2007

Masters of Public Health 2007

Nova Southeastern University

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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 26,000 students, is the seventh 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 approximately 86,000 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.
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 (M.P.H.) and the master of science in medical informatics (M.S.MI) degrees. 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, a master of science in nursing (M.S.N.) degree, and a post-M.S.N. certificate. The college offers a physician assistant program that awards the master of medical science in physician assistant (M.M.S.) degree, and a master of occupational therapy (M.O.T.) degree, 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., Dr.OT), 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.), and doctor of health science (D.H.Sc.) degrees—open to midlevel clinicians and allied health professionals. There are also courses of study in bachelor of health science—vascular sonography and master of health science—anesthesiologist assistant. 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. Now, the college also offers a master of science in dentistry (M.Sc.D.) degree, as well as postgraduate programs in endodontics, oral surgery, orthodontics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics, and prosthodontics.

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

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, governmental 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. The program is generalist in nature, and 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. 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
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
The M.P.H. Program offers a general Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) degree, which requires a minimum of 42 semester hours of study. This consists of 27 semester hours of required core courses (including a public health field experience or 6 semester hours) and a minimum of 15 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 the requirements within two years or less. The M.P.H. degree may be completed on-site or online. The curriculum for the two options is identical, although the modality of instruction is different. On-site classes are offered in the evening, with each class generally scheduled one evening per week. Up to 12 credits of online courses are allowable to complete the on-site option. The online option requires a weekend on-site session at the beginning of the program and a weekend on-site capstone experience at the end of the program, prior to graduation. There are supervised elective field-based courses, projects, and research opportunities available to students.

The schedule of course offerings and other pertinent information about the program are available on the program Web site: www.nova.edu/ph.

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—a minimum of 42 semester hours of courses (27 hours of required core courses, including the public health field experience, and 15 hours of electives) with a grade average of 80 or higher

2. successfully pass the comprehensive examination

3. complete an exit survey

4. satisfactorily meet all financial and library obligations
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 form
- official transcripts
- nonrefundable application fee of $50
- one letter of recommendation (academic)

Undergraduate students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0, with at least 90 hours of coursework (30 hours of which are upper-level courses), with an official transcript showing this coursework.

An application for nondegree status by a student holding a bachelor's degree or higher will be considered by the Admissions Committee, after a review of the required records and an interview.

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 degree-seeking 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 submit a complete application to the program to become a degree-seeking student and must meet all the requirements for admission to the M.P.H. program.

Graduate students from other NSU programs who elect to take public health courses may do so with written approval of the course director.

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.
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.

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 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.
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 nonrefundable 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)

   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

6. If applicant attended, or is a graduate of, a foreign institution,
   all coursework from the foreign institution must be evaluated for U.S. institutional equivalence. The official evaluation must be sent directly from the evaluation service. For evaluations, please contact one of the following services.
Upon receipt of the completed application and required materials, the committee on admissions will review the application and make recommendations to the program director. The applicant's file is reviewed by the Admissions Committee, who submits 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.
full-time (two years)

YEAR 1 FALL
Epidemiology ..................................................... 3 credits
Social and Behavioral Sciences Applied to Health ... 3 credits
Elective ................................................................. 3 credits

YEAR 1 WINTER
Biostatistics .......................................................... 3 credits
Environmental and Occupational Health ............... 3 credits
Elective ................................................................. 3 credits

YEAR 1 SUMMER
Electives .................................................................... 6 credits

YEAR 2 FALL
Research Methods in Public Health ......................... 3 credits
Health Policy, Planning, and Management .............. 3 credits
Elective ................................................................. 3 credits

YEAR 2 WINTER
Legal and Ethical Issues in Public Health ................ 3 credits
Public Health Field Experience ............................... 6 credits

A minimum of 42 credit hours (27 core credits and 15 elective credits) are required to complete the M.P.H. degree. Students have up to five years to complete all their requirements for the degree.
part-time (three years)

YEAR 1 FALL
Epidemiology .................................. 3 credits
Social and Behavioral Sciences Applied to Health ... 3 credits

YEAR 1 WINTER
Biostatistics ...................................... 3 credits
Environmental and Occupational Health .................. 3 credits

YEAR 1 SUMMER
Elective ........................................... 3 credits

YEAR 2 FALL
Research Methods in Public Health ...................... 3 credits
Health Policy, Planning, and Management .............. 3 credits

YEAR 2 WINTER
Legal and Ethical Issues in Public Health .............. 3 credits
Elective ........................................... 3 credits

YEAR 2 SUMMER
Elective ........................................... 3 credits

YEAR 3 FALL
Electives .......................................... 6 credits

YEAR 3 WINTER
Public Health Field Experience ......................... 6 credits

A minimum of 42 credit hours is required to complete the M.P.H. degree. Students have up to five years to complete the requirements for the degree.
public health courses

**CORE COURSES**
- Environmental and Occupational Health
- Biostatistics
- Epidemiology
- Health Policy, Planning, and Management
- Legal and Ethical Issues in Public Health
- Social and Behavioral Sciences Applied to Health
- Public Health Field Experience
- Research Methods in Public Health

**ELECTIVE COURSES**
- Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
- Public Health Grant Writing
- Public Health Seminar
- Introduction to Public Health
- Culture, Ethnicity, and Health
- Public Health Issues of the Elderly
- Weapons of Mass Destruction and Bioterrorism
- Public Health Communication
- Genetics in Public Health
- Global Health
- Epidemiology of Diseases of Major Public Health Importance
- School Health
- Children's Health
- Women's Health
- Maternal and Child Health
- Public Health Nutrition
- Public Health Informatics
- Epidemiologic Surveillance and Outbreak Investigation
- Public Health Advocacy
- Disaster Management
- Survey Methods in Public Health
- Special Studies in Public Health
- Community Health Project
- Health Care Organization and Administration
- Health Service Planning and Evaluation
- Tropical Diseases
- Budgeting and Accounting for Health Care Organizations
- Strategic Marketing for Health Care Organizations
- Strategic Leadership in Management of Human Resources
Applicants or matriculated students of the NSU-COM M.P.H. Program may petition for transfer of a maximum of 12 credit hours of elective or core courses toward their M.P.H. degree from a regionally accredited graduate program. The core courses must have been taken at a program, school, or college accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).

While enrolled in the M.P.H. Program, any courses taken at another academic program or institution that the student desires to transfer credit from to meet the requirements of this M.P.H. degree program, must have prior approval by the program director.

All courses considered for transfer into the program must have been successfully completed with a grade of “B” (80) or better and must not have been applied to another awarded degree. Transfer course grades are not calculated toward the student's grade point average.

The applicant must submit a written request to the program director, along with the appropriate verification of documents (e.g., official transcripts, syllabi, and catalogs). The curriculum committee will review the documents provided on the petitioned courses for all applications for transfer of credits and will submit recommendations to the program director. The program director makes the final decision. The program does not give course credits for prior work experience.

**MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM**

To improve the health of the population through education, research, and service, with an emphasis on multicultural and underserved populations

**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
Tuition is $450 per semester hour. Students who concurrently pursue another degree in the Health Professions Division of NSU are charged tuition of $350 per semester hour. Corporate cluster students are charged tuition of $250 per semester hour. Tuition and fees are subject to change without notice.

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.