



# SPH MASTERS DEGREES

<http://www.uic.edu/sph/academics.htm>

## **MPH – MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

The Master of Public Health (MPH) is the basic professional degree offered by the School of Public Health. It is designed to ensure that upon graduation the student has a general understanding of the broad field of public health and a specific competence in a selected public health area. It is intended to prepare students for public health practice or for continued specialized education through matriculation in a doctoral program.

The MPH degree program is flexible in order to permit an interface between a student's past experience and future career goals. Thus, a student with three or more years of previous experience in a public health-related field who intends to pursue a public health career in the same professional area may matriculate in a 42 semester hour Professional Enhancement Program, whereas the student with limited or no health background will matriculate in an extended Comprehensive Program. Both programs comprise four components: (1) required courses, (2) a field internship (usually during the summer semester), waivable on the basis of professional public health experience, (3) electives, and (4) a capstone experience that requires students to synthesize and integrate knowledge acquired in course work and other learning experiences and to apply theory and principles in a situation that approximates some aspect of professional practice.

Opportunities also exist to earn joint degrees in public health and business administration, medicine, dentistry, nursing, veterinary medicine, or a coordinated degree in law.

In addition, a professional enhancement MPH program is offered at a regional site at the UIC College of Medicine at Peoria (UICOM-Peoria). The degree is offered through the UIC School of Public Health's Community Health Sciences Division in coordination with UICOM-Peoria and the UIC College of Nursing, Peoria Regional Program. The program complements the UICOM-Peoria Program in Population and Community Health. For further information, contact the Regional Program Director at 309-671-3447: Mary Ellen Simpson, PhD, Director, Program in Population and Community Health and Director of the Regional MPH Program at [msimps2@uic.edu](mailto:msimps2@uic.edu)

### **Careers for the MPH Graduate**

Careers for the MPH graduate are widely varied with options determined by the student's background, goals, and study discipline. Careers include: public health practice in local, state, and national health agencies; administration of health care systems; management of professional, volunteer, and advocacy organizations; health data collection and analysis; health policy formulation; investigation and control of environmental pollutants; planning, management, and evaluation of population-based programs; and coordination of health education and service initiatives in both the public and private sectors.

## **MS - MASTER OF SCIENCE**

The Master of Science (MS) degree in Public Health Sciences is an academic degree awarded by the University of Illinois at Chicago Graduate College. Academic preparation for the MS is offered through a broad spectrum of public health courses and related research from which students can fashion individualized curricula to meet highly specialized objectives. Integrated with the course work (in all areas except biostatistics) is a research project, the findings of which must be presented in a research thesis. Interdisciplinary studies that combine two or more of the school's program areas are encouraged.

### **Careers for the MS Graduate**

The MS prepares individuals to enter academic, research, or professional careers pertaining to broad areas of public health concern. The MS is the appropriate route for continuing studies leading to the PhD degree. Careers for the MS graduate include participation in scientific investigations or research conducted for public health agencies or private industry and consultation provided to governmental and non-governmental organizations.

## **MHA – MASTER OF HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION**

The UIC Master of Healthcare Administration Program provides the opportunity to develop the skills needed to become a healthcare leader. The MHA Program is designed for: managers, administrators and supervisors already working in healthcare or related fields who want to advance their skills to become executives and leaders; healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, therapists, technicians, other caregivers and researchers) who seek advancement into organizational leadership; and new graduates who want to enter the healthcare field as managers.

The MHA Program is a collaborative effort of the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) School of Public Health's Health Policy and Administration Division and the College of Business Administration.

The program features outstanding faculty with real world experience, and preceptorship experiences with local, regional, and national healthcare organizations located in the Chicago metropolitan area.