Master of Public Health 2005

Nova Southeastern University

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master of public health

college of osteopathic medicine
Nova Southeastern University, synonymous with dynamic innovation and intellectual challenge, is the largest independent not-for-profit university in the southeast, and with an enrollment of more than 23,000 students, is the 10th largest in the United States. Situated on a beautiful 300-acre campus in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the university is experiencing a sustained period of academic growth, fiscal strength, and commitment to the challenges of the 21st century.

In this environment of expansion and stability, the university is capitalizing on its strengths in such areas as academic innovation, comprehensive clinical training, and flexible educational delivery systems.

Founded in 1964 as Nova University, the institution merged with Southeastern University of the Health Sciences in 1994, creating Nova Southeastern University. To date, the institution has graduated more than 76,000 alumni. Fully accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the university awards associate’s, bachelor’s, master’s, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees in a wide range of fields including the health professions, law, business, marine sciences, psychology, social sciences, computer and information sciences, and education.

The university’s programs are administered through 15 academic centers that offer courses at the main campus and at field-based locations throughout Florida; across the nation; and at selected international sites in Europe, Canada, the Pacific Rim, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.

With a budget of more than $220 million per year and an upward trend in enrollment, the university will continue to maintain a solid record of academic and fiscal strength and excellence in teaching and community service, while expanding its mission in research and scholarship.
health professions division

As a student in the Health Professions Division of Nova Southeastern University, you can anticipate a remarkable experience. You will train, study, interact, and share faculty and resources (either campus-based or online) with students from various backgrounds and disciplines. This interdisciplinary approach distinguishes the Health Professions Division as unique and will better prepare you to master your discipline with a sensitivity and understanding of the entire health care system.

The Health Professions Division, with a student body of more than 2,500, is home to six colleges. The College of Osteopathic Medicine, the first one in the southeastern United States, grants the doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.) degree. The College of Osteopathic Medicine also awards the master of public health degree (M.P.H.). The College of Pharmacy offers the doctor of pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree to entry-level, international, and postbaccalaureate students. The College of Optometry is the only institution in the state of Florida that awards the doctor of optometry (O.D.) degree as well as the master in clinical vision research (M.S.). The College of Allied Health and Nursing offers an entry-level bachelor of science degree in nursing (B.S.N.), as well as an R.N. to B.S.N. program and a master of science in nursing (M.S.N.) degree. The college also offers a dual-degree physician assistant program that awards the bachelor of science/master of medical science (B.S./M.M.S.) degrees, and a master of occupational therapy degree (M.O.T.), as well as the entry-level doctor of physical therapy (D.P.T.) degree. Doctoral programs are offered in occupational therapy (Ph.D./O.T., O.T.D.), physical therapy (Ph.D./P.T., D.P.T.), and audiology (Au.D.). In addition to these programs, the College of Allied Health and Nursing offers the bachelor of health science (B.H.Sc.), master of health science (M.H.Sc.), doctor of health science (D.H.Sc.), and Ph.D. in health science degrees—open to midlevel clinicians and allied health professionals. A vascular sonography program that results in a B.H.Sc. degree is now available as well. The College of Medical Sciences grants the master of biomedical sciences (M.B.S.) degree. In the fall of 1997, the College of Dental Medicine admitted its charter class into the doctor of dental medicine (D.M.D.) program.

The Health Professions Division occupies a $70 million complex, covering 21 acres of the university campus. The division includes eight buildings totaling more than 900,000 square feet of space for classrooms, laboratories, offices, the Health Professions Division Library, an outpatient health center, and a pharmaceutical care center. The adjacent 1,500-vehicle parking garage overlooks the Miami Dolphins Training Camp.

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If you wish to be a leader in the health professions, Nova Southeastern University can help you reach your potential.

The Health Professions Division is unique in that it has been developed as an interdisciplinary educational center from its inception. The division was founded on the concept that the interdisciplinary approach to education is beneficial to students of all professions, and by preparing students to work effectively with health care providers from different fields, barriers are broken and patient care is enhanced.

