

HEALTH SCIENCE

Department Website: <http://www.nmsu.edu/~hlthdpt/>
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S.D. Arnold, Ph.D. (Colorado State U.) – environmental and occupational health; J. M. Booker, Ph.D. (Florida State U.)-social and behavioral determinants, evaluation, epidemiology, health policy, health data and surveillance systems; J.E. Brandon, Ph.D., C.H.E.S. (Southern Illinois U.) – border health issues, community health education, health-related behavior change, problem-based learning, rehabilitation; R. W. Buckingham, Dr.P.H. (Yale)-hospice care, HIV/AIDS, epidemiology; S. Forster-Cox, Ph.D. (U. of New Mexico) – community health education, health promotion, non-profit organizations, rural health; M. Hussain, Ph.D. (Manchester U., England)-statistics, biostatistics; C. T. Kozel, Ph.D., C.H.E.S. (U. of New Mexico)-community health education, health policy analysis, administration; C. Kratzke, Ph.D., C.H.E.S. (Old Dominion U.)-community health education, health disparities, cancer; R. Palacios, Ph.D. (U. of Texas at El Paso)-stress, disease outcomes, program evaluation; S. P. Rao, Ph.D. C.H.E.S. (Texas Women’s U.)-domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, addictions, community health education; J. Robinson III, Ed.D.,FAAHE (U. of Northern Colorado) - health education; S.L. Wilson, Ph.D. (Southern Methodist U.)- health policy and administration, anthropology and public health, rural health, international health, health disparities; M. Young, Ph.D. (Texas A&M) - health education.

The Department of Health Science offers the Master of Public Health degree (M.P.H.) in community health education, designed to prepare public health professionals in the breadth of public health practice while also including in-depth preparation in community health education. The mission of the M.P.H. program is to provide academic excellence in educating public health professionals who will provide competent leadership, innovation, and technical expertise at local, state, national, and international levels, and in particular with border health problems in rural communities along the U.S.-Mexico border. The degree program prepares public health professionals to function in a variety of settings, including health programs at the local, state, and federal government levels; profit and nonprofit organizations and agencies; worksite settings; and educational institutions. The MPH program is fully accredited by the Council for Education on Public Health (CEPH).

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Students may be admitted on a full-time or part-time basis in either the traditional on-campus program or in the fully on-line version of the program, which is administered via distance education technologies. The on-line program has curriculum and degree requirements in common with the on-campus program, and is covered by the same CEPH accreditation. All coursework for the on-line degree can be completed from off-campus utilizing web-based technologies and is aimed at meeting the needs of working students and others for whom a campus-based program is not an option. The on-line program is intended primarily for New Mexico residents, and secondarily for residents of the Southwest United States. In addition to meeting all admissions requirements of the Graduate School, applicants must meet the following departmental requirements:

- Have completed a minimum of 6 semester credits in social and behavioral sciences, 3 semester credits in statistical methods, 4 semester credits in biology or a related field, and 3 semester credits in a foundations of public health course, or agree to successfully complete MPH 500

within the first year. Students who lack any of these requirements may have to complete make-up course work prior to being fully admitted to the program.

- Complete a short bio-sketch and an essay describing the applicant's reasons for wishing to pursue the M.P.H. degree at NMSU. Any paid or volunteer work performed in a public health or related agency setting should also be described in detail, including length of work and descriptions of the work typically performed as part of the job.
- Scores from a recent administration of the GRE are required (verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing scores).
- Submit at least two letters of reference from former faculty and/or employers.

Admissions information and the departmental application forms may be requested by writing the M.P.H. Program Coordinator, Department of Health Science, MSC 3HLS, NMSU, P.O. Box 30001 Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001 or obtained via the website: www.nmsu.edu/~hlthdpt.

MPH PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (REQUIRED OF ALL MPH STUDENTS)

I. Public Health Core Courses (18 credits)

MPH 500, Orientation to Public Health	3
MPH 510, Community and Psychosocial Aspects of Public Health	3
MPH 520, Biostatistical Applications in Public Health	3
MPH 530, Epidemiological Approaches to Disease Control and Prevention	3
MPH 540, Public Health Services Design and Operation	3
MPH 550, Environmental Public Health Issues ...	3

II. Community Health Education Core Courses (15 credits)

MPH 570, Foundations of Public Health Education	3
MPH 572, Techniques of Health Communication/Education	3
MPH 573, Community Organization in Public Health	3
MPH 574, Health Program Planning, Evaluation, and Research	3
MPH 579, Research and Resources in Community Health	3

III. Cultural Foundation Course (3 credits)

Select one course from the cultural foundation series numbered MPH 560-MPH 569

IV. Additional Requirements (4 credits)

MPH 596, Field Experience	3
MPH 597, Graduate Public Health Seminar	1

V. Thesis and Nonthesis Options

Choose one of the following options in consultation with your graduate adviser.

Thesis Option

MPH 599, Master's Thesis	4-6
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Nonthesis Option

Elective	3
Elective	3
Elective	3

Note: Elective courses may include other MPH courses or 500-level courses from other departments.

The thesis option requires a total of 44-46 credit hours, while the nonthesis option requires 49 credit hours. Final examination for the nonthesis option includes both oral and written questions pertaining to the student's graduate course work. Final examination for the thesis option consists of an oral defense of the thesis and related course work.

Selected elective and option courses may also be available during summer sessions. Those MPH students who can document to the satisfaction of the MPH program coordinator that they have completed the equivalent of one year's full-time, either paid or volunteer work in a public health or closely related health agency may petition the student's faculty advisor, MPH program coordinator, and department head to substitute 2 of the 3 credits of MPH 596 Field Experience with 2 credits of elective coursework.

All MPH students must comply with the Student Code of Conduct for the Department of Health Science.