

# PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH)

Graduate School

Program Website (<https://publichealth.cornell.edu/>)

CIP: 51.2202 | HEGIS: 1214.00 | NYSED: 38174

## Graduate Field

Public Health and Planetary Health (<https://catalog.cornell.edu/graduate-school/public-health-planetary-health/>)

## Program Description

The Cornell University Master of Public Health Program offers a Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) degree through the Graduate School. Concentrations for the Cornell M.P.H. degree include:

- Emergency Preparedness & Management
- Environment, Climate & Health
- Food Systems & Health
- Infectious Disease Epidemiology

M.P.H. program is made up of three types of courses: Core, Concentration, and Integrative. All students take Core courses at the same time, in a prescribed sequence. All concentration cohorts take their Concentration courses at the same time, in a prescribed sequence. All students must complete applied practice and Integrative learning courses to complement their concentration course work. The entire program takes two academic years to complete (52 credits of in-person study). Alternative course of study pathways exist for students matriculated into the Accelerated or Part-time programs.

**Core courses:** Students must take 30 credits of required core courses for graduation, reflecting the Program's commitment to broad, generalizable professional public health education and training. A number of these courses are community engaged – students will work on real-life projects with and for community and government partners. Accelerated students take 28 credits of core courses.

**Concentration courses:** Students must take 12 credits of required concentration-specific courses for graduation, reflecting the Program's commitment to development of expertise in one area of public health.

**Applied Practice and Integrative Learning:** Students complete up to 4 credits of courses that prepare them for applied practice experiences; as a part of this, students engage in extra-curricular project work under the supervision of a public health mentor, and develop products of benefit to the field of public health. In addition, students complete at least 3 credits of courses that facilitate integrative learning related to the student's concentration area; this results in a high-quality written document that is of benefit to the field of public health.

**Electives:** Elective courses offer students an opportunity to pursue their individual interests through a system of structured choices. Most students take at least 6 credits of elective courses. (accelerated students are exempt)

## Program Information

- Instruction Mode: In Person
- Location: Ithaca, NY
- Minimum Credits for Degree: 52; 43 for Accelerated

## Program Requirements

### Core Courses

Code	Title	Hours
VTPEH 6100	Public Health Colloquium <sup>1</sup>	1
VTPEH 6101	Public Health Foundations I <sup>1</sup>	3
VTPEH 6102	Social Epidemiology Principles and Multilevel Influences on Health	3
VTPEH 6103	Public Health Policy <sup>1</sup>	3
VTPEH 6104	Epidemiology in Practice	3
VTPEH 6105	Biostatistics for Health Sciences <sup>1</sup>	3
VTPEH 6107	Public Health Writing Lab	1
VTPEH 6108	Public Health Data Analysis Lab <sup>2</sup>	1
VTPEH 6181	Public Health Practice - Assessment	3
VTPEH 6182	Public Health Practice - Planning	3
VTPEH 6183	Public Health Practice – Monitoring, Evaluation, and Quality Improvement	3
VTPEH 6184	Strategic Public Health Communication	3

<sup>1</sup> Students admitted to the Accelerated pathway:

- Are not required to complete VTPEH 6100 or VTPEH 6101.
- Must complete VTPEH 6109 Public Health Foundations.
- May take PUBPOL 5619 in place of VTPEH 6103, and/or may take BTRY 5010 in place of VTPEH 6105.

<sup>2</sup> VTPEH 6108 may be replaced by VTPEH 6270 Data Analysis With R.

## Concentration Area Requirements

Must complete 1 Concentration Area

### Emergency Preparedness & Management

Code	Title	Hours
VTPEH 6131	Disaster Policy and Politics	3
VTPEH 6132	Public Health Emergency Management	3
VTPEH 6133	Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication	3
VTPEH 6134	Vulnerability Analysis and Hazard Mitigation	3

### Environment, Climate & Health

Code	Title	Hours
VTPEH 6141	Planetary Health	3
VTPEH 6142	Health, Wellbeing, and The Environment	3
VTPEH 6143	Health Impact Assessment	3
VTPEH 6144	Leading Change for Health Equity, Sustainability, and Justice	3

### Food Systems and Health

Code	Title	Hours
VTPEH 6121	Food Systems and Health	3
VTPEH 6122	Public Health Nutrition	3

VTPEH 6123	Food Systems Approaches to Food Safety	3
VTPEH 6124	Food Systems and Health Applications <sup>1</sup>	3

<sup>1</sup> VTPEH 6124 may be replaced by mentored research/independent study credits.

### Infectious Disease Epidemiology

Code	Title	Hours
VTPEH 6111	Infectious Disease and Health	3
VTPEH 6113	Advanced Epidemiologic Methods	3
VTPEH 6115	Pandemic Prevention Preparedness and Response	3
VTPEH 6116	Infectious Disease Epidemiology Applications <sup>1</sup>	3

<sup>1</sup> VTPEH 6116 may be replaced by mentored research/independent study credits.

