

## **Master of Public Health (MPH) Nutrition (Plan C) Graduate Program Assessment**

This program is targeted to students who are interested in seeking out leadership positions in the field of public health. The MPH degree is also frequently used as a stepping stone to medical, dental school, or other graduate programs when combined with a nutrition degree or other undergraduate science degree. Many of the required courses can be taken online to accommodate students who may already be in the workplace.

### **Vision**

The program's vision is to support healthy communities through inclusive collaboration, education, research, and outreach.

### **Mission Statement**

The program's mission is to prepare highly competent public health professionals to lead, innovate, advocate, and educate to improve the health of humans, animals, and the environment.

### **Program Learning Objectives**

- Students will demonstrate knowledge of nutritional epidemiology, social determinants of health, One Health, public health policy, leadership, and program planning/evaluation.
- Students will demonstrate their ability to write grants and communicate effectively through writing and oral presentation.
- Students will demonstrate essential public health skill development through applied practice experiences in governmental, non-governmental, non-profit, industrial and for-profit settings or appropriate university-affiliated settings.
- Students will be prepared for leadership positions within local, state, and federal health agencies, the private industry, and non-profit organizations.

### **Program Values**

1. A commitment to the highest degree of moral and ethical behavior in all interactions.
2. A commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and outreach.
3. A commitment to reducing health disparities and improving the overall health and well-being of communities.
4. A commitment to establishing local and global partnerships that simultaneously promote student learning and improve the health of the community.
5. A commitment to value the diversity among students, faculty, staff, public health professionals, and community members.

## **Program Goals**

1. Provide access to graduate education in public health to nontraditional, diverse, and underserved individuals.
2. Facilitate high-quality, application-based education and experiences that align with the diverse career interests of students.
3. Engage in service that benefits students, alumni, public health professionals, the USU community, and the broader field of public health.
4. Collaborate with public health professionals to conduct research and community outreach to advance public health knowledge and practice.

## **Program Data Driven Outcomes**

1. Graduate students who are ready and able to enter the public health work force or advanced study.
  - a. 80% of graduates will be employed in the field of public health within 1 year of graduation.
  - b. 80% of graduates will complete program requirements in 3 years or less.
  - c. 15% of graduates will be enrolled in advanced degree programs within 5 years of graduation.
2. Graduate students who have received public health experiences, in addition to required coursework, that align with their career goals.
  - a. 15% of students will have completed international fieldwork experience prior to graduation
  - b. 25% of students will have had assistantships, TA positions, or preceptor positions prior to graduation
3. Graduate students who are independent, capable, and prepared to function in leadership positions in public health.
  - a. 80% of students will be rated as 'above average' on employer surveys 1 year after graduation.
  - b. 80% of graduates will report being 'well prepared' for public health leadership positions in 1-year alumni surveys.

### Master of Public Health (MPH) Nutrition Outcomes Data

| Academic Year Started Program | # of incoming students | Graduate students who are ready and able to enter the public health work force or advanced study. |  |  | Graduate students who are independent, capable, and prepared to function in leadership positions in public health. |   | Graduate students who have received public health experiences, in addition to required coursework, that align with their career goals. |  |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|
|                               |                        | 80% of graduates who seek employment will be employed in the field within 1 year of graduation    | 80% of graduates will complete program requirements in 3 years | 15% of graduates will be enrolled in advanced degree programs within 5 years of graduation | 80% of students will be rated as 'above average' on employer surveys 1 year after graduation~                      | 80% of graduates will report being 'well prepared' for public health leadership positions in 1-year alumni surveys~ | 15% of students will have completed international fieldwork experience prior to graduation   | 25% of students will have had assistantships, TA positions, or preceptor positions prior to graduation |
| *2017-2018                    | 3                      | 100%  | 100%   | TBD  | TBD  | TBD   | 33%  | 66%  |
| 2018-2019                     | 1                      | 100%  | 100%   | TBD  | TBD  | TBD   | 100%   | 0%   |
| 2019-2020                     | 14                     | 88%   | TBD  | TBD  | TBD  | TBD   | 0%   | 14%  |
| 2020-2021                     | 11                     | TBD   | TBD  | TBD  | TBD  | TBD   | 8%   | 33%  |
| 2021-2022                     | 21                     | TBD   | TBD  | TBD  | TBD  | TBD   | 19%  | 10%  |
| 2022-2023                     | 22                     | TBD   | TBD  | TBD  | TBD  | TBD   | TBD  | TBD  |

\*The 2017-2018 academic year was the first year of the MPH Nutrition program.

^Does not include potential students starting in the summer of 2023.

~Employer and 1-year alumni surveys are currently being administered. Data will be available in the spring of 2023.

TBD-To be determined. First program graduates were in spring of 2019. As a result, minimal data is currently available to determine effectiveness of reaching program goals and objectives. Additional data will be available in the spring of 2023.

