Master of Public Health

Benedictine University
Benedictine University’s Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) program is built on a base of core courses that teach the foundations of public health concepts and processes. Each course has a conceptual, factual and skill base. Students are taught by acknowledged experts in the field and learn by acquiring the knowledge and competencies to perform professional functions.

The M.P.H. program prepares students to be public health practitioners who draw on knowledge and skills from a variety of disciplines. The foundation coursework in biostatistics, epidemiology, management, policy, behavioral and social aspects of public health, environmental health and biology provides a scientific and practical base for public health practice. Elective courses may be taken in a variety of areas such as health education, business, research and grant writing.

The M.P.H. degree can be applied in a variety of settings and positions including: administration of private health organizations, social service or public health agencies at the local, state, national and international levels; managers, planners, evaluators or practitioners in community or workplace health promotion programs; and epidemiologists working on cancer surveillance or in the pharmaceutical industry. Current and future health professionals in medicine, nursing, dentistry or pharmacy find the M.P.H. degree provides them with a broader perspective and additional skills which complement their primary discipline.

The M.P.H. degree requires 66 quarter credit hours which includes 48 quarter credit hours of foundation (core) courses, 12 quarter credit hours of elective courses, and an internship/capstone experience of 6 quarter credit hours (240 contact hours).

The academic calendar is organized into four quarters. Students may be admitted any time prior to the start of any of these quarters and may follow either a full- or part-time program. Classes are taught during evenings, weekends and online.

The Benedictine M.P.H. program is fully accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health.

Benedictine University’s Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) program combines the foundation disciplines of public health with a high degree of responsiveness to local needs and changing circumstances. Throughout its offerings, the M.P.H. program seeks to produce graduates who will contribute to meeting the public health and health care needs of tomorrow. To that end, we support the qualifications of our students academically, professionally and personally.

Program Overview

Certificates

Certificates are offered to those who are interested in acquiring a specialized set of skills and may or may not choose to continue in a degree program.

Certificates, which are offered in Emergency Preparedness, Epidemiology, Health Education and Promotion, and Health Management and Policy, appeal to mid-career professionals and to students new to the field of public health.

NOTE: Electives used to fulfill a certificate may only count once and may not be used for another certificate.

Before teaching at Benedictine, Georgeen Polyak, Ph.D., helped to enact one of the first smoking bans in Illinois. She was instrumental in developing a community health center in Joliet and now serves as a site reviewer for the national board which accredits health departments. She believes that policy change is the most impactful way to improve population health. Polyak does more than talk. She gets involved. Just ask her students.

Read the rest of her story at ben.edu/OurStories.
Dual Degree Options

Combining an M.P.H. degree with a Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.), Master of Science (M.S.) in Management Information Systems, M.S. in Management and Organizational Behavior or an M.S. in Nutrition and Wellness prepares students to take on leadership roles and pursue a myriad of career opportunities.

• The M.P.H./M.B.A. dual degree adds a comprehensive business core to the M.P.H. program.

• The M.P.H./M.S. in Management Information Systems option is designed for professionals who will be responsible for managing information resources and providing decision support in health organizations.

• The M.P.H./M.S. in Management and Organizational Behavior dual degree program enhances the M.P.H. curriculum with coursework focusing on organizational management and human resource skills.

• The M.P.H./M.S. in Nutrition and Wellness dual degree integrates an applied foundation in nutrition and health risk assessment, motivation and intervention with community health processes.

Dual degree programs generally require 96 quarter credit hours, separate application and admission to each degree program and the completion of all requirements for both degrees.

Dual Degrees

Curriculum

Master of Public Health Program Competencies:

The required core courses in the M.P.H. program are designed to provide students with a broad range of competencies.

What the graduate of the M.P.H. program knows and can do:

The overall approach:
• Apply a public health systems approach to solve population health problems.

The scientific method:
• Apply basic statistical methods to address, analyze and solve problems in public health.
• Analyze patterns of disease and injury in populations to prevent and control health problems.
• Apply fundamental research principles and methods to improve population health.

Concepts, skills and values:
• Apply biological principles to disease management, prevention and control.
• Apply management skills to public health practice.
• Apply culturally competent approaches and ethical principles to public health practice, research, policy development and health disparities.

Assessments, plans, programs and policies:
• Develop and evaluate public health interventions based on knowledge of social and behavioral theory.
• Develop, analyze and evaluate policies as a tool to improve population health.
• Analyze and address community health problems through a structured approach, incorporating core public health competencies.
• Apply systematic methods to assess, prevent and control environmental hazards.

Integrating and synthesizing knowledge and skills:
• Demonstrate mastery of public health competencies and course learning in a professional setting.
The Benedictine M.P.H. program is fully accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health.

Faculty

Full-Time Faculty

Elizabeth Bormann, M.P.H., CHES
Clinical Professional Faculty Instructor, Public Health
M.P.H., Northern Illinois University
B.S., Northern Illinois University

W. Susan Cheng, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Department Chair, Public Health
Ph.D., University of California, San Diego/
San Diego State University
M.P.H., University of California, San Diego/
San Diego State University
B.A., Northwestern University

Alan Gorr, Ph.D.
Professor, Public Health
Ph.D., University of Iowa
M.P.H., University of Illinois at Chicago
M.A., University of Toronto
B.A., University of Iowa

David Milen, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Public Health
Ph.D., Walden University
M.P.H., Walden University
M.S., Indiana State University
B.A., Northern Illinois University
A.A.S., Ivy Tech Community College

Georgeen Polyak, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Public Health
Ph.D., University of Illinois
M.S., University of St. Francis
M.S., Northern Illinois University
B.A., Lewis University

Jude-Marie Alexis Smalec, Dr.P.H.
Assistant Professor, Public Health
Dr.P.H., Tulane University, New Orleans
M.P.H., Tulane University, New Orleans
B.S., Tulane University, New Orleans

Adjunct Faculty – Lisle Campus

Krishna Bhagat, Ph.D.
Julia Dyer, M.D., M.P.H.
Bette Lawrence-Water, M.S.
Sharon Miller, M.P.A., ARRT, NMT
Shefali Mookuncherry, M.P.H.
John Morgan, M.M.
Heather Sipsma, Ph.D.
Sarah Troll, M.P.A.
Alisa Witt, M.P.H., CHES, TTS
Ethan Zelizer, J.D., B.A. SPHR, SHRM, CLRP

Benedictine University is located in Lisle, Illinois, just 25 miles west of Chicago, and has branch campuses in Springfield, Illinois, and Mesa, Arizona. Founded as a Catholic university in 1887, Benedictine enrolls 10,058 students in 56 undergraduate and 20 graduate programs.

The Annual Security Report and Annual Fire Safety Report are available at ben.edu/police.

For more information, call the Enrollment Center at (630) 829-6300, email admissions@ben.edu or visit ben.edu.

Benedictine University • 5700 College Rd. • Lisle, IL 60532

Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.
2015-2016