### Applied Practice & Integrative Learning

Must complete Applied Practice & Integrative Learning courses.

Code	Title	Hours
VTPEH 6191	Professional Skills and Explorations in Public Health <sup>1</sup>	1
VTPEH 6192	Public Health Ethics, Leadership and Interprofessional Collaborative Practice	1
VTPEH 6194	Public Health Toolkit: Applied Practice, Negotiation, and Presenting Transferable Skills	2

<sup>1</sup> Students admitted to the Accelerated pathway are not required to complete VTPEH 6191.

### Graduate School Milestones

Students must:

- Achieve at least a C in each course. Failure to achieve a C will require repeating the course until a C is achieved.
- Be assessed as Competent in each competency area (40). If competence is not achieved, student must work with M.P.H. faculty or designee to build and demonstrate competence anew. In some cases, achieving competence may require repeating the course.
- Complete one or more Applied Practice Experience under the supervision of a public health practitioner.
- Develop and submit a portfolio to document competence.
- Complete an Integrative Learning Course resulting in a high-quality written document that has value to the field of public health.

If sufficient concern exists at the end of the first or second semester about student performance and/or competence mastery, students will meet with Program leadership about the appropriateness of continuing to the next phase of the program.

### Other Requirements

To receive the Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) degree, candidates must successfully: complete all curricular requirements, achieve a grade of C or above in each class, demonstrate competence in all 40-defined areas in their Portfolio, pay all fees, and be recommended for graduation by the faculty of the Program.

## University Graduation Requirements Requirements for All Students

In order to receive a Cornell degree, a student must satisfy academic and non-academic requirements.

### Academic Requirements

A student's college determines degree requirements such as residency, number of credits, distribution of credits, and grade averages. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the specific major, degree, distribution, college, and graduation requirements for completing their chosen program of study. See the individual requirements listed by each college or school or contact the college registrar's office (<https://registrar.cornell.edu/service-resources/college-registrar-directory/>) for more information.

### Non-academic Requirements

**Conduct Matters.** Students must satisfy any outstanding sanctions, penalties or remedies imposed or agreed to under the Student Code of Conduct (Code) or Policy 6.4. Where a formal complaint under the Code or Policy 6.4 is pending, the University will withhold awarding a degree otherwise earned until the adjudication process set forth in those procedures is complete, including the satisfaction of any sanctions, penalties or remedies imposed.

**Financial Obligations.** Outstanding financial obligations will not impact the awarding of a degree otherwise earned or a student's ability to access their official transcript. However, the University may withhold issuing a diploma until any outstanding financial obligations owing to the University are satisfied.

## Learning Outcomes

- Foundational Knowledge
  - Knowledge of the science and practice of public health consists of history and values, core functions, causes and trends of health outcomes, science of prevention, and importance of evidence.
  - Knowledge of factors related to human health consists of environmental, biological and genetic, behavioral and psychological, socioeconomic and political, globalization, and One Health.
- Foundational Competence
  - Evidence-based approaches to public health consists of applying, selecting, analyzing and interpreting epidemiology, quantitative and qualitative methods, and data.
  - Public health and health care systems consists of comparing and discussing structures and functions of different health systems, and structural bias and inequities in systems.
  - Planning and management to promote health consists of assessing, applying and designing population needs assessments, interventions, cultural competence, budget and resource management, and program evaluation.
  - Policy in public health consists of discussing policy-making processes, ethics and evidence, proposing strategies for coalition building, and advocating for and evaluating policies.
  - Leadership consists of creating visions, empowering others, fostering collaboration, guiding decision-making, negotiation and mediation.
  - Communication consists of selecting and applying communication strategies for different audiences, written and oral presentations, and cultural competence.
  - Interprofessional practice consists of collaborative teamwork across professions and disciplines.

-Systems thinking consists of applying different systems thinking tools to public health issues.

- Concentration Competence

In addition, students develop competence in a specific concentration area:

-Emergency Preparedness & Management concentration

students learn the theory and practice of public health emergency management considering political, social, economic and cultural frameworks, integrate Incident Command System tools into emergency planning, apply event-specific principles of risk and emergency communication, and develop a climate adaptation intervention or plan to promote community resilience.

-Environment, Climate & Health concentration students explore the influence between the environment and health, apply systems thinking to elucidate planetary health issues and equitable adaptation strategies, apply multi-disciplinary perspectives to promote upstream prevention strategies, and integrate methods for movement building and systems change.

-Food Systems & Health concentration students learn to analyze and depict food systems from production to consumption to understand their impact on health, apply interdisciplinary approaches to evaluate contemporary and historical factors that affect food and health, research and evaluate food system interventions to improve nutrition, food security, and health, investigate and communicate food safety risks that occur throughout food systems, and analyze current public health nutritional problems and policies and compare policy alternatives.

-Infectious Disease Epidemiology concentration students learn to understand and explain infectious disease events, assess epidemiological and statistical methodologies, interpret how environmental and socioeconomic systems affect infectious disease, compare prevention and control strategies, and critique diagnostic and detection systems.