

Master of Public Health (MPH) Nutrition (Plan C) Graduate Program Assessment

This 100% online Master of Public Health Nutrition (MPH) degree includes interdisciplinary training in nutrition-related sciences and prepares students with skills and competencies essential for leadership and administrative positions in public health nutrition. Students will learn about designing, implementing, and evaluating nutrition-related programs and policies to improve the health and well-being of local, national, and global populations. The land grant setting of Utah State University provides unique opportunities for the study of the relationship between human nutritional status and health with strong academic and research programs in nutritional epidemiology, federal and community nutrition programs, USU Extension nutrition outreach programs, food science, food safety, agricultural practices, animal health, climate change, environmental sciences and much more. This program is 100% online so you can complete the program from anywhere around the world. This program can be pursued part-time or full-time.

The MPH Nutrition program is considered a professional program (Plan C). Students must complete an Applied Practice Experience (APE) and write a capstone paper (Integrative Learning Experience (ILE)). Students should contact their advisor early in their program to get approval of an acceptable APE and ILE, to ensure that all degree requirements will be met, and that all appropriate paperwork has been sent to the School of Graduate Studies (SGS).

Vision

The program's vision is to support healthy communities through inclusive collaboration, education, research, and outreach.

Mission Statement

The program's mission is to prepare highly competent public health professionals to lead, innovate, advocate, and educate to improve the health of humans, animals, and the environment.

Program Learning Objectives

- Students will demonstrate knowledge of nutritional epidemiology, social determinants of health, One Health, public health policy, leadership, and program planning/evaluation.
- Students will demonstrate their ability to write grants and communicate effectively through writing and oral presentation.
- Students will demonstrate essential public health skill development through applied practice experiences in governmental, non-governmental, non-profit, industrial and for-profit settings or appropriate university-affiliated settings.
- Students will be prepared for leadership positions within local, state, and federal health agencies, the private industry, and non-profit organizations.

Program Values

1. A commitment to the highest degree of moral and ethical behavior in all interactions.

2. A commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and outreach.
3. A commitment to reducing health disparities and improving the overall health and well-being of communities.
4. A commitment to establishing local and global partnerships that simultaneously promote student learning and improve the health of the community.
5. A commitment to value the diversity among students, faculty, staff, public health professionals, and community members.

Program Goals

1. Provide access to graduate education in public health to nontraditional, diverse, and underserved individuals.
2. Facilitate high-quality, application-based education and experiences that align with the diverse career interests of students.
3. Engage in service that benefits students, alumni, public health professionals, the USU community, and the broader field of public health.
4. Collaborate with public health professionals to conduct research and community outreach to advance public health knowledge and practice.

Program Data Driven Outcomes

1. Graduate students who are ready and able to enter the public health work force or advanced study.
 - a. 80% of graduates will be employed in the field of public health within 1 year of graduation.
 - b. 80% of graduates will complete program requirements in 3 years or less.
 - c. 15% of graduates will be enrolled in advanced degree programs within 5 years of graduation.
2. Graduate students who have received public health experiences, in addition to required coursework, that align with their career goals.
 - a. 15% of students will have completed international fieldwork experience prior to graduation
 - b. 25% of students will have had assistantships, TA positions, or preceptor positions prior to graduation
3. Graduate students who are independent, capable, and prepared to function in leadership positions in public health.
 - a. 80% of students will be rated as 'above average' on employer surveys 1 year after graduation.
 - b. 80% of graduates will report being 'well prepared' for public health leadership positions in 1-year alumni surveys.

Master of Public Health (MPH) Nutrition Outcomes Data

Academic Year Started Program	# of incoming students	Graduate students who are ready and able to enter the public health work force or advanced study.			Graduate students who are independent, capable, and prepared to function in leadership positions in public health.		Graduate students who have received public health experiences, in addition to required coursework, that align with their career goals.	
		80% of graduates who seek employment will be employed in the field within 1 year of graduation	80% of graduates will complete program requirements in 3 years	15% of graduates will be enrolled in advanced degree programs within 5 years of graduation	80% of students will be rated as 'above average' on employer surveys 1 year after graduation~	80% of graduates will report being 'well prepared' for public health leadership positions in 1-year alumni surveys~	15% of students will have completed international fieldwork experience prior to graduation	25% of students will have had assistantships, TA positions, or preceptor positions prior to graduation
*2017-2018	3	100%	100%	TBD	TBD	TBD	33%	66%
2018-2019	1	100%	100%	TBD	TBD	TBD	100%	0%
2019-2020	14	88%	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	0%	14%
2020-2021	11	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	8%	33%
2021-2022	21	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	19%	10%
2022-2023	22	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

*The 2017-2018 academic year was the first year of the MPH Nutrition program.

^Does not include potential students starting in the summer of 2023.

~Employer and 1-year alumni surveys are currently being administered. Data will be available in the spring of 2023.

TBD-To be determined. First program graduates were in spring of 2019. As a result, minimal data is currently available to determine effectiveness of reaching program goals and objectives. Additional data will be available in the spring of 2023.

