Welcome

Dear Students and Colleagues:

A quick glance at the news provides a good indication of the challenges facing communities around the world—including here in Missouri—and the opportunities to bring about real change through improvements in public health. Graduate students in public health come from a wide variety of disciplines, including communications, social work, political science and veterinary medicine.

Though housed in the School of Health Professions, the MPH program at MU is thoroughly interdisciplinary and relies on the contributions of faculty from twelve schools and colleges including the College of Arts and Science, the Sinclair School of Nursing, the College of Veterinary Medicine, the Truman School for Public Affairs, the School of Social Work and the Missouri School of Journalism.

Our faculty and students are united in their commitment to improve health and quality of life and the ways that they do so are diverse and inspiring. Each year during National Public Health Week we run a campaign asking students, faculty and partners to post, tweet and share their reasons for choosing this career under the hashtag #WhyPublicHealth—you will find just a few of their responses in the following pages.

Whether you are here on campus or learning online, whether you are currently working in the field or a recent graduate, I’m confident that you’ll find public health a challenging and rewarding field of study. I hope you will take the time to learn about the Master of Public Health program at MU and then join us in making a meaningful impact on the world.

Lise Saffran
Director, Master of Public Health Program

At a Glance: The Master of Public Health Program

Fully accredited from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)

Job titles of Recent MPH Graduates include:
• Research Analyst
• Prevention Coordinator
• Research Specialist
• Epidemiologist
• HIV Care Manager
• Extension State Health Education Specialist
• Research Assistant
• Statewide Community Organizer
• Tobacco Free Community Project Coordinator

Master of Public Health in 45 credit hours or two years full time

Emphasis Areas:
• Health Promotion and Policy
• Veterinary Public Health

Graduate Certificates in:
• Global Public Health—15 credit hour program that can be combined with an MPH or pursued independently. A career advantage for any related field.
• General Certificate—12 credit hours. Offers non-traditional and working students a way to increase their public health knowledge through evening and online courses, with credits that can be transferred to the MPH Program.
• Epidemiology—12 credit hours. Program allows students to become competent in advanced aspects of epidemiological analysis.

Collaborative MPH with UMKC School of Nursing

Collaborative MPH/PhD MU Informatics Institute

Dual Degrees in:
• Doctor of Veterinary Medicine DVM/MPH
• Master of Public Affairs MPA/MPH
• Master of Arts in Journalism MA/MPH
• Master of Social Work MSW/MPH

A partial list of student accomplishments and honors:
• Students have been honored with Doctoral Marshall, the Excellence in Nursing Award, Fellowships from APHA in Maternal Child Health and from the Legacy Youth Activism program and received exhibition prizes at the annual Missouri Public Health Association Conference.
• Students have presented posters at national conferences, including the American Public Health Association, the National Institutes of Health and more.

100% Online

Both the Health Promotion and Policy and the Veterinary Public Health emphasis areas are available entirely online.

Practical internships in public health agencies

Recent students have interned in: Washington DC; New York City; Atlanta, GA; Jefferson City, MO; St. Louis, MO; Kansas City, MO; Puerto Rico; South Africa; Ghana; Peru and Brazil.

Photos, top to bottom: Susan Cady, MPH graduate, doing field work at the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture; the MPH Program at MU is one of the few nationwide with dual degrees in both Journalism and Veterinary Medicine.

#WHYPUBLICHEALTH

Because local, national, and global health concerns have a solution and it is our duty to integrate our interdisciplinary fields to find that solution!

—VetPH Alumna
Health officials around the country have warned of a crisis in our ability to respond to terrorist events, emerging infectious diseases and the growing burden of chronic diseases. The Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) estimates that 250,000 more public health workers will be needed by 2020. The Master of Public Health Program at the University of Missouri was established in 2007 in response to the need for graduate training opportunities in public health in the state and the nation. Taking advantage of our position as a land-grant institution, we produce graduates who understand public health issues that impact both rural and urban populations.

Housed within the School of Health Professions, the Master of Public Health works with SHP’s Bachelor of Health Science in Public Health to address the public health education needs of the state of Missouri and beyond. The Master of Public Health degree is a formal degree of the University of Missouri, which is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission: A Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The Master of Public Health Program was awarded full accreditation by the Council on Education in Public Health (CEPH). CEPH is a professional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to accredit schools of public health and graduate public health programs outside schools of public health.

Graduate School in Columbia, Missouri

Money magazine, Men’s Journal, MSN.com and others have called Columbia, MO one of America’s best places to live because of its excellent quality of life. Nature trails and bike paths, the annual True/False documentary film festival and numerous outdoor concerts and art fairs make for a lively and interesting community. Columbia consistently proves to be more affordable than the national average for cost of living, making it easy for students to find comfortable accommodations in their price range.

