

UIC School of Public Health Student Handbook 2004-2005

Special Programs of Study

MPH Program in Public Health Informatics

The School of Public Health offers a Master of Public Health degree specializing in public health informatics (PHI). This program is focused on the study of the application of information management techniques to improve the practice of public health. All courses are delivered via the Internet.

The program is a cooperative effort between the UIC School of Public Health and the School of Biomedical and Health Information Sciences. The courses in the program provide core competencies in public health information systems and management. The program consists of fourteen didactic courses plus a field experience and a capstone experience mentored over the Internet. Because this program is delivered solely online, students must have access to Internet and email communication.

The three-year online program was developed in response to the need for professionals who can manage public health information and surveillance systems and play leadership roles in the central public health function of information gathering, analysis, and dissemination. The target audiences for the program are public health administrators, health officials, health information professionals, and managed care organization analysts.

This online informatics program allows the student to earn a graduate degree from a fully accredited school of public health from anywhere in the country. All online courses are taught by the same faculty who teach the traditionally delivered courses. All courses involve frequent student and faculty interaction, use of online library resources, group study using Internet communications, and online examinations, thereby allowing professionals to continue working while earning their degrees.

Program Description

Students are expected to take five courses per year (two in the fall and spring semesters and one in the summer session) in order to complete the 48 semester hour program in three years. There are no electives in the program, and students are expected to move through the program in cohort groups.

Public Health Informatics Curriculum

Public Health Core Courses

BSTT 400 Biostatistics 1 (3 sh)

CHSC 400 Public Health Concepts and Practice (3 sh)

EPID 400 Principles of Epidemiology (3 sh)

HPA 400 Principles of Management in Public Health (3 sh)

EOHS 400 Principles of Environmental Health Sciences (3 sh)

HPA 401 Behavioral Sciences in Public Health (2 sh)

Informatics Courses

HPA 465 Health Information and Decision Support Systems (4 sh)

HPA 437 Health Care Data (3 sh)

BHIS 505 Legal and Social Issues of Health Informatics (3 sh)

HPA 510 Health Care Information Systems (4 sh)

HPA 520 Management of Health Care Communication Systems (4 sh)

HPA 563 Web-based Public Health Informatics (3 sh)

HPA 564 Applications of Geographic Information Systems in Public Health (3 sh)

HPA 565 Data Mining in Public Health (3 sh)

The program will culminate in a field practicum and capstone experience.

Student Support

UIC provides online registration, academic counseling, and library services. Online orientations to the UIC Internet-based course delivery systems, Blackboard and WebBoard, are provided as well as telephone and online technical support to help the student become accustomed to distance learning tools and techniques. Faculty advisers are available to answer questions during telephone office hours or through email.

Certificate Program in Public Health Informatics

Program Description

The School of Public Health also offers a Certificate in Public Health Informatics to qualified professionals. The courses required are a subset of the courses necessary for the completion of the MPH degree. Like the MPH program, all activity is 100% online. A Certificate can be earned in 15 months; however, there is an accelerated Certificate option which allows for completion of requirements in 12 months.

The Certificate program is intended for professionals with public health experience who wish to upgrade their informatics skills, individuals interested in a shorter course of study in public health informatics, and for those students enrolled in schools of public health outside the United States wishing to establish a public health informatics specialization with the agreement of their participating schools as part of their present degree program.

Four courses and an integrative paper form the basis of the Certificate program. With the completion of requirements, students can expect to have a good working knowledge of the functions and operations of information technologies as related to public health.

They will be able to define, specify, and manage public health information systems and projects. Whenever possible, students are provided with live software relating to the course which allows them to develop hands-on experience in working with the course contents.

Curriculum

HPA 465 Health Information and Decision Support Systems (4 sh)

HPA 437 Health Care Data (3 sh)

HPA 564 Applications of Geographic Information Systems in Public Health (3 sh)

HPA 565 Web-Based Public Health Informatics (3 sh)

For further information about the MPH and Certificate Programs in Public Health Informatics contact Aimee Wiebel, Academic Coordinator, Health Policy and Administration Division, at 312-996-3818 or by email at PHI@uic.edu.

