Vision

Advancing public health for more than a century, in New Orleans, Louisiana, the World

Mission Statement

Advance global public health and decrease health disparities through excellence in education, research, and collaborative partnerships.

Introduction

Founded in 2012, Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine (SPHTM) was the first school of public health in the US and has been a leader in the field of public health for more than 100 years. The school continues a strong presence in New Orleans, Louisiana, across the United States and Internationally. As the first school of tropical medicine in the country, SPHTM has led the field of tropical medicine and vector-borne diseases. SPHTM has a focus on cardiovascular disease, health disparities, reproductive health, and public health responses to disasters. Tulane SPHTM has a strong, diverse faculty who are committed to advancing public health and educating the next generation of public health professionals.

Public health is an interdisciplinary field and Tulane SPHTM offers a full array of masters and doctoral degrees across the public health spectrum that includes study in biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental health, community health and behavioral science, health management and policy and tropical medicine. SPHTM education is applied and skills-based with developing strong analytical skills and managerial skills while focusing on their application to promote health and prevent diseases in communities and protecting the environment.

The Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) integrates the public health disciplines with undergraduate studies to produce highly sought after graduates who are prepared to address an array of problems and find solutions.

History

The study of public health in Louisiana began in the early 1800s when New Orleans suffered from epidemics of malaria, cholera and yellow fever. A group of young physicians sought to find solutions to control tropical diseases and prevent these epidemics established the Medical College of Louisiana in 1834. These insightful physicians realized the necessity of studying the many factors related to the diseases and studying the environment in which they occurred. In 1881, formal instruction in hygiene was offered for the first time. Creighton Wellman established the first School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 1912 with a $25,000 gift from Samuel Zemurray’s United Fruit Company. In 1947, the School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine re-emerged as an independent school offering graduate level offering the masters of public health and a doctoral program in public health in 1950. Tulane was among the original 10 schools of public health as public health emerged as an independent field in 1947. In 1967, the school was renamed the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.
In December 2003, the University Senate approved the establishment of the Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) degree program in the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine with the inaugural class beginning in fall 2005. Because of Hurricane Katrina, students began study of undergraduate public health in 2006.

Tulane University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (http://www.sacs.org) to award associate, baccalaureate, masters, doctorate, and professional degrees.

Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine is accredited by the Council on Education in Public Health (https://ceph.org) to award public health bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees.

**Academic Policies**

**Academic Policies**

Students in all SPHTM degree programs are required to have a grounding in public health and must either take SPHL 6020 Foundations of Public Health or pass a challenge exam. Students in the combined BSHP/MPH program attain these competencies in their public health studies and do not have to take SPHL 6020.

**Master’s Programs**

Tulane prepares students for careers in public health domestically and internationally with study in all five areas of public health plus tropical medicine. Students can pursue the professional public health degrees (the MPH, the MSPH, and the MPH&TM), the academic (the MS), or the health administration degree (the MHA) in a total of 16 professional master’s programs, offered through six departments.

**Professional Public Health Degrees (MPH, MSPH, MPH&TM)**

All students in the professional master’s degree programs will receive a thorough grounding in the foundational aspects of public health by taking the five courses that make up the required Foundational Curriculum (https://sph.tulane.edu/foundational-curriculum). Students must also complete an Integrated Learning Experience and an Applied Practice Experience.

These five courses (15 credits) make up the foundational curriculum:

- 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 for Public Health Programs (3)

**Academic Masters Degrees (MS)**

All students in the academic master’s degree programs develop analytical skills in Biostatistics and Epidemiology as well as study in their academic area. Students are required to complete a research project and write a Thesis.

- SPHL 6020 Foundations in Public Health (3)
- SPHL 6050 Biostatistics for Public Health (3)
- SPHL 6060 Epidemiology for Public Health (3)

**Doctoral Programs (PhD, DrPH)**

Doctor of Philosophy In Public Health (PhD) (academic doctorate)

Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) (professional doctorate)

Students enter the doctoral programs with a prior master’s degree. Credits earned in a master’s degree that directly applies to the program of study may be applied toward the doctoral degree. The credits that may apply are determined by the department. At least 30 credits of advanced coursework must be taken at SPHTM. See the SPHTM Doctoral Guidelines for information on the comprehensive exam, prospectus, research and dissertation requirements.