100% online, 100% affordable

The full 45 credit-hour MPH can be completed entirely online at rates far below typical out-of-state tuition. The most up-to-date online technology brings distance students—many of whom keep their jobs and study part-time—together into the classroom with colleagues in the residential program and in public health agencies around the country. Now you can learn essential public health content and become familiar with the tools used to practice public health in a changing technological landscape at the same time.

Public health is concerned with improving quality of life and preventing disease. The practice of public health incorporates a wide variety of skills and interest areas.

Master of Public Health: An Interdisciplinary Degree

The MPH Program at MU offers training in the foundational areas of public health including:
- health services administration
- environmental health
- epidemiology
- biostatistics
- social and behavioral sciences in public health

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Graduate Public Health Education at MU: Exciting and Relevant

Hands-on
Each student is required to complete a 360-hour internship in a public health agency under the supervision of an experienced public health professional. See page 7 for a sampling of where our students have done their internships.

Global
Students from more than 36 countries have come to study public health at Mizzou. The Graduate Certificate in Global Public Health, alongside international internships and study abroad opportunities, educates students about diverse communities, regardless of whether they plan to return to their homes in Bangalore, India or Callaway County, Missouri.

Interdisciplinary
A typical graduate seminar in the MPH Program is anything but typical. Students with degrees in Communications, Biology, Political Science and working professionals all bring their own unique perspectives to the classroom.

In the news
A scan of both national and local headlines provides an indication of just how central public health is to the current events of the day. Rising rates of obesity, epidemics of influenza and other infectious diseases, tobacco use, disaster preparedness and relief and health care reform are all topics included in the public health curriculum.

What makes Mizzou Unique?
In a program that offers both a Veterinary Public Health degree and a dual degree with journalism, you will find students discussing the most effective way to communicate about zoonotic diseases (such as Ebola, Q fever and rabies) with faculty who are planning a symposium on Digital Storytelling in Health. In a program that offers a graduate fellowship for a field placement in an underserved Missouri county, you will have the opportunity to reflect on disparities in access for rural residents with students who have completed internships in rural areas and in the state’s capitol (just a half hour away) or in Washington, DC where one MPH student recently interned for Population Services International (PSI). In a blended online course you will find yourself studying applied epidemiology for community assessment with a senior planner at a local health department or an Emergency Medical Technician. The convergence of unique opportunities at Mizzou offers a first-rate education in public health for a rapidly changing world.

International travel and trade, development, climate change and technology all have important implications for public health and quality of life.

Health Promotion and Policy
Two sides of the same coin
Students in this emphasis area learn how community programs are developed and evaluated, as well as the role of policy and advocacy in ensuring their success. This emphasis area is a good choice for students interested in health education and improving the environments in which we live, work and play.

The University of Missouri’s strengths in journalism and communication contribute to a strong curriculum in public health communications, an essential skill in our current media and policy environment.

Veterinary Public Health
The wave of the future
One Health is an approach to public health that recognizes the links between human health, animal health and ecological health. The University of Missouri’s MPH program is quickly becoming a leader in One Health through our unique collaboration with the Saint Louis Zoo’s Institute for Conservation Medicine and dual degree and online options.

Students in this emphasis area receive training in zoonotic disease prevention, food safety and other emerging issues in animal and human health. This emphasis area is an ideal complement for an undergraduate degree in animal science, biology or related fields.

Students are trained in use of personal protective equipment.

#WHYPUBLICHEALTH
Because as a future physician, I want to use sustainable therapies that do not exclude social and behavioral contexts, medications that do not contribute to developing bacterial resistance, and insure that communities are well informed to stay active and be healthy!

–HPP Alumnus
Graduate Success

MU MPH alumni are working as epidemiologists in Idaho, as CDC public health advisors in Atlanta, and as Commanders in the Public Health Service in New Jersey, in addition to a variety of local and international positions. Here are two of our recent graduates at work.

Hayley

Hayley Yaglom dreamed of being a veterinarian, but after enrolling in the MPH program in Veterinary Public Health, her career goals changed. “I learned how interdisciplinary public health truly is. I loved the real-world assignments in the MPH Program, such as developing fact sheets and participating in research.”

Now an infectious disease epidemiologist in a state-level vector-borne and zoonotic disease program she says, “I work on a population level, focusing on education and disease prevention at the human-animal interface. It’s my dream job in public health.”

Phil

Phil Berger returned to Missouri after two years of Peace Corps service in Cameroon with a passion to serve others and a desire to make a meaningful difference in peoples’ lives. “Public health was a natural fit and the Mizzou MPH program offered high quality public health education close to home.”

