

LEADERSHIP FOR INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, DRPH

Overview

The DrPH in Leadership for International Health and Sustainable Development prepares mid-career professionals for leadership roles in public health practice in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The program equips students with advanced skills in health metrics, program management, and evidence-based policy decision-making, enabling them to address global health challenges. Delivered through a flexible online format, the program integrates case studies, interactive discussions, and real-world applications. Graduates will be prepared for leadership positions in international organizations, government agencies, and NGOs, with a focus on advancing sustainable health systems and policies to reduce health disparities and improve global well-being.

Program Competencies

Upon completion of the program, in addition to the core CEPH's DrPH competencies, the graduate should be able to demonstrate the following program-specific competencies:

1. Design implementation plans for strategies and interventions that are centered on individuals, communities and populations in LMICs.
2. Recommend how a program can be adjusted, sustained or expanded based on findings from program monitoring and evaluation.
3. Synthesize complex data and evidence to inform evidence-based decision-making.
4. Recommend effective communication approaches to inform evidence-based decision-making.
5. Design strategies and interventions to facilitate the use of relevant and timely data and evidence in health program and intervention design and implementation.
6. Integrate human centered design, embedded research practices, and adaptive management approaches to improve relevance, responsiveness and effectiveness of interventions and programs.
7. Assess how systems thinking tools can be used to explain the outcomes of complex health and sustainable development systems.
8. Design a systems-informed health policy using systems thinking and policy analysis tools to address health threats.

Requirements

The DrPH requires 57 credit hours, including 15 credit hours of pre-requisite courses at the Master level and 42 credit hours of advanced doctoral study. The program requires a demonstration of mastery of competencies through a portfolio of products developed during the Applied Practice Experience (APE) and Integrated Learning Experience (ILE). The curriculum is offered fully online.

Course ID	Title	Credits
DrPH Pre-requisite Courses		
SPHL 6020	Foundations in Public Health	3
SPHL 6050	Biostatistics for Public Health	3
SPHL 6060	Epidemiology for Public Health	3
SPHL 6070	Health Systems Policy and Management	3
SPHL 6080	Design Strategies in Public Health Programs	3
DrPH Core Courses		
IHSD 7250	Sustainable Health and Development Program Design	3
IHSD 7030	Health Systems and Policy in Low- and Middle-Income Countries	3
IHSD 7450	Leadership and Strategic Management for International Health and Sustainable Development	3
SPHL 8010	Budget and Financial Management	3
IHSD 8050	Evidence for Decision Making	3
SPHL 8870	Strategies for Effective Workforce Development	3
Concentration-Specific DrPH Required Courses		
IHSD 7300	Implementation Practice	3
IHSD 8100	Knowledge Management for Public Health Impact	3
IHSD 8300	Strategic Use of Data and Evidence in Global Health Programs and Systems	3
IHSD 8500	Systems Thinking in International Health and Sustainable Development	3
Elective and Portfolio Courses		

Electives (Minimum of 9 credits)		9
SPHL 9460	Practice Based Portfolio: Experiential Learning	2
SPHL 9470	Practice Based Portfolio: Culminating Experience	1
Total Credit Hours		57

Model Schedules

This part-time program uses a cohort model with a Fall start. Students take two online classes each semester including summer.

Model Schedule for students with a previous CEPH-accredited MPH degree

Students with a previous MPH or relevant master's degree within the last 7 years may transfer some relevant pre-requisite coursework with approval from the course director(s) and the Program Director.

Year 1		
Fall		Credit Hours
IHSD 7250	Sustainable Health and Development Program Design	3
IHSD 7450	Leadership and Strategic Management for International Health and Sustainable Development	3
Credit Hours		6
Spring		
IHSD 7030	Health Systems and Policy in Low- and Middle-Income Countries	3
IHSD 8050	Evidence for Decision Making	3
Credit Hours		6
Summer Session		
SPHL 8010	Budget and Financial Management	3
SPHL 8870	Strategies for Effective Workforce Development	3
Credit Hours		6
Year 2		
Fall		
IHSD 7300	Implementation Practice	3
IHSD 8100	Knowledge Management for Public Health Impact	3
Credit Hours		6
Spring		
IHSD 8300	Strategic Use of Data and Evidence in Global Health Programs and Systems	3
IHSD 8500	Systems Thinking in International Health and Sustainable Development	3
Credit Hours		6
Summer Session		
Elective 1		3
Elective 2		3
Credit Hours		6
Year 3		
Fall		
Elective 3		3
Credit Hours		3
Spring		
SPHL 9460	Practice Based Portfolio: Experiential Learning	2
SPHL 9470	Practice Based Portfolio: Culminating Experience	1
Credit Hours		3
Total Credit Hours		42

Model Schedule for students without a previous CEPH-accredited MPH degree

Students without a previous MPH degree or a master's degree in a relevant field will need to take 5 (five) pre-requisite courses in year 1 of the program before they can begin their doctoral coursework.

Year 1			
Fall			Credit Hours
SPHL 6020	Foundations in Public Health		3
SPHL 6060	Epidemiology for Public Health		3
Credit Hours			6
Spring			
SPHL 6050	Biostatistics for Public Health		3
SPHL 6070	Health Systems Policy and Management		3
Credit Hours			6
Summer Session			
SPHL 6080	Design Strategies in Public Health Programs		3
Credit Hours			3
Year 2			
Fall			
IHSD 7250	Sustainable Health and Development Program Design		3
IHSD 7450	Leadership and Strategic Management for International Health and Sustainable Development		3
Credit Hours			6
Spring			
IHSD 7030	Health Systems and Policy in Low- and Middle-Income Countries		3
IHSD 8050	Evidence for Decision Making		3
Credit Hours			6
Summer Session			
SPHL 8010	Budget and Financial Management		3
SPHL 8870	Strategies for Effective Workforce Development		3
Credit Hours			6
Year 3			
Fall			
IHSD 7300	Implementation Practice		3
IHSD 8100	Knowledge Management for Public Health Impact		3
Credit Hours			6
Spring			
IHSD 8300	Strategic Use of Data and Evidence in Global Health Programs and Systems		3
IHSD 8500	Systems Thinking in International Health and Sustainable Development		3
Credit Hours			6
Summer Session			
Elective 1			3
Elective 2			3
Credit Hours			6
Year 4			
Fall			
Elective 3			3
Credit Hours			3
Spring			
SPHL 9460	Practice Based Portfolio: Experiential Learning		2
SPHL 9470	Practice Based Portfolio: Culminating Experience		1
Credit Hours			3
Total Credit Hours			57

Contact

To learn more about the department, visit <https://sph.tulane.edu/ihsd/home> (<https://sph.tulane.edu/ihsd/home/>).