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Admissions FAQ's

LSU Health NEW ORLEANS School of Public Health

Do I need to have a specific degree to study Public Health?

No — you do not need a specific undergraduate degree to study Public Health. Students entering our Master of Public Health (MPH) and Master of Science in Biostatistics (MS) programs come from a wide range of academic backgrounds, and there are no required undergraduate majors or prerequisite courses for admission. Some programs do recommend coursework that may help students be more successful once enrolled. For example, applicants to the Biostatistics program are encouraged to have completed courses such as calculus and linear algebra.

For applicants interested in our PhD programs, previous graduate study in Public Health is preferred, but not required. In some cases, students who do not meet all entry requirements may still be considered for admission with an approved remediation plan developed in coordination with program faculty.

Do I need to know which Public Health discipline I want to study first?



Within our MPH program, there are four concentrations or disciplines. Each tackles similar Public Health issues, but do so in ways unique to that discipline. Depending on your future career goals and your interests, having a concentration in one area over the others will help focus your career options.

If you are on the fence about which Public Health discipline is right for you, don't worry. We have plenty of resources on hand, including opportunities to speak directly with faculty and students to learn more, as well as extensive information available on our website: www.sph.lsuhsc.edu.

How do I apply and what will I need?

The LSU School of Public Health coordinates the application process through the Schools of Public Health Application Service (SOPHAS), a centralized admissions system. A list of requirements for the school (MPH, MS and Ph.D. programs) include:

- SOPHAS application
- Official Transcripts for all previous studies
- Statement of Purpose
- Resume or CV
- Letters of recommendation (3)
- GRE for PhD programs only

Are there additional application requirements for international students?

In addition to the minimum requirements established for the program of interest, international students must also submit:

1. Current scores from the academic version of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the English Language Testing System (IELTS). At this time, Duolingo testing is not accepted. For those international applicants who have completed a degree in the U.S., language assessment may be waived.

2. An official World Education Service (WES) or Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE) report. The WES and ECE convert educational credentials into their US equivalents. They describe each transcript, certificate, diploma or degree that you have earned and state its academic equivalency in the US.

How do I apply for scholarships?

For MPH/MS students

In order to qualify for a scholarship, applicants must have all application materials in by the priority scholarship deadlines for each semester. A list of these deadline dates can be found on our website in the "Tuition and Aid" section. No additional forms are needed.

For PhD students

A limited number of assistantships are available to full-time students pursuing a PhD in Community Health Sciences, Biostatistics and Epidemiology. Assistantships entail a commitment of up to twenty hours per week working with faculty on research projects or in a teaching capacity.



Are there opportunities to work on campus?

Our students may find worker opportunities on the LSU Health campus once they arrive in New Orleans. A student worker position allows them to work up to 20 hours per week and earn above minimum wage. These positions may be on research projects, administration, or operational support activities in the School of Public Health, or other Schools and units in the Health Sciences Center. Discussions take place when students arrive on campus at the start of their program.

What is the current price of tuition?

MPH Full-Time	Fall	Spring	Summer
LA Residents	$5,325.16	$5,325.16	$2,662.08
Non-Residents	$8,647.03	$8,647.03	$4,323.02
M.S. & PhD Full-Time	**Fall**	**Spring**	**Summer**
LA Residents	$5,263.50	$5,263.50	$2,811.77
Non-Residents	$9,464.25	$9,464.25	$4,570.40

OCIS in Baton Rouge MPH Full-Time	Fall	Spring	Summer
LA Residents	$5,890.86	$5,894.61	$2,957.78
Non-Residents	$9,212.73	$9,216.48	$4,618.72

Is Public Health considered a STEM program?

While many of the classes you will take in these programs certainly fall within the STEM programming guidelines, there is no accrediting body in the United States that officially deems programs as STEM certified.

The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) does recognize some of the disciplines within Public Health as designated STEM programs, which qualify certain degrees to fulfill their extension requirement for visas. It is important to note that a generalized MPH degree program does not appear on their list to qualify. For more information, review **https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov**.

What if I need more information?

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any additional questions or if you would like to arrange a time to chat with current faculty or students about their experiences here at the LSU School of Public Health.

Please feel free to check out our Admissions Hub at: **https://publichealth.lsuhsc.edu/admissions/**