In his current role as the Director of Marketing and Special Projects at a federally qualified health center, Phil is responsible for promoting accessible primary care services in the local community.

Practical Experience and Internships

Internships become available through contacts with faculty, other students, community partners and the limitless imagination of MPH candidates. During internships, students work under the supervision of qualified preceptors and are engaged in concrete and challenging public health projects. Below is a sampling of the places where MPH students have found internships.

- The Office of Medicaid and Medicare in Washington, DC
- The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services in Jefferson City, MO
- The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program at the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services in Columbia, MO
- The Institute for Advanced Policy Solutions at Emory University in Atlanta, GA
- The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Jefferson City, MO
- The City of Detroit Health Department in Detroit, MI
- The PedNet Coalition of Columbia, MO
- The Sexual Health Advocate Peer Education (SHAPE) program at the University of Missouri in Columbia, MO

During her MPH internship experience, Hayley worked with the Missouri Dept. of Agriculture Division of Animal Health, which is responsible for testing livestock for disease in Missouri. At the Missouri State Fair in August, 2013, she assisted with testing and surveillance for Salmonella typhoid and Salmonella pullorum in chickens before their entrance into the exhibit hall.

Phil interned at the Missouri Primary Care Association (MPCA), Missouri’s association of federally qualified health centers. While there, he developed a comprehensive evaluation plan for a statewide program and collected data for the Missouri Health Information Technology (MO HIT) Assistance Center.

As an intern with the Central Missouri Stop Human Trafficking coalition, MPH student Julie Brunner was able to work on policy changes, raise awareness of the issue and give a professional talk at the Missouri Public Health Association Conference.

Sawsan Hasan (left) and Naziha El Hassan (right) presented “A Qualitative Exploration of Muslim Women’s Perspectives in Access to Healthcare in the United States” at the 2014 MPHCA Conference.

Vet PH student Kristin Brockway (in red) works with Missouri Department of Conservation staff and MU researchers to enable the tracking of an elk calf as part of Missouri’s innovative elk restoration initiative.

#WHYPUBLICHEALTH

Because I want to educate children and adults on the different types of diabetes and come up with successful public policies that raise the awareness of this disease.

– HPP Alumna

Because 75% of emerging infectious diseases that impact humans are zoonotic, and we need more people with expertise in the field of veterinary public health.

– VetPH Alumna
From the Classroom to the Community: Public Health in Action

Sakshi

Over a million and a half of Missouri’s approximately 6 million people live in rural areas, which is associated with a number of health disparities, including reduced access to care. As the state’s land-grant institution, the University of Missouri has a commitment to strengthening public health infrastructure statewide.

A gift to the MPH program by the Beacon of Hope Foundation supports a fellowship for talented MPH students to complete field placements in rural, underserved health departments in Missouri. Beacon of Hope Fellow, Sakshi Trivedi, a trained dental surgeon from India, explains how her experience in a sparsely populated Missouri County underscored her belief that all public health issues are global. “Disparities in health-related behaviors, chronic disease prevalence and access to health care I witnessed in Linn County share some characteristics with issues in rural areas in my home country, India. This internship was instrumental in making me realize the importance of bridging the gap between urban and rural health care all over the world.”

As part of her fellowship, Sakshi worked with the MPH Program and other state partners, including the Missouri Local Public Health Association and the State Department of Health and Senior Services to incorporate MPH field placements into the state’s public health infrastructure plan.

Nick

Nick Kohlberg studied Communication Science and Disorders as an undergraduate but chose public health instead of a program in audiology for his Master’s degree because he was drawn to public health’s focus on prevention. He sees himself improving community health by promoting policies that support public health funding. “It’s crucial that we pay attention to how issues are framed,” says Nick, “Regardless of whether we are speaking to legislators or to the public.”

The state’s capital, Jefferson City, is just a half-hour away, and as the president of the Missouri Public Health Advocacy Coalition, Nick took students and alumni to see and participate in the policy making process at the state capitol.
Dye.

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine/ Master of Public Health

Students must be admitted to both the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Master of Public Health Program independently. Both degrees can be earned simultaneously or within a semester of each other, depending upon the student’s choice of schedule. A number of MPH courses are online and distance-mediated.

Master of Public Affairs/ Master of Public Health

Offers students with a particular interest in public health policy and management the chance to complete both degrees in three years, rather than the four required for two stand-alone degrees. Students must be admitted to both the Truman School for Public Affairs and the Master of Public Health Program independently.

Master of Arts in Journalism/ Master of Public Health

Combines Health Promotion and Policy with Strategic Communication in the Missouri School of Journalism at the University of Missouri. Graduates are well-positioned to find employment in risk communications and public health information in the public or private sector. Students must be admitted to the School of Journalism and the Master of Public Health Program independently.

