

Doctor of Philosophy - Public Health

Plan Description

The School of Public Health (SPH) is pleased to offer a doctoral program (Ph.D.) in Public Health.

Students with an MPH must complete 54 credits beyond the Master of Public Health (MPH). Students with a master's degree in a related field must complete 54 credits beyond the master's degree and up to an additional 15 credits of deficiency.

Educational Objectives

The Ph.D. – Public Health is designed to prepare students for careers in which advanced analytical and conceptual capabilities are required, such as university teaching, research, consulting, policy development or other high-level positions.

This program is competitive and space is limited. More students will apply than will be admitted. The most competitive students will have a strong academic record and a clear plan for their proposed research.

Completion of the Ph.D. demonstrates that the graduate has the advanced research skills and competencies necessary to succeed in high-level research careers.

Upon admission, each student will be assigned an academic (not dissertation) advisor who will help the student begin planning a program of study. Students are expected to identify a dissertation committee before the end of their second semester in the program.

For more information about your program, including your graduate program handbook and learning outcomes, please visit the Degree Directory.

Plan Admission Requirements

Application deadlines

Applications available on the UNLV Graduate College website.

Admission into the Public Health Ph.D. Program at UNLV will require applicants to meet the standard criteria of the UNLV Graduate College, applicable to all graduate students, both domestic and international, and contingent upon the qualifications of the applicant and the availability of openings for new students. Doctoral students are admitted as a cohort, once a year, for the fall semester. Applicants must have submitted all required materials by the deadline for admission in the following fall semester. Students will be admitted directly into the doctoral program, and all admissions will require the final approval of the Dean of the UNLV Graduate College. In addition to the generic requirements of the UNLV Graduate College, applicants will be expected to meet the following criteria:

Earned a bachelor's and Master's of Public Health (MPH) or a master's degree in an appropriate field from a regionally accredited university. Applicants educated outside of the United States will need to demonstrate proof of equivalent education and advanced degrees.

A minimum grade point average of 3.0 (4.0=A) earned in a masters' program of study. The most competitive students will have a master's level GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Applicants must present competitive Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores on verbal, quantitative and analytical measures. GRE scores will be assessed relative to other applicants in the pool, as well as relative to other graduate programs at UNLV. The exam must have been taken with the institutions' graduate school/college requirements. The most competitive students will have a combined verbal/quantitative GRE score of 1200 (old test) /300 (new test) or higher. The GRE is required for all applicants.

Letters of Recommendation- Three (3) letters of recommendation are required from faculty and other individuals who can evaluate the applicant's motivation, academic capability, scholarship potential, and personal goals for doctoral study.

Written Self-Presentation- Applicants must submit for review a written statement of personal career, educational and scholarship goals including identification of research interests. The most competitive students will clearly identify their plan for dissertation research and its contribution to the field of public health.

A current CV or resume must be submitted.

Interview-Applicants may be asked to participate in an interview with member(s) of the Admissions Committee, either in person or by telephone. Applicants may also be asked to submit a writing sample.

Applicants must identify an Area of Emphasis (subplan) at the time of application.

All students are required to take or have taken at the Master's level the following 15 credits or their approved equivalent:

EOH 740 - Fundamentals of Environmental Health or HED 705 - Theoretical Foundations in Health Promotion

EAB 703 - Biostatistical Methods for the Health Sciences

EAB 705 - Epidemiology and Public Health

HCA 701 - U.S. Health Care System: Programs and Policies

HED 720 - Program Planning and Grant Writing in Health Promotion

All domestic and international applicants must review and follow the Graduate College Admission and Registration Requirements.

Students are accepted into a degree program as described in the Graduate Catalog. The faculty and corresponding sub-disciplines and sub-plans within the described programs are subject to change at any time.

Plan Requirements

See Subplan Requirements below.

Subplan 1: Global and Environmental Health Track

Subplan 2: Social Behavioral Health Track

Subplan 3: Epidemiology and Biostatistics Track

Subplan 4: Health Service Management and Policy Track

Subplan 1 Requirements: Global and Environmental Health Track

Total Credits Required: 54

Course Requirements

Core Requirements – Credits: 18

Complete 18 credits by completing all courses below:

EOH 790 Doctoral Seminar	3
EAB 756 Epidemiology and Research	3
EAB 791 Intermediate Biostatistics for Public Health Research	3
EOH 791 Implementation Science for Global Health	3
HCA 791 Policy Analysis of Health Care Delivery and Financing	3
HED 791 Community Based Participatory Research Methods	3

Proposal Writing Courses – Credits: 3

Complete 3 credits by completing a minimum of one of the following courses:

EAB 720 Grant Writing for Epidemiology and Public Health Research	3
HED 720 Program Planning and Grant Writing in Health Promotion	3
HSC 703 Interdisciplinary Grant Writing for Health Sciences	3
NURS 779 Writing a Research Grant Application	3

Concentration Courses – Credits: 6

Complete 6 credits by completing a minimum of two of the following courses:

EOH 711 Diseases that Changed the World	3
EOH 717 Food Safety and Public Health	3
EOH 747 Transmission of Infectious Disease	3
EOH 757 Parasitology and Public Health	3
EOH 767 Airborne Pathogens and Human Health	3
EOH 769 Pollution and Health	3
EOH 777 Emerging Infectious Disease	3
EOH 796 Independent Study in Environmental Health	1 – 3
ENV 711 Risk Assessment and Risk Management	3
ENV 712 Environmental Risk Decision Making	3
HPS 680 Industrial Hygiene	3

Elective Courses – Credits: 12

Complete 12 credits of advisor-approved coursework. A list of potential courses is below, however, additional relevant courses offered through the university may be approved by your advisor.