In less than two decades, NSU's Health Professions Division has developed into a multidisciplinary academic health center of international stature. Composed of the Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, Pharmacy, Dental Medicine, Optometry, Allied Health and Nursing, and Medical Sciences, the Health Professions Division has redoubled its commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and community service, while expanding its mission in research and scholarship. Working together, our distinguished faculty members prepare students for an exciting career on tomorrow's dynamic health care team.

Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.
Chancellor
The demand for public health professionals is increasing due to emerging and re-emerging diseases, environmental health concerns, health care reform, proliferation of agents and weapons of mass destruction, sociopolitical factors affecting the nation's health and health care systems, and the expansion of health issues that are global in scope. Professionals with the Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) degree can hold positions of responsibility in a variety of settings. These include health care facilities, county and state health departments, social service agencies, health policy and planning organizations, colleges and universities, community-based health education and health promotion centers, nonprofit volunteer organizations, government and nongovernmental health agencies, international health agencies, and the corporate world. Those who hold the M.P.H. degree may actively participate in the planning, development, implementation, evaluation, and administration of health-related programs and services. Some students pursue further advancement in their graduate education upon completion of the M.P.H. Program.

The M.P.H. Program provides a comprehensive, graduate-level program designed to prepare students to define, critically assess, and resolve public health problems. It emphasizes acquisition of knowledge and skills for promoting health, preventing disease, developing and evaluating programs, enhancing clinical practice, conducting research, and providing community service. The M.P.H. degree is a recognized degree for leadership in health care. The curriculum enhances understanding of the biological, social, environmental, demographic, and political factors that determine the health of the individual and the population.

The instructional program encourages discussion and application of public health principles, practices, and values that use technological and audiovisual tools to enhance learning. Although the program is generalist in nature, students have the opportunity, through a number of elective courses, to enhance their knowledge and skills in a variety of public health disciplines. The program is surrounded by facilities in which learning resources are abundant. Also, many opportunities exist to participate in field experiences at local health departments, community health centers, community service organizations, and with underserved populations.

To meet the rapidly changing needs of health service professionals, including preventive medicine specialists, the curriculum of the M.P.H. Program is structured to accommodate diversity and individual career goals. In addition, students play an active role in the M.P.H. Program, serving on committees, coordinating speakers, and participating in local health fairs and community service projects. The Health Professions Division at Nova Southeastern University promotes interdisciplinary and collaborative activities among its programs and colleges. Diverse and dedicated faculty members from several disciplines guide and facilitate student learning.

Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.S., M.P.H. & T.M., FACOP
Director
Master of Public Health Program
letter from the dean

The Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) Program resides in the College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) of Nova Southeastern University (NSU) within the Health Professions Division (HPD). There is significant collaboration and cooperation between the M.P.H. Program and other NSU-COM programs, such as the Area Health Education Center, the Preventive Medicine Residency Program, and the Department of Rural Medicine. Students in the M.P.H. Program benefit from the resources of the entire college.

The M.P.H. Program has excellent and dedicated faculty members who possess knowledge and experience in a wide variety of areas related to public health. These areas include, but are not limited to, epidemiology, environmental health, health statistics, health administration, health law, health promotion, nutrition, maternal and child health, social sciences, mental health, substance abuse, and preventive medicine.

Our program applies progressive and contemporary approaches to the graduate educational experience. The M.P.H. Program is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health, which is the professional accrediting body for schools and programs of public health in the United States.

NSU-COM and the M.P.H. Program have formal affiliations with many health organizations in the community including county health departments, community health centers, hospitals, health management organizations, and community service agencies. Community leaders and qualified personnel from these organizations participate in the training of our students to assure a strong linkage between academia and public health practice. These relationships ensure that our students are well prepared for the public health workforce.