Maternal and Child Health Program

The goal of the Maternal and Child Health Program (MCHP) is to provide graduate leadership education for individuals pursuing careers in maternal and child health (MCH). It is a comprehensive, competency-based program focusing on the health needs of women, children, and families and on the services designed to meet these needs. Competencies include the ability to apply a historical, legislative, and public health knowledge base concerning Title V/MCH and related governmental programs, policymaking and advocacy, program planning and evaluation, resource allocation and service delivery, management and communication, health education, quantitative and qualitative methods, interdisciplinary collaborative skills, community assessment and collaboration, and epidemiologic and analytic skills. The MCHP is one of only twelve such programs funded at schools of public health in the United States through the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau. Through collaborative research activities, field-based learning in courses, and practica experiences, as well as through the provision of continuing education offerings, technical assistance, and consultation, MCH faculty and students work closely with state and local health, social service, and education agencies, not-for-profit advocacy organizations, and community-based health and social service organizations, in order to improve the health and well-being of the MCH population.

The program leads to one of four School of Public Health degrees with a specialization in MCH: the Master of Public Health (MPH), Doctor of Public Health (DrPH), Master of Science (MS), and the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). It takes most students two years full-time to complete the MPH degree program in MCH. Students may also enroll on a part-time basis.

In addition, the Maternal and Child Health Program offers an MPH and PhD specialization in MCH epidemiology. The focus of this program is on applying epidemiologic methods and skills to solving MCH problems, particularly in conjunction with state and local health agencies. A more detailed description of this program is provided below.

For additional information, contact Jennifer Bowe, Graduate Education Coordinator, Maternal and Child Health Program, at 312-413-5625, or Rebecca Fields, MPH, Academic Coordinator, Community Health Sciences Division, at 312-996-8940.

Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Program

The Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Program at UIC is a collaborative effort of the Maternal and Child Health Program/Community Health Sciences Division and the Epidemiology and Biostatistics Division. Students in the program are required to follow a course of study that combines the assessment, planning, analytic methods, and MCH courses of the Community Health Sciences Division with the epidemiology requirements of the Epidemiology and Biostatistics Division. Because the focus of the program is on the application of epidemiologic and other analytic methods to the resolution of current MCH problems, students are required to work with state or local health agencies for their field practicum (MPH) or dissertation (PhD). Graduates of these programs will have the analytic skills to enable them to perform many of the activities of the MCH planning cycle at a very high level: surveillance, assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and policy development. Special funding is available for qualified first-year and continuing doctoral students in the MCH Epidemiology Program.

For further information, contact Jennifer Bowe, Graduate Education Coordinator, Maternal and Child Health Program, at 312-413-5625, or Rebecca Fields, MPH, Academic Coordinator, Community Health Sciences Division, at 312-996-8940.

ABET - Accredited Industrial Hygiene Program

The [Division of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences](#) (EOHS), University of Illinois at Chicago, has a nationally recognized and ABET-accredited program in industrial hygiene. Our program provides pertinent scientific and public health training to prepare students to protect the environment and improve the health of workers and the general public. Specialized study is offered in air pollution, industrial hygiene, water quality, occupational medicine, environmental chemistry, hazardous materials management, and toxicology. Our graduates regularly find positions in the environmental and occupational health fields in government, industry, and consulting, including the U.S. EPA, Abbott Laboratories, Ford Motor Co., Motorola, LTV Steel, the Cook County Department of Environmental Control, and the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory.

Financial support from traineeships and research assistantships is available. Recently funded faculty research projects include remote monitoring of landfill emissions, reducing eye injuries in agricultural workers, occupational exposure reconstruction at jet-engine manufacturing plants, source apportionment of indoor PAHs in urban homes, *Aspergillus* surveillance in the University of Illinois Hospital, indoor risk factors for asthma in Chicago Public Schools, modeling of airflow and contaminant distribution in hood design, worker exposure from flux core arc welding, characteristics and treatment of mercury in dental wastewater, electrokinetic remediation of contaminated soil, air pollution source apportionment in Mariupal, Ukraine, environmental exposure and hospital admission in Cook County, Illinois, simulation of TB coughing emissions, and receptor modeling of Southeast Chicago aerosol.

The curriculum emphasizes quantitative skills and as much practical experience as possible within the limits of an academic program. EOHS field investigations, both as academic courses and research projects, take advantage of the access to industries and challenges associated with a major urban metropolis. Industries include heavy manufacturing, health care, agricultural, pharmaceuticals, and high technology. Air and

water pollution and solid and hazardous waste management are among the challenges addressed.

