**Section 23**

# College of

# Public Health



**Degrees, Programs, Concentrations**

**Doctor of Public Health (Dr.P.H.) Degree**

Public Health

Advanced Practice Leadership in Public Health (APL)

**Public Health program**

**Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) Degree**

**DEGREE INFORMATION**

**Program Admission Deadlines:**

**Fall:** November 15

Annually

**Minimum Total Hours:** 43 post-masters

**Program Level:** Doctoral

**CIP Code:** 51.2201

**Dept Code:** DEA

**Program (Major/College): DPH** PH

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**College:** Public Health

**Contact Information:** [preadmissions@health.usf.edu](mailto:preadmissions@health.usf.edu )

**PROGRAM INFORMATION**

The **Doctor of Public Health (DrPH)** is a professional, practice-oriented research degree that is granted in recognition of the attainment of a broad set of practice, analytic and evaluative skills, including demonstrated public health leadership skills. The DrPH prepares individuals for leadership roles in practice-based settings such as health departments, non-profit organizations, health services, international agencies, and community-based organizations. Accordingly, the emphasis of the DrPH is placed on fostering advanced expertise in developing, implementing, and evaluating evidence-based public health practice.

**The DrPH** degree has one concentration in Advanced Practice Leadership in Public Health, with a core and concentration curriculum applicable to four domains of knowledge: Community Engagement, Leadership and Management, Communication and Education, and Evidence-Based Public Health. DrPH student are expected to collaborate with senior public health practitioners as mentors through applied practice experiences, and are required to complete a field-based doctoral project that influences public health programs, policies, or systems. The DrPH requires a minimum of 43 semester hours beyond the Masters degree, with at least 13 credits at the 7000 level.

**Mission**

The mission of the DrPH degree is to prepare practitioners for leadership and advocacy in public health practice through an evidence-based, interdisciplinary approach to understanding and solving public health problems in public and private sectors in the U.S. and worldwide.

**Mode of Delivery**

The USF College of Public Health DrPH degree is completed through a combination of distance-learning and blended courses that include on-campus learning via three one-week DrPH Institutes. Students are expected to attend an Institute in the first semester of their admission, and then in the subsequent two summer semesters. This combination of program delivery formats allows working professionals to broaden their grasp of public health leadership, practice, and research without interrupting their careers.

**Accreditation:**

USF is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of College and Schools. The College of Public Health is accredited by the Council on Education in Public Health (CEPH).

**ADMISSION INFORMATION**

Applicants to the DrPH degree are initially required to complete a SOPHAS application. Once that application is verified by SOPHAS, we will invite the applicant to submit a shortened USF Office of Graduate Studies application. Applicants must meet the University requirements (see Graduate Admissions) as well as the requirements listed below. However, these criteria are not the only basis for admission.

**Program Admission and Documentation Requirements**

1. Applicants must have an MPH, MHA, MSPH, or other relevant Masters degree from an accredited institution with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Applicants must submit transcripts for all college-level coursework, with a transcript evaluation for coursework from foreign institutions.
2. Applicants must submit a GRE test score taken within five (5) years preceding application, or results from an equivalent exam (GMAT, MCAT, DAT, or PCAT, but not LSAT). The GRE score will be compared to the applicant pool and national GRE norms when admission is considered. This requirement can be waived if the student has at least a 3.5 GPA, or has a terminal degree (PhD, ScD, or EdD) from an accredited institution, or an advanced professional degree (MD, DDS, DVM, JD, PharmD, DPT) with licensure in the United States. Any student seeking a waiver must submit a GRE waiver request with supporting documentation.
3. Applicants whose native language is not English or who have not earned a degree in the United States must also submit TOEFL scores earned within two (2) years of the desired term of entry. A minimum total of 79 on the internet-based test, 213 on the computer-based test, or 550 on the paper-based test is required. Applications submitted with TOEFL scores that do not meet the minimum requirements will be denied with no exceptions.
4. Applicants must submit a resume or curriculum vitae, three letters of recommendation, and a personal statement of less than five pages that describes why the applicant wishes to obtain a DrPH degree in Public Health. This document should explain the applicant's public health background, current public health practice interests, and how the DrPH is expected to affect the applicant's current practice.
5. To be admitted, applicants must have a minimum of two years advanced work experience in public health, and must demonstrate public health leadership potential in their statement of purpose and letters of recommendation. Admission also depends on the availability of a Faculty Advisor who can advise the student in their area of interest. The final decision on admission is made by the faculty of the College.
6. Applicants must also be fully prepared to attend three DrPH Institutes on-campus.

**Financial Aid**

Students seeking financial aid should contact the USF financial aid office for federal guidelines. DrPH students are not eligible for a doctoral fellowship in the College of Public Health as it requires admission to a fully on-campus degree program. DrPH students are eligible for current student scholarships and awards that are announced each year. Please see <http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/FinAid.html>.