The interdisciplinary environment of NSU's Health Professions Division provides a unique educational climate. Our M.P.H. students are able to share their knowledge and experiences with students from other HPD programs, which include pharmacy, osteopathic medicine, dental medicine, optometry, physical therapy, nursing, occupational therapy, physician assistant, and health sciences.

In addition, there are opportunities for M.P.H. students to interact with NSU students from other campus colleges such as law, psychology, education, and business. In fact, the M.P.H. student body includes concurrent degree students from several of these NSU schools and colleges.

The M.P.H. student body at NSU is truly diverse by culture, academic discipline, prior professional experience, and place of origin. This contributes to the enriching academic environment in which our students learn.

Dean, College of Osteopathic Medicine
nondegree-seeking students

A nondegree-seeking student is one who wishes to take a course in the public health program, but does not intend to pursue the M.P.H. degree at the time of application. The nondegree-seeking student must provide the following admission requirements in order to take classes in the M.P.H. Program.

- completed application
- nonrefundable application fee of $50
- one letter of recommendation (academic)
- a minimum of a 3.0 overall GPA, with at least 90 hours of undergraduate courses, 30 of which are upper level coursework, with an official transcript showing this coursework

Nondegree-seeking students are limited to taking a maximum of 12 semester hours of public health courses. Enrollment in these courses does not guarantee acceptance into the Master of Public Health Program. If, after taking classes in the M.P.H. Program, a nondegree-seeking student decides to pursue the M.P.H. degree, the student must resubmit an application to the program to become a degree-seeking student and must meet all the requirements for admission to the M.P.H. Program. A nondegree-seeking student who, after taking classes in the M.P.H. Program, decides to apply to be a degree-seeking student may request a transfer of credits taken as a nondegree-seeking student in accordance with the transfer/waiver policy of the M.P.H. Program.

The university reserves the right to modify any requirements on an individual basis as deemed necessary by the dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

The college reserves the right to require the student's withdrawal any time the college deems it necessary to safeguard its standards of scholarship, conduct, and compliance with the regulations, or for such other reasons as deemed appropriate. The student, by his or her act of matriculation, concedes the college this right.

master of public health program mission statement

To improve the health of the population through education, research, and service.

PROGRAM GOALS

- Education: To provide quality education in public health
- Research: To contribute to the discovery and application of knowledge in public health
- Service: To provide public health leadership and service in the community
course of study

The M.P.H. Program offers a Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) degree, which requires a minimum of 40 semester hours of study. This consists of 27 semester hours of required core courses including a public health field experience (6 semester hours) and a minimum of 13 semester hours of public health elective courses. Coursework may be taken on a full-time or part-time basis. M.P.H. students are required to complete their course of study within five years of matriculation. A full-time student may complete all core requirements within two years or less. Students may select from a wide variety of electives. Faculty members use a variety of teaching and learning methodologies and modalities. Classes are offered in the evenings and are usually one evening per week. Additional classes are available—on a limited basis—on weekends and online. Students may take up to 12 semester hours of online classes towards this degree. There are supervised elective field-based courses, projects, and research available to students.

graduation requirements

To be eligible for the M.P.H. degree, the student must:

1. satisfactorily complete, within five years of matriculation, the course of study required for the M.P.H. degree—minimum of 40 semester hours of courses (27 hours of required core courses, including the public health field experience, and 13 hours of electives)

2. satisfactorily meet all financial and library obligations

Upon satisfactory completion of degree requirements, the student must attend, in person, the rehearsal and commencement program, at which time the degree is conferred.
admission requirements

The M.P.H. Program evaluates the overall quality of its applicants, including academic achievement, personal motivation, knowledge about the public health profession, health care and life experiences, and recommendations. Criteria for admissions are as follows:

- The applicant must hold a bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral degree from an accredited college or university.

- A cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or above, on a 4.0 scale, is preferred.

- Public health- or health care-related experience is desirable, but not required.