EAB 618 Applied Geographic Information Systems in Public Health	3
ENV 725 Quantitative Methods for Environmental Science	3
EOH 744 Mixed Methods Research for Public Health	3
HCA 715 Health Services Research Methods	3
HSC 702 Translational Research Design	3
EAB 753 Nonparametric Statistics for Public Health	3
EAB 773 Survival Analysis for Public Health	3
EAB 783 Multivariate Methods for the Health Sciences	3
EOH 704 Research Integrity & Ethics	3
EOH 709 Scientific/Technical Writing for the Health and Life Sciences	3
EOH 765 Seminar in Environmental Justice and Public Health	3
EAB 715 Chronic Disease Epidemiology	3
EOH 705 Social Epidemiology	3
EOH 713 Public Health Law	3
EOH 732 Children, Development, Health, and the Environment	3
HED 761 Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health	3
HCA 718 Health Care Economics	3
HED 730 Program Evaluation in Health Promotion	3
EOH 795 Special Topics in Public Health	3

Prospectus/Dissertation – Credits: 15

Prior to advancing to candidacy, complete 3 credits of EOH-797. Once advanced to candidacy, Complete 12 credits of EOH 799.

EOH 799 Dissertation	1-9
EOH 797 Dissertation Prospectus	1-9

Degree Requirements

See Plan Degree Requirements below.

Graduation Requirements

See Plan Graduation Requirements below.

Subplan 2 Requirements: Social Behavioral Health Track

Total Credits Required: 54

Course Requirements

Core Requirements – Credits: 18

Complete 18 credits by completing all courses below:

EOH 790 Doctoral Seminar	3
EAB 756 Epidemiology and Research	3
EAB 791 Intermediate Biostatistics for Public Health Research	3
EOH 791 Implementation Science for Global Health	3
HCA 791 Policy Analysis of Health Care Delivery and Financing	3
HED 791 Community Based Participatory Research Methods	3

Concentration Courses – Credits: 6

Complete 6 credits of Social Behavioral concentration-specific courses by completing all courses below:

HED 762 Advanced applications of social and behavioral theories	3
HED 763 Measurement and Scale Development in Social and Behavioral Health	3

Elective Courses – Credits: 9

Complete 9 credits of advisor-approved elective courses.

HED 777 Women's Health Across Time and the Life Course	(Inactive- Hidden)	3
HED 760 Technology in Health Promotion		3

Methods Courses – Credits: 3

Complete 3 credits by completing one of the following courses:

EOH 744 Mixed Methods Research for Public Health		3
EOH 715 Qualitative & Field Methods for Public Health		3

Research Courses – Credits: 3

Complete 3 credits by completing one of the following courses:

EAB 733 Survey Sampling for the Health Sciences		3
EAB 743 Experimental Design for the Health Sciences		3
EAB 753 Nonparametric Statistics for Public Health		3
EAB 763 Linear Statistical Models		3
EAB 773 Survival Analysis for Public Health		3
EAB 783 Multivariate Methods for the Health Sciences		3
EOH 705 Social Epidemiology		3
HED 761 Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health		3

Prospectus/Dissertation – Credits: 15

Prior to advancing to candidacy, complete 3 credits of EOH-797. Once advanced to candidacy, Complete 12 credits of EOH 799.

EOH 799 Dissertation		1-9
EOH 797 Dissertation Prospectus		1-9

Degree Requirements

See Plan Degree Requirements below.

Graduation Requirements

See Plan Graduation Requirements below.

Subplan 3 Requirements: Epidemiology and Biostatistics Track

Total Credits Required: 54

Course Requirements

Core Requirements – Credits: 18

Complete 18 credits by completing all courses below:

EOH 790 Doctoral Seminar	3
EAB 756 Epidemiology and Research	3
EAB 791 Intermediate Biostatistics for Public Health Research	3
EOH 791 Implementation Science for Global Health	3
HCA 791 Policy Analysis of Health Care Delivery and Financing	3
HED 791 Community Based Participatory Research Methods	3

Epidemiology Courses – Credits 6

Complete 6 credits by completing two of the following courses:

EAB 715 Chronic Disease Epidemiology	3
EAB 716 The Epidemiology of Obesity	3
EAB 725 Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases	3
EOH 747 Transmission of Infectious Disease	3
EAB 755 Cancer Epidemiology	3

Biostatistics Course – Credits: 6

Complete 6 credits by completing two of the following courses:

EAB 618 Applied Geographic Information Systems in Public Health	3
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EAB 730 Introduction to Statistical Computing with SAS	3
EAB 733 Survey Sampling for the Health Sciences	3
EAB 743 Experimental Design for the Health Sciences	3
EAB 753 Nonparametric Statistics for Public Health	3
EAB 763 Linear Statistical Models	3
EAB 773 Survival Analysis for Public Health	3
EAB 783 Multivariate Methods for the Health Sciences	3
EAB 788 Meta-Analysis in Public Health	3
EAB 770 Applied Statistical Methods for Categorical Data	3

Elective Courses – Credits: 9

Complete an additional 9 credits of advisor-approved coursework from either the Epidemiology or the Biostatistics courses above.