To qualify for the program, applicants must have taken the GRE and have taken two semesters of calculus, a year of general chemistry, and at least one semester of organic chemistry. For those interested in traineeships in industrial hygiene or hazardous materials management, a course in human physiology is also required. In unusual cases, if only a single course requirement is missing, permission may be given to take it in the first semester of residence at SPH. If you are interested in a career dedicated to solving major societal problems, we would welcome your application.

Specific information on the curriculum and core requirements for this program is available in the [Student Handbook](#) under the EOHS division in both the MPH and MS section. For more information about the program and to obtain application materials, contact Iraida Rios, Academic Coordinator, Division of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, School of Public Health (MC 922), University of Illinois at Chicago, 2121 West Taylor Street, Chicago, Illinois 60612-7260. Phone: (312)-996-8855. E-mail: irios@uic.edu.

Residency in Preventive Medicine/Occupational Medicine

The School of Public Health participates in three residency programs by providing an accredited academic year toward board eligibility in general preventive medicine and occupational medicine (both under the American Board of Preventive Medicine). Upon completion of the School of Public Health program, physicians in these residencies are awarded the MPH degree. Expansion of the program can lead to one of the more advanced degrees offered by the School of Public Health. UIC also offers a post-doctorate fellowship in Occupational Health Services Research.

The University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health offers a two-year, fully accredited program leading to board eligibility in occupational medicine. The program is open to physicians with MD or DO degrees who have completed an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education-accredited internship year in the U.S. and are eligible for licensure in Illinois. The first academic year entails completion of course work for the MPH degree, plus one day per week of clinical work and sixteen weeks of elective rotations. The second practicum year entails five months of industrial-based medicine, three months on the Occupational Medicine Consultation Service, two months of research, and two months of electives in occupational medicine-related areas. Half-day, outpatient clinical work and weekly conferences are integrated into both the academic and practicum years of the program. There is a newly developed option for physicians who are interested in training in Occupational Health Services Research. There are three options for this training. 1) They may complete a MSPH degree with mentored research in the area of Health Services Research during their occupational medicine residency training; 2) they may do a one-year fellowship if they have completed a MPH degree and have board certification in any specialty ; or 3) they may do a two-year fellowship if they are board certified in any specialty, but have not completed a MPH degree. Persons interested in the UIC Occupational Medicine Program may contact Linda Forst, MD, MPH, 835 South Wolcott Street, M/C 684, Chicago, Illinois 60612, at 312-413-0369.

The John Stroger Hospital (formerly known as the Cook County Hospital) Department of Medicine offers a four-year program which combines occupational medicine and internal medicine and leads to board eligibility in both occupational and internal medicine. The first year consists of a categorical internal medicine year at John Stroger Hospital. The second year entails three months of work in medical specialties and nine months of academic study in the School of Public Health, working toward the MPH degree. The third year is in internal medicine at John Stroger Hospital with full-time ward and

specialty medicine assignments. The fourth year consists of three months of clinical occupational medicine at John Stroger Hospital, five months of industrial plant experience (which also includes the MPH practicum experience), three months of research, and two months of electives (some program elements may overlap). Outpatient clinics and conferences are integrated into the four years of the program. Interested persons may contact Rachel Rubin, MD, MPH, Division of Occupational Medicine, John Stroger Hospital, 1900 West Polk Street, Fifth Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60612, at 312-633-5310.

Both occupational medicine residencies work in conjunction with the Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety Education and Research Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago, one of sixteen NIOSH-funded training centers in the United States. Now in its twenty-fifth year, it is supporting thirty-five trainees in MPH, MS, DrPH, and PhD programs in industrial hygiene and occupational nursing as well as the physician residency program in occupational medicine. Lorraine Conroy, ScD, CIH, is the Center Director.

The third residency program that offers an MPH at the School of Public Health is the John Stroger Hospital General Preventive Medicine Program. This program offers two years of concurrent MPH and practicum experiences in preparation to sit for the American Board of Preventive Medicine exam. This program is for physicians who have already completed a residency in internal medicine. A third research year is periodically offered. The MPH is in either epidemiology/biostatistics or community health sciences. The practicum is a blend of training in clinical, administrative, public health, and research components of general preventive medicine. The program is in its seventh year and typically admits only one resident/fellow per year. For further information about this program, contact David Goldberg, MD, John Stroger Hospital, by email at David.Goldberg@rush.edu.