- If the applicant does not hold a health-related graduate or professional degree, he or she must supply evidence of having taken the GRE, PCAT, OAT, AHPAT, MCAT, DAT, GMAT, or LSAT. The applicant’s scores from these standardized tests must be no more than five years old. Applicants with a health-related graduate or professional degree may be required to submit official test scores upon evaluation of their application.

- Applicants enrolled in another area of study within Nova Southeastern University must be in good academic standing, must provide a letter of recommendation from the dean or program director of the other college or program, and must meet the M.P.H. admission requirements.

- All application materials must be received in a timely manner to enable the Office of Admissions and the admissions committee to process the application promptly.
application procedures

The M.P.H. Program processes applications on a year-round basis. Applicants may apply for matriculation into any one of three semesters (fall, winter, or summer), and may contact the Office of Admissions at (954) 262-1111 or access the M.P.H. Program Website at www.nova.edu/ph for the exact deadline and start dates. All application materials should be sent to:

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
Enrollment Processing Services (EPS)
M.P.H. Program Admissions
3301 College Avenue
P.O. Box 299000
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33329-9905

Applicants must provide the following:

1. a completed application, along with a $50 non-refundable application fee

2. official transcripts of all coursework attempted by the applicant at all colleges and universities

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that arrangements are made for all transcripts to be sent. A final transcript of all the applicant's work up to the time of matriculation must be forwarded to the EPS prior to matriculation.

3. evidence of having taken the GRE, PCAT, OAT, AHPAT, MCAT, DAT, GMAT, or LSAT (if the applicant does not hold a health-related graduate or professional degree)

4. The applicant's scores from these standardized tests must be no more than five years old. Applicants with a health-related graduate or professional degree may be required to submit official test scores upon evaluation of their application.

4. three letters of evaluation—one from a health professional and two from individuals (other than relatives) such as academic advisers, professors, coworkers, or supervisors who are familiar with the applicant's character, scholastic aptitude, and work ethic

5. copies of any professional certificates or other relevant credentials earned by the applicant

Upon receipt of the completed application and required materials, the committee on admissions will review the application and make recommendations to the program director. A personal interview with members of the admissions committee or other M.P.H. faculty members will be required. The applicant's file is reviewed by the committee on admissions, who submit a recommendation to the program director. The director submits recommendations on admission to the dean. The final decision on admission is made by the dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine.
### Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Courses</th>
<th>Lecture Hours</th>
<th>Practical Hours</th>
<th>Semester Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>PUH 5220 Environmental and Occupational Health</td>
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<td>PUH 5301 Biostatistics</td>
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<td>PUH 5430 Epidemiology</td>
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<td>PUH 5512 Health Policy, Planning, and Management</td>
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<td>PUH 5520 Legal and Ethical Issues in Public Health</td>
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<td>PUH 6001 Social and Behavioral Sciences Applied to Health</td>
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<td>PUH 6002 Public Health Field Experience</td>
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<td>PUH 6604 Research Methods in Public Health</td>
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<th>Elective Courses</th>
<th>Lecture Hours</th>
<th>Practical Hours</th>
<th>Semester Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>PUH 514 Global Health</td>
<td>45</td>
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<td>PUH 5420 Epidemiology of Diseases of Major Public Health Importance</td>
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<td>PUH 5500 School Health</td>
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<td>PUH 5502 Children's Health</td>
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<td>PUH 5503 Women's Health</td>
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<td>PUH 5510 Maternal and Child Health</td>
<td>45</td>
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<td>PUH 5513 Public Health Nutrition</td>
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<td>PUH 5514 Biomedical Research I</td>
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<td>PUH 5515 Biomedical Research II</td>
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<td>PUH 5516 Public Health Informatics</td>
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<td>PUH 5610 Computer Applications in Public Health</td>
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<td>PUH 5802 Epidemiological Surveillance and Outbreak Investigation</td>
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<td>PUH 6008 Public Health Advocacy</td>
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<td>PUH 6009 Disaster Management</td>
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<td>PUH 6016 Survey Methods in Public Health</td>
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<td>PUH 6017 Special Studies in Public Health I</td>
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<td>PUH 6018 Special Studies in Public Health II</td>
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<td>PUH 6021 Health Care Economics</td>
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<td>PUH 6022 Community Health Project I</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUH 6023 Community Health Project II</td>
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<td>PUH 6101 Health Care Organization and Administration</td>
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<td>PUH 6104 Health Services Planning and Evaluation</td>
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<td>PUH 6105 Tropical Diseases</td>
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<td>PUH 6100 Conflict Resolution in Public Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUH 6301 Public Health Specialty Internship</td>
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<td>PUH 6302 Environmental Epidemiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUH 6521 Budgeting and Accounting for Health Care Organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUH 6522 Strategic Marketing for Health Care Organizations</td>
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<td>PUH 6523 Strategic Leadership in Management of Human Resources</td>
<td>45</td>
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m.p.h. sample program schedule*