All doctoral programs require a minimum of 72 credits beyond the bachelor’s degree, independent research, and a dissertation. Students take:

- Advanced Biostatistics course above the foundations level
- Advanced Epidemiology course above the foundations level
- Research methods course
Students enter the doctoral programs with a prior master's degree. Credits earned in a master's degree that directly applies to the program of study may be applied toward the doctoral degree. The credits that may apply are determined by the department. At least 30 credits of advanced coursework must be taken at SPHTM. See the SPHTM Doctoral Guidelines for information on the comprehensive exam, prospectus, research and dissertation requirements.

**Joint and Combined Degrees:**

SPHTM has joint or combined degrees with the Medical School, Law School, Business School and School of Social Work as well as a BSPH/MPH option for undergraduate public majors. Joint degrees allow for the sharing of 10 credits toward both degrees and the BSPH/MPH shares 12 credits.

**Graduate Certificates**

Graduate certificate are non-degree programs composed of graduate-level for-credit courses. SPHTM has two types of graduate certificates.

Graduate certificates (secondary area of study) provide the opportunity for student professional masters programs (MPH, MSPH and MPTM) to supplement their degree concentrations. Graduate certificates are 14-17 credits and electives may be used toward the graduate certificate. Program course requirements cannot be double counted for the certificate. If the same course is required for both a degree program and certificate, a related course may be substituted for the certificate requirement. A graduate certificate cannot be obtained in same program as the primary degree program. Only student currently enrolled in the MPH, MSPH or MPHTM may add a graduate certificate to their degree.

Standalone graduate certificates are non-degree programs that are approximately one third (15 credits) of a professional master's degree. These available for mid-career professional in designated distance learning and executive programs. Standalone graduate certificates provide skills in the concentration and the credits earned may be applied toward the professional master's degree. Students must apply to and be accepted in the graduate certificates.

**Degree Requirements**

**Undergraduate**

**Newcomb-Tulane College Requirements**

**General Education Curriculum**

**Newcomb-Tulane College General Education Curriculum**

Newcomb-Tulane College Core Curriculum allows students to explore a wide-range of disciplines and embodies the mission and values of the College by allowing students to have flexibility in their core curriculum courses while exploring a full-range of courses.

The core curriculum—which is composed of a minimum of 30 credits—is divided into two parts: proficiency requirements and a distribution of knowledge. To ensure that students experience the breadth of knowledge at the collegiate level, AP and IB courses can be used to satisfy proficiency requirements only in Formal Reasoning and Foreign Language.

Courses will be designated as satisfying the distribution requirements according to the content and methodology rather than the departmental affiliation of the course.

The new core curriculum general education requirements will go into effect with the entering class of 2018.

*Courses proposed to satisfy core requirements will be ratified by the Newcomb-Tulane Curriculum Committee and the Newcomb-Tulane College faculty.*

**Proficiency Requirements**

**Writing Skills (2 courses and 6 credits)**

Tulane undergraduates should be able to communicate effectively. Students completing this requirement will produce coherent texts that combine analysis, argument, and research.

- Tier 1: Freshman writing (ENGL 1010 or ENGL 1011) unless the student is exempt. Students receiving exemption from ENGL 1010/1011 are required to take an approved writing class during their freshman year. At least 1/3rd of the grade based upon writing (excluding in class exams), but no revision required.

- Tier 2: One additional writing course at the 2000 level or above taken from an approved list. At least 1/3rd of the grade based upon writing (excluding in class exams), to include revision and re-evaluation by the instructor.

*Note: creative writing courses cannot be used to satisfy the writing proficiency requirement.*

**Formal Reasoning (1 course and 3 credits)**
One course in mathematics or symbolic logic (PHIL 1210)

Foreign Language (0-3 courses)
The foreign language proficiency is achieved by a passing grade at the 2030 level, or an AP score of 4 or 5, or a Higher-Level IB score of a 5 or higher, or an SAT II achievement test of 640 or higher, or a passing grade in a Tulane administered proficiency test. This requirement is waived for students in B.S.E. programs.