In addition UIC SPH offers a newly developed program for physicians who are interested in training in Occupational Health Services Research. There are three options for this training. Physicians may 1) complete a MSPH degree with mentored research in the area of Health Services Research during their occupational medicine residency training; 2) do a one-year fellowship if they have completed a MPH degree and have board certification in any specialty; or 3) do a two-year fellowship if they are board certified in any specialty, but have not completed a MPH degree.

Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP)

The UIC School of Public Health is dedicated to the training of a diverse cadre of public health professionals. To this end, and in collaboration with the UIC Urban Health Program, an initiative to recruit, retain, and graduate students from minority groups historically underrepresented in the health professions, the school has developed a comprehensive career pipeline into public health, consisting of the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) and the Health Professional Partnership Initiative. These programs are supported through grants from 1) the Health Resources and Services Administration, Division of Education Development and Diversity, 2) the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and 3) several public health partners.

The model will increase the pool and the competitiveness of African-Americans and Latinos who are enrolled, retained, and graduated with master's and doctoral degrees in public health. The comprehensive plan includes individuals from all educational levels, K-20.

The Elementary/Middle School Program includes: 1) Public Health Assembly; 2) Public Health Curriculum, a health education program in over ten elementary schools taught

by public health graduate students; 3) Public Health Week; 4) a six-week intensive Summer Public Health Institute and a thirty-week, all-year-round Saturday College for sixth to eighth grades at both the Early Outreach Program of UIC and Chicago State University.

The High School Program includes: 1) Public Health Clubs, a leadership training organization for 250 students from nine participating high schools); 2) a Saturday College at both the Early Outreach Program of UIC and at Chicago State University; and 3) a six-week High School Summer Public Health Institute.

Public Health Education for Teachers helps teachers to incorporate public health science into the K-12 curriculum and to increase their understanding of the impact of prejudice and stereotypes on the delivery of health care and the improvement of public health. Participating teachers receive lane credit promotion.

The Undergraduate College Students' Program includes: 1) Bi-annual conferences organized to disseminate information on how to prepare for a career in the public health workforce, address cultural competence in public health, access educational and professional opportunities in public health, and address public health issues facing disadvantaged minorities; 2) Public Health Sciences Satellite Centers (Bridges to Baccalaureate funded by NIH through City Colleges of Chicago) provide preliminary education to community college students to strengthen their performance in the sciences as they are connected to biomedical sciences at UIC. City Colleges of Chicago students receive stipends for their participation; 3) a Pre-Application/Admission Program to increase the competitiveness of disadvantaged undergraduate juniors and seniors in preparing for graduate study; and 4) a Summer Residential Enrichment Program, an eight-to-ten-week summer program that facilitates the entry of disadvantaged and underrepresented minority undergraduate juniors, seniors, and post-baccalaureate students into professional and graduate training in public health.

Participants are also given a stipend of \$300.00 per week if they are from the Health Professions Shortage Areas of Illinois and/or demonstrate financial need.

The UIC SPH Matriculated Students' Program includes: 1) The Pre-matriculation Program, an intensive six-week preliminary course to strengthen the academic competitiveness of disadvantaged and underrepresented minority students admitted to the UIC SPH; and 2) student support groups, a retention program focusing on biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental calculations, and writing.

Financial Aid and Job Placement: A minimum of two seminars is held every semester to provide opportunities for students to: 1) access financial assistance; 2) network with federal, state, and local agencies, and with private organizations; and 3) attend professional conferences.

For further information, contact Shaffdeen A. Amuwo, PhD, MPH, Associate Dean for Community, Government, and Alumni Affairs, at 312-996-6625 or the HCOP director at 312-996-5955.

[Traveling Scholar Program](#)

[Committee on Institutional Cooperation \(CIC\)](#)

Since its establishment in 1958, the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) has worked to improve the quality and efficiency of higher education through voluntary cooperative action by its eleven member institutions.

- University of Chicago
- Ohio State University
- Michigan State University
- Indiana University
- University of Wisconsin, Madison and Milwaukee
- Northwestern University
- University of Iowa
- University of Illinois, Chicago and Urbana/Champaign
- Purdue University
- University of Minnesota
- University of Michigan
- Pennsylvania State University

The purpose of this program is to allow the PhD or DrPH student to take advantage of specialized courses, laboratory and library facilities, and related faculty guidance available at universities in the Big Ten and the University of Chicago. Under the program, doctoral students may spend two semesters or three quarters at any of the other CIC institutions.

See the registration section of this handbook for information on how to register as a CIC Traveling Scholar.