First Year
FALL
Epidemiology ................................................. 3 credits
Health Policy, Planning, and Management ................. 3 credits
Social and Behavioral Sciences Applied to Health ........ 3 credits

WINTER
Biostatistics .................................................. 3 credits
Environmental and Occupational Health ..................... 3 credits
Legal and Ethical Issues in Public Health .................. 3 credits

SUMMER
Elective(s) ......................................................... 4 credits

Second Year
FALL
Research Methods in Public Health .......................... 3 credits
Elective(s) ......................................................... 6 credits

WINTER
Elective(s) ......................................................... 3 credits
Public Health Field Experience ............................... 6 credits

*The above schedule is based on a student attending full-time. The M.P.H. Program is available on a part-time basis. Students have five years to complete the M.P.H. Program. A minimum of 40 semester hours is required to complete the M.P.H. degree—27 hours of core courses and 13 hours of electives. Up to 12 semester hours of online courses will be accepted toward the M.P.H. degree. Core courses are mainly offered on-site. Elective courses may be available on-site, online, or in a field-based format.

Students are provisionally admitted to a degree-seeking program based on a review of unofficial transcripts or other specific program admission requirements. However, this admission includes a condition that final and official transcripts, documents, and/or requirements must be received within 90 calendar days from matriculation. If these final and official transcripts, documents, and/or requirements are not received by that time, the student will not be allowed to continue class attendance. Financial aid will not be disbursed to a provisional/conditional student until he or she has been fully admitted as a regular student (all admissions requirements have been approved by the college/program admissions office). Students who have an unpaid balance 30 days from the start of the term will be assessed a $50 fee.
transfer/waiver of credits

Applicants or matriculated students of the M.P.H. Program may petition for transfer of credits to the NSU M.P.H Program. No more than 12 credit hours may be considered for transfer from a regionally accredited graduate program. These courses must have been successfully completed with a grade of "B" or better and must not have been applied to another degree. Only courses completed within five years prior to the M.P.H. graduation will be counted towards the M.P.H. degree. The applicant must submit a written request for the transfer/waiver to the program along with the appropriate verification of documents (e.g., transcripts, syllabi, and catalogs). The curriculum committee will review the documents provided on the petitioned courses and submit recommendations to the program director. The program director makes the final decision. Transfer of credit is not granted for coursework that is counted towards another degree. The program does not give a waiver of credit for prior work experience.

tuition and fees

Tuition is $425 per semester hour. Students who concurrently pursue another degree in the Health Professions Division of NSU are charged tuition of $325 per semester hour. Tuition and fees are subject to change without notice.

expenses and financial aid

Students should anticipate spending approximately $670 per year for books and supplies and $13,900 for living expenses for an academic year.

The purpose of the Student Financial Assistance Program at Nova Southeastern University is to help as many qualified students as possible to complete their educational pursuit. Various loans, scholarships, and grants are available to qualified students to help ease the high cost of education. These financial assistance programs are described in a separate university publication called The NSU Guide to Student Financial Assistance.