Prospectus/Dissertation – Credits: 15

Prior to advancing to candidacy, complete 3 credits of EOH-797. Once advanced to candidacy, Complete 12 credits of EOH 799.

EOH 799 Dissertation	1-9
EOH 797 Dissertation Prospectus	1-9

Degree Requirements

See Plan Degree Requirements below.

Graduation Requirements

See Plan Graduation Requirements below.

Subplan 4 Requirements: Health Service Management and Policy Track

Total Credits Required: 54

Course Requirements

Core Requirements – Credits: 18

Complete 18 credits by completing all courses below:

EOH 790 Doctoral Seminar	3
EAB 756 Epidemiology and Research	3
EAB 791 Intermediate Biostatistics for Public Health Research	3
EOH 791 Implementation Science for Global Health	3
HCA 791 Policy Analysis of Health Care Delivery and Financing	3
HED 791 Community Based Participatory Research Methods	3

Concentration Courses – Credits: 9

Complete 9 credits by completing all of the courses below:

HCA 715 Health Services Research Methods	3
HCA 716 Health Care Accounting and Finance	3
HCA 719 Operations and Quality Management of Health Services	3

Research Methods Course – Credits: 3

Complete 3 credits by one of the following courses:

EAB 733 Survey Sampling for the Health Sciences	3
EAB 753 Nonparametric Statistics for Public Health	3
EAB 763 Linear Statistical Models	3
EAB 773 Survival Analysis for Public Health	3
EAB 783 Multivariate Methods for the Health Sciences	3
ECO 772 Econometrics II	3
EOH 715 Qualitative & Field Methods for Public Health	3

Elective Courses – Credits: 9

Complete 9 credits of advisor-approved coursework.

HCA 718 Health Care Economics	3
HCA 730 Strategic Management of Health Services	3

Dissertation – Credits: 15

Prior to advancing to candidacy, complete 3 credits of EOH-797. Once advanced to candidacy, Complete 12 credits of EOH 799.

EOH 799 Dissertation	1-9
EOH 797 Dissertation Prospectus	1-9

Degree Requirements

See Plan Degree Requirements below.

Graduation Requirements

See Plan Graduation Requirements below.

Plan Degree Requirements

A grade point average of at least a 3.0 must be maintained in all courses required for the degree; no grade less than a B in any course is acceptable for curricular completion of the program.

All students are required to complete a written Comprehensive Examination upon completion of the core courses of the program. The examination is designed to assess the student's ability to synthesize knowledge, as demonstrated by the selection and integration of information from several doctoral courses and is evaluated by written discussion in response to examination questions. The Comprehensive Examination may only be repeated once, and must be repeated within one semester of the initial attempt. Students unable to pass the Comprehensive Examination after a second attempt may be separated from the program.

After successful completion of the Comprehensive Exam the student must establish a Dissertation committee. The committee will include at minimum a Chairperson with expertise in the student's Area of Emphasis, two additional committee members from the School of Public Health Sciences, and a Graduate College Representative. Students may also elect to add approved, external committee member with expertise in the student's selected area of emphasis.

Upon completion of all required course work other than dissertation, each student must take the Oral Qualifying Examination that will focus on those areas of knowledge most relevant to the student's dissertation topic. The Oral Qualifying examination may only be repeated once, and must be repeated within one semester of the initial attempt. If a student fails a second attempt, the student may be separated from the program.

Upon successful completion of both the Written Comprehensive and Oral Qualifying examinations, the student will present a dissertation prospectus to their committee and an oral presentation to peers and faculty. The prospectus is a written presentation of the student's dissertation research plan. The oral presentation is a public presentation of the research plan. The prospectus becomes the agreement for

the student's dissertation research. Upon approval of the prospectus, the student advances to candidacy, can register for dissertation credits, and begin their independent research.

Upon completion of the dissertation, the student must pass a final oral examination that involves the public presentation and successful defense of their dissertation study. All advisory committee members must be present for the final defense and may question the student following presentation of the study. The defense will be scheduled and conducted in accordance with the Graduate College/ School's policies for dissertation completion. It is the student's responsibility to file all required forms and written materials with the Graduate College in a timely manner.

Plan Graduation Requirements

The student must submit all required forms to the Graduate College and then apply for graduation up to two semesters prior to completing their degree requirements.

The student must submit and successfully defend their dissertation by the posted deadline. The defense must be advertised and is open to the public.

Student must submit Their approved, properly formatted dissertation to the Graduate College, and submit the approved electronic version to ProQuest by the posted deadline.