Master of Social Work/ Master of Public Health

Students can earn a Master of Social Work (MSW) and a Master of Public Health (MPH) with an emphasis in Health Promotion and Policy. Graduates of the dual degree will be well-positioned to find employment as a health policy advocate, health agency administrator or in an integrated behavioral health setting as a case manager, health coach, patient advocate, counselor, or team leader. Students pursuing dual degrees must be independently admitted to each program.

A Selection of Recent Publications and Presentations


Recent MU MPH Field Placement sites have included the following agencies:

• The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
• The St. Louis Zoo
• Population Services International
• Engineers without Borders in Bolivia, Honduras and Guatemala
• Columbia Housing Authority

• The Livestrong Foundation
• Central Missouri Community Action
• The Missouri Primary Care Association
• The Office of Medicaid and Medicare in Washington, DC
• The PoINeX Coalition of Columbia, MO

Social work is a complementary field to public health and links prevention and intervention in a variety of contexts, including communities, schools and health care agencies. Pictured is BSW student Arlene Dye.
Core teaching faculty and executive faculty committee:

Brenda Becerntsen, PhD, Professor, Veterinary Pathobiology Research/Teaching Area: Zoonosis, Infectious Diseases, Vector-borne Diseases

Tim Evans, PhD, DVM, Associate Professor, Veterinary Pathobiology Research/Teaching Area: Reproductive Toxicology, Effects of Mycotoxins on Livestock Production, Veterinary Clinical and Diagnostic Toxicology

Michael Hosokawa, EdD, Professor, Family and Community Medicine Research/Teaching Area: Medical Education, Inquiry-Based Learning

Brian Houston, PhD, Health Promotion and Policy Emphasis Area Director and Associate Professor, Communications Research/Teaching Area: Public Health Communication, Disasters, Mental and Behavioral Health

Subhown Lee, PhD, Assistant Teaching Professor, Statistics Research/Teaching Area: Nonparametrics, Statistical Consulting, Categorical Data Analysis

Wilson Majee, PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor, Health Sciences Research/Teaching Area: Community Development, Global Public Health

Jane McElroy, PhD, Associate Professor, Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Research/Teaching Area: Veterinary Public Health Epidemiology

Stephanie Potocznicz, PhD, Assistant Professor, Truman School of Public Affairs Research/Teaching Area: Social Demography, Immigrant Education and Health, Education Policy

Tom Rose, DVM, MPH, Assistant Teaching Professor Research/Teaching Area: Veterinary Public Health

Lise Saffran, MPH, MFA, Program Director, Associate Teaching Professor Research/Teaching Area: Global Health, Narrative and Health

Loren Schultz, DVM, Veterinary Public Health Emphasis Area Director and Associate Teaching Professor, Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Research/Teaching Area: Food Animal Medicine

Jon Stemmel, MA, Assistant Professor, Journalism Research/Teaching Area: Health-Related Community-Based Participatory Research, Tailored Health Communication and Non-Traditional Learning

Leigh Tenku Lepper, PhD, MPH, Director of Public Health Research Group and Associate Research Professor, Social Work Research/Teaching Area: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, Screening Brief Intervention Referral and Treatment, Preconception Health, Mental Health of Women, Social and Cultural Context of Health

Molly Vetter-Smith, PhD, MPH, RD, Assistant Teaching Professor, Health Sciences Research/Teaching Area: Health Policy, Behavior Change and Wellness

Mansoo Yu, PhD, MSW, MA, Associate Professor, Social Work Research/Teaching Area: Epidemiology, Vulnerable and Underserved Populations, Health Disparities Among Ethnicity/Race, Gender, and Social Class

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Nicole Whyte
Business Support Specialist

Jenna Wintemberg, Ph.D, MPH
Distance Education Specialist

TeeJay Sethi, MPH
MPH Student Services Analyst

How to apply

To begin the application process, apply online through our website healthprofessions.missouri.edu/mph or call us directly with your questions.

Contact Us

We hope that you find the content of this brochure and our website informative.

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The University of Missouri System is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action/Title IX institution and is committed to inclusion and nondiscrimination in education, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability in status as a Vietnam-era veteran.
Cover photos, top to bottom:

MPH student Springer Brown, left, working with the Saint Louis Zoo Institute for Conservation Medicine to study the potential for camels to spread disease to people, livestock and wildlife in Kenya.

Located in the Amazon, this house, visited by an MPH student, is surrounded by water six months out of the year. MPH students have traveled to Brazil and Guatemala to collaborate with the development group Engineers without Borders.

Faculty member Jane McElroy at a community outreach event in Columbia, MO.

MPH faculty member Mansoo Yu and public health study abroad students in Greece.