **Social and behavioral sciences** – concepts and methods of social and behavioral sciences relevant to the identification and solution of public health problems

What type of degree or background/experience do I need to enter the MPH program?

The MPH degree is suitable for recent graduates with degrees in a relevant discipline (e.g., social and behavioral sciences and the humanities) who want to develop public health skills and competencies and obtain practical experience in the field. The program is also designed for current working professionals who may want to strengthen practical skills and advance knowledge in public health in order to complement their current training.

How many credit hours are required to complete the MPH degree?

All students must complete a total of 45 credits to satisfy the MPH degree requirements. This includes 18 credit hours that cover the core public health competencies (biostatistics, environmental, health sciences, epidemiology, health services administration, and social and behavioral sciences); 12 credit hours of concentration courses; nine credit hours of methods and evaluation electives; a three-credit-hour fieldwork practice experience; and a three-credit-hour culminating experience.

How long will it take to complete the MPH degree?

Full-time students complete nine credit hours per semester and can complete the degree in two years, including summer matriculation between the first and second year. Part-time students have up to five years to complete the MPH degree.

Can the MPH degree be completed while working full time?

Yes, it is possible to work full time while pursuing an MPH at St. John's. All classes are offered in the evening to accommodate working professionals' schedules.

Where is the program located?

Depending on the course, instruction is offered at the Queens campus or at the Dr. Andrew J. Bartilucci Center in Queens, NY. The MPH program's administrative office is located at the Bartilucci Center.

What do I need to apply for admission to the program?

1. Complete a graduate admission application (including application fee), available at gradhelp@stjohns.edu.
2. Provide official transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate institutions attended.
3. Submit a current résumé or curriculum vitae.
4. Provide official Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores (for more information, please visit the Office of Graduate Admission).
5. Submit three letters of recommendation.
6. Provide a personal statement.

International students

Additional requirements: TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System).

For more information, visit the Office of International Student and Scholar Services at stjohns.edu/admission/international/services or contact the office at **718-990-6083** or **1-888-9STJOHNS**.

When is the admission deadline?

Applications are accepted throughout the academic year. However, it is highly recommended that the application and required supporting documents be submitted to the Office of Graduate Admission at least three months prior to the semester in which the student wishes to begin the program of study.

Is financial aid available for MPH students?

St. John's University awards most of its financial assistance to graduate students based on academic ability and financial need. Please visit the Office of Student Financial Services or call **1-888-9STJOHNS** to learn more about financial aid opportunities.

For general questions regarding admission:

Office of Graduate Admission
St. John's University
8000 Utopia Parkway
Queens, NY 11439

1-888-9STJOHNS
gradhelp@stjohns.edu
stjohns.edu/admission/graduate

For questions regarding the MPH program:

College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
Dept. of Pharmacy Administration and Allied Health Sciences
Master of Public Health Program
175-05 Horace Harding Expressway
Fresh Meadows, NY 11365

718-990-8483
publichealth@stjohns.edu
stjohns.edu/MPH