--Data

**MPH Nutrition Competency Mapping**  
**(Based on 2021 Competencies through the Council on Education for Public Health)**

| <b>Competency</b>  | <b>Course number(s) and name(s)</b>  |
|--|--|
| <b>Evidence-based Approaches to Public Health</b>  |  |
| 1. Apply epidemiological methods to settings and situations in public health practice  | NDFS 6200 Nutritional Epidemiology   |
| 2. Select quantitative and qualitative data collection methods appropriate for a given public health context   | NDFS 6200 Nutritional Epidemiology<br>AND<br>NDFS 6240 Program Planning and Evaluation in Public Health                        |
| 3. Analyze quantitative and qualitative data using biostatistics, informatics, computer-based programming, and software, as appropriate  | ADVS 5000: One Health: People, Animals, & the Environment<br>AND<br>NDFS 6240 Program Planning and Evaluation in Public Health |
| 4. Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy or practice   | NDFS 6200 Nutritional Epidemiology   |
| <b>Public Health &amp; Health Care Systems</b>   |  |
| 5. Compare the organization, structure, and function of health care, public health, and regulatory systems across national and international settings  | NDFS 6550 Public Health Policy and Advocacy  |
| 6. Discuss the means by which structural bias, social inequities and racism undermine health and create challenges to achieving health equity at organizational, community and systemic levels | NDFS 6810 Social Determinants of Health  |
| <b>Planning &amp; Management to Promote Health</b>   |  |
| 7. Assess population needs, assets, and capacities that affect communities' health   | NDFS 6240 Program Planning and Evaluation in Public Health   |
| 8. Apply awareness of cultural values and practices to the design, implementation, or critique of public health policies or programs   | NDFS 6810 Social Determinants of Health  |
| 9. Design a population-based policy, program, project, or intervention   | NDFS 6010 Hunger Issues and Solutions  |
| 10. Explain basic principles and tools of budget and resource management   | NDFS 6280 Public Health Administration and Leadership  |
| 11. Select methods to evaluate public health programs  | NDFS 6240 Program Planning and Evaluation in Public Health   |
| <b>Policy in Public Health</b>   |  |
| 12. Discuss the policy-making process, including the roles of ethics and evidence  | NDFS 6550 Public Health Policy and Advocacy  |

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| 13. Propose strategies to identify stakeholders and build coalitions and partnerships for influencing public health outcomes                      | NDFS 6280 Public Health Administration and Leadership    |
| 14. Advocate for political, social, or economic policies and programs that will improve health in diverse populations                             | NDFS 6550 Public Health Policy and Advocacy              |
| 15. Evaluate policies for their impact on public health and health equity   | NDFS 6550 Public Health Policy and Advocacy              |
| <b>Leadership</b>   |  |
| 16. Apply leadership and/or management principles to address a relevant issue   | NDFS 6280 Public Health Administration and Leadership    |
| 17. Apply negotiation and mediation skills to address organizational or community challenges  | NDFS 6280 Public Health Administration and Leadership    |
| <b>Communication</b>  |  |
| 18. Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors   | NDFS 6230 Communicating Current Topics in Nutrition      |
| 19. Communicate audience-appropriate (i.e., non-academic, non-peer audience) public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation | NDFS 6230 Communicating Current Topics in Nutrition      |
| 20. Describe the importance of cultural competence in communicating public health content   | NDFS 6230 Communicating Current Topics in Nutrition      |
| <b>Interprofessional Practice*</b>  |  |
| 21. Integrate perspectives from other sectors and/or professions to promote and advance population health   | ADVS 5000 One Health: People, Animals, & the Environment |
| <b>Systems Thinking</b>   |  |
| 22. Apply a systems thinking tool to visually represent a public health issue in a format other than standard narrative                           | NDFS 6810 Social Determinants of Health                  |

| <b>MPH Nutrition Concentration Competencies</b>  | <b>Course number(s) and name(s)</b>        |
|--|--|
| 1. Inform public health practice through analysis of peer-reviewed research in a specific area of public health nutrition.       | NDFS 6210 Advanced Public Health Nutrition |
| 2. Discuss the role agriculture or nutrition plays in prevention and treatment of significant chronic diseases or food security. | NDFS 6010 Hunger Issues and Solutions      |
| 3. Assess multiple perspectives of a topic in public health nutrition using peer reviewed research to substantiate claims.       | NDFS 6210 Advanced Public Health Nutrition |
| 4. Design, implement or evaluate an evidence-  | NDFS 6010 Hunger Issues and Solutions      |

|   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| based public health nutrition intervention.   |                                     |
| 5. Accurately disseminate public health nutrition original research findings to a general audience. | NDFS 6600 Current Topics in Obesity |

### **Assessment Planning and Feedback**

As of August 1, 2022 the MPH program is considered an applicant of the Council on Education for Public Health. MPH Nutrition assessments and general program evaluation follow CEPH requirements and will be held to CEPH standards. CEPH will provide us with detailed feedback on our assessment efforts during the accreditation process. MPH program faculty meet monthly to discuss the program curriculum, improvements to program evaluation, and other program/student concerns. MPH faculty will review/edit the assessments before they are administered, starting each year. MPH faculty collect data on specific assessments that fulfil the CEPH competencies. The CEPH self study is due July 26, 2024.

### **Assessment Implementation**

The program conducts a variety of assessments to collect data from students recent graduates and stakeholders including: Exit Interviews, MPH Exit Survey, 1 year Alumni Survey, Preceptor Evaluation, Applied Practice Experience Progress and Completion Reports, Stakeholder and Employer survey. The and 1 Year Alumni Survey and the Stakeholder and Employer survey (conducted by Hanover) are currently being administered. Data will be available in spring 2023. Data are also collected from our Student Advisory Board and Advisory Board. Additional data is maintained via an MPH student database that is updated as needed.

### **How Results are Used**

Data collected from assessments are compiled and discussed by MPH faculty in monthly meetings. Any changes or modifications will be decided on as a group and will be made before the next academic year. Program/course changes and modifications are documented accordingly.