Distribution Areas (A course can satisfy only one of the distribution areas.)
Mathematics and the Natural Sciences (2 courses including 1 lab science course and 7 credits)
Tulane undergraduates should understand the methods of scientific inquiry. The mathematics and natural sciences requirement will equip students to understand and assess scientific issues that affect the world today. (Those completing the B.F.A. degree need only complete 1 course with lab.)

Social and Behavioral Sciences (2 courses and 6 credits)
Tulane undergraduates should think critically about human cultures, societies, and behaviors. This requirement acquaints students with the methods of research and inquiry in the social science disciplines.

Textual and Historical Perspectives (2 courses and 6 credits)
Tulane undergraduates should evaluate literary, philosophical, and historical texts. This area of the curriculum introduces exposes students to the methods used to examine and interpret fundamental issues of human experience.

Aesthetics and the Creative Arts (3 credits)
Tulane undergraduate students should be able to understand and appreciate the creative process and various forms of artistic expression.

Additional Core Requirements
The First Year Seminar
This requirement can be satisfied by a Tulane Interdisciplinary Seminar (TIDES) course or an Honors Colloquium course (COLQ 1010 or 1020).

Public Service
All students will complete public service that is satisfied by service learning courses, an approved internship, or research experience. These courses can also be used to satisfy other areas of general education. The nature of the requirement is to be determined by the NTC faculty. Currently this is a two-tiered experience.

Race and Inclusion
One course that focuses on race and inclusion in the United States, to be completed by end of the sophomore year. Courses that fulfill this requirement will focus at least 60% of their content on race and inclusion in the United States. These courses may also be used to satisfy other general education curriculum requirements.

Global Perspectives
One course that focuses on a global-international context from a perspective outside of the U.S., with at least 60% of content with stated objectives to develop historical, cultural, and societal knowledge of an area beyond the U.S. This requirement should be completed by end of the sophomore year. These courses can also be used to satisfy other areas of general education.

School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine
Bachelor of Public Health (BSPH)
The Tulane Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) degree is an academic degree addressing the health of populations and communities through instruction, service, and community based research. Grounded in a background of humanities, social science, and the liberal arts, the degree fulfills Tulane University’s campus-wide undergraduate core proficiency while stressing an additional commitment to quantitative and scientific skills. This degree program is nationally accredited and has specific competencies, or educational targets. Competencies for the BSPH cover core concepts and structures of public health, along with university-required proficiencies, writing and math skills, and a foreign language.

Graduate
Master of Health Administration (MHA)
The Master of Health Administration trains future managers and leaders who strive to improve the delivery of health services in diverse settings. The MHA degree requires a total of 60 credits (48 credits of required coursework and 12 elective credits) plus an administrative residency (960 hours). All SPHTM student must take SPHL 6020 Foundations in Public Health or pass a challenge exam.
The program has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME) since 1971.

- Master of Health Administration

**Master of Public Health (MPH)**

The Master of Public Health is the recognized professional degree for leadership careers in public health. The MPH degree requires 42-45 credits consisting of:

- Five Foundational courses 15 credits
- Required programmatic course work 18-21 credits
- Electives 9-12 credits
- Integrated learning experience (ILE)
- Applied Practice Experience

*Foundational courses are:

- 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 for Public Health Programs (3)

The MPH is offered in the following concentrations:

- MPH in Community Health Sciences
- MPH in Disaster Management
- MPH in Epidemiology
- MPH in Health Education and Communication
- MPH in Health Policy
- MPH in Health Systems Management
- MPH in International Health and Development
- MPH in Maternal and Child Health
- MPH in Nutrition

**Master of Public Health and Tropical Medicine (MPH&TM)**

The Master of Public Health and Tropical Medicine is a practice-oriented program that prepares students to recognize and control infectious diseases found in tropical and subtropical regions and developing countries. This degree is unique to Tulane and reflects a century of work with tropical diseases.

The MPH&TM requires 42 credits of course work composed of:

- Five Foundational courses* 15 credits
- Required programmatic course work 18-