

PREPARING FOR A CAREER in PUBLIC HEALTH

ADMISSION CRITERIA

- Understanding of, and interest in, the field
- A strong GPA (>3.2, depending on program)
- GRE or other standardized test scores (MCAT, GMAT, LSAT are often accepted; emphasis is on the quantitative section)
- Excellent, Personal recommendations
- Certain coursework [see below]

Degrees: Schools of public health offer a variety of degrees, principally the Master of Public Health (MPH) and the Doctor of Public Health (DrPH), but also a variety of PhD, MS, MA, and other degrees. Masters degrees typically require 1-2 years of study while doctorates may require several more and usually require earning an MPH, MD, or other degree first.

Departments and programs: Typically the curriculum is organized according to some combination of degree and department or program. Applicants typically apply to a department or program, and to a specific degree objective. Though the names and mix of departments vary by institution, some of the most common departments are:

- Health behavior and health promotion (or health education)
- Biostatistics
- Epidemiology
- Environmental health (and sometimes engineering)
- Health policy and management
- Global or International health
- Population, Family or Maternal and child health
- Nutrition

Some schools also have departments focusing on leadership, health communication, or biomedical sciences.

Course Prerequisites: Admissions prerequisites vary greatly by department and degree objective, but the most common include:

- at least one math or statistics course (Math107/Biol170..more for epi and stats programs)
- at least one natural science course (Biol130)
- some social science courses
- volunteer, training or work experience in the field

While some programs have no specific work requirement, some require 1-2 years' experience before applying. Volunteer, training, and work experience can take a variety of forms including internships with public health offices or organizations, Peace Corps or VISTA service, summer or post-graduate research, and post-baccalaureate certificate programs.

Schools attended by recent Lawrence graduates: Emory, Columbia, Johns Hopkins, George Washington University, U. Arizona, UC-Berkeley, U. Minnesota, UNC-Chapel Hill