**DEGREE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

Total minimum hours – 43 credits post-master’s

Common core – 13 hours

Concentration – 12 hours

Electives – 12 hours

Doctoral Project – 6

**Pre-Requisites**

Students are expected to come into the DrPH program with foundational public health knowledge. Students who have an MPH or MHA degree from a CEPH-accredited institution meet this requirement. Students with other degrees meet this requirement if they have taken the equivalent of the MPH core coursework at a CEPH-accredited institution, or if they take the courses at USF listed below. One or more of these pre-requisite courses can be waived if the student can demonstrate prior learning or work experience that fulfills the same knowledge and competency goals.

**Pre-Requisite Public Health Core Courses** **9 credit hours**

PHC 6588 History and Systems of Public Health

PHC 6756 Population Assessment I

PHC 6757 Population Assessment II

**Total Minimum Program Hours minimum 43 credit hours**

The total minimum hours required are 43 credit hours post-masters. At least 13 hours have to be completed at the 7000 level. A maximum of 12 hours can be transferred into the program, if the coursework was completed post-masters. Students may seek approval to waive courses if they can demonstrate prior learning or work experience that fulfills the same knowledge and competency goals, but must take other courses for an equivalent amount of credits.

**Doctoral Common Public Health Core Courses - 13 credit hours**

PHC 7935/7116 1 Introduction to Public Health Doctoral Training

PHC 7103 3 Transforming Public Health Practice

PHC 7154 3 Evidence-Informed Public Health I

PHC 7149 1 Practical Applications II: Public Health Leadership

PHC 7934 3 Writing for Scholarly Publications in Health Sciences

HSC 7268 2 Professional Foundations III: Joining the Academy

**Advanced Practice Leadership in Public Health Concentration - 12 credit hours**

PHC 7932 1 Practical Applications I: Policy, Advocacy and Public Health

PHC 7466 1 Health Disparities and Cultural Competency in Public Health

PHC 7119 3 Organizational Behavior in Public Health Systems

PHC 7504 1 Innovative Education in Public Health

PHC 6411 3 Introduction to Social Marketing for Public Health

PHC 7156 3 Evidence-Informed Public Health II

**Electives – 12 credit hours minimum**

These courses can be selected from the COPH online programs: <http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/onlineprograms/>

**Culminating Requirements** **– 6 credit hours minimum**

These lead to a field-based doctoral project that influences public health programs, policies, or systems:

Applied Practice Experiences

Qualifying Exam

PHC 7908 6 Doctoral Project: Specialized Study in Public Health

**CULMINATING REQUIREMENTS**

**Applied Practice Experiences**

All DrPH students will engage in applied practice experiences to advance their leadership and professional skills in public health. Within their courses, students will select at least five DrPH competencies and propose projects in a public health or related organization that will develop these competencies, with advice from a practice-based mentor in the proposed setting. These studies will be jointly planned by the student, the mentor, and the Faculty Advisor, and may consist of one project, or several projects, depending on the scope and competency goals. The final practice experience deliverables must be approved by the Faculty Advisor, verifying that the student has demonstrated achievement of the proposed competencies.

**Doctoral Project Committee**

The student will be assigned one or more Faculty Advisor(s) at the time of admission. The Faculty Advisor(s) will guide the student through the program of study in the initial stages. Within the second year of the program, the student should establish a doctoral project committee. The doctoral project committee will consist of a minimum of one Faculty Chair and one Faculty Member (or two Faculty co-Chairs) from the faculty of the College of Public Health, as well as an external public health professional or practitioner who is a mentor to the student.

**Qualifying Exam**

When the majority of the student’s coursework is satisfactorily completed, the student must pass a qualifying examination. The student is required to submit a concept paper describing the proposed doctoral project, followed by an oral examination that relates the content, approach, and deliverables of the project to the DrPH curriculum domains in the student’s concentration. The examination will be administered and evaluated by the student’s doctoral project committee. The student must enroll in at least two credits in the semester the exam is completed.

**Doctoral Project**

After successfully completing the qualifying examination, the student must complete a field-based doctoral project that is designed to influence programs, policies, or systems applicable to public health practice. The doctoral project must include a minimum of three high-quality, evidence-based deliverables, with at least one written product. The doctoral project must also demonstrate synthesis of competencies across all DrPH curriculum domains in the student’s concentration.

To complete the doctoral project, the student will be required to enroll in a minimum of six credits of PHC 7908: Specialized Study in Public Health. The final doctoral project deliverables must be approved by the doctoral project committee prior to graduation, and the student must be enrolled in a minimum of two credits in the semester the doctoral project is completed and approved.

**Time to Degree**

Students may be able to complete the DrPH program in a minimum of three years, with two years for the coursework and one year for the culminating experiences. All requirements for doctoral degrees must be completed within seven calendar years from the student’s date of admission for doctoral study.

**COURSES**

COPH course syllabi are available here: <https://documents.health.usf.edu/display/COPHHB/Course+Listing>

USF course descriptions are available here: <http://www.ugs.usf.edu/course-inventory/>