MPH Nutrition Competency Mapping
 (Based on 2021 Competencies through the Council on Education for Public Health)

Competency	Course number(s) and name(s)
Evidence-based Approaches to Public Health	
1. Apply epidemiological methods to settings and situations in public health practice	NDFS 6200 Nutritional Epidemiology
2. Select quantitative and qualitative data collection methods appropriate for a given public health context	NDFS 6200 Nutritional Epidemiology AND NDFS 6240 Program Planning and Evaluation in Public Health
3. Analyze quantitative and qualitative data using biostatistics, informatics, computer-based programming, and software, as appropriate	ADVS 5000: One Health: People, Animals, & the Environment AND NDFS 6240 Program Planning and Evaluation in Public Health
4. Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy or practice	NDFS 6200 Nutritional Epidemiology
Public Health & Health Care Systems	
5. Compare the organization, structure, and function of health care, public health, and regulatory systems across national and international settings	NDFS 6550 Public Health Policy and Advocacy
6. Discuss the means by which structural bias, social inequities and racism undermine health and create challenges to achieving health equity at organizational, community and systemic levels	NDFS 6810 Social Determinants of Health
Planning & Management to Promote Health	
7. Assess population needs, assets, and capacities that affect communities' health	NDFS 6240 Program Planning and Evaluation in Public Health
8. Apply awareness of cultural values and practices to the design, implementation, or critique of public health policies or programs	NDFS 6810 Social Determinants of Health
9. Design a population-based policy, program, project, or intervention	NDFS 6010 Hunger Issues and Solutions
10. Explain basic principles and tools of budget and resource management	NDFS 6280 Public Health Administration and Leadership
11. Select methods to evaluate public health programs	NDFS 6240 Program Planning and Evaluation in Public Health
Policy in Public Health	
12. Discuss the policy-making process, including the roles of ethics and evidence	NDFS 6550 Public Health Policy and Advocacy

13. Propose strategies to identify stakeholders and build coalitions and partnerships for influencing public health outcomes	NDFS 6280 Public Health Administration and Leadership
14. Advocate for political, social, or economic policies and programs that will improve health in diverse populations	NDFS 6550 Public Health Policy and Advocacy
15. Evaluate policies for their impact on public health and health equity	NDFS 6550 Public Health Policy and Advocacy
Leadership	
16. Apply leadership and/or management principles to address a relevant issue	NDFS 6280 Public Health Administration and Leadership
17. Apply negotiation and mediation skills to address organizational or community challenges	NDFS 6280 Public Health Administration and Leadership
Communication	
18. Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors	NDFS 6230 Communicating Current Topics in Nutrition
19. Communicate audience-appropriate (i.e., non-academic, non-peer audience) public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation	NDFS 6230 Communicating Current Topics in Nutrition
20. Describe the importance of cultural competence in communicating public health content	NDFS 6230 Communicating Current Topics in Nutrition
Interprofessional Practice*	
21. Integrate perspectives from other sectors and/or professions to promote and advance population health	ADVS 5000 One Health: People, Animals, & the Environment
Systems Thinking	
22. Apply a systems thinking tool to visually represent a public health issue in a format other than standard narrative	NDFS 6810 Social Determinants of Health

MPH Nutrition Concentration Competencies	Course number(s) and name(s)
1. Inform public health practice through analysis of peer-reviewed research in a specific area of public health nutrition.	NDFS 6210 Advanced Public Health Nutrition
2. Discuss the role agriculture or nutrition plays in prevention and treatment of significant chronic diseases or food security.	NDFS 6010 Hunger Issues and Solutions
3. Assess multiple perspectives of a topic in public health nutrition using peer reviewed research to substantiate claims.	NDFS 6210 Advanced Public Health Nutrition
4. Design, implement or evaluate an evidence-	NDFS 6010 Hunger Issues and Solutions

based public health nutrition intervention.	
5. Accurately disseminate public health nutrition original research findings to a general audience.	NDFS 6600 Current Topics in Obesity

Assessment Planning and Feedback

As of August 1, 2022, the MPH program is considered an applicant of the Council on Education for Public Health. MPH Nutrition assessments and general program evaluation follow CEPH requirements and will be held to CEPH standards. CEPH will provide us with detailed feedback on our assessment efforts during the accreditation process. MPH program faculty meet monthly to discuss the program curriculum, improvements to program evaluation, and other program/student concerns. MPH faculty will review/edit the assessments before they are administered, starting each year. MPH faculty collect data on specific assessments that fulfil the CEPH competencies. The CEPH self-study is due July 26, 2024.

Assessment Implementation

The program conducts a variety of assessments to collect data from students, recent graduates and stakeholders including: Exit Interviews, MPH Exit Survey, 1 year Alumni Survey, Preceptor Evaluation, Applied Practice Experience Progress and Completion Reports, Stakeholder and Employer survey. The and 1 Year Alumni Survey and the Stakeholder and Employer survey (conducted by Hanover) are currently being administered. Data will be available in spring 2023. Data are also collected from our Student Advisory Board and Advisory Board. Additional data is maintained via an MPH student database that is updated as needed.

How Results are Used

Data collected from assessments are compiled and discussed by MPH faculty in monthly meetings. Any changes or modifications will be decided on as a group and will be made before the next academic year. Program/course changes and modifications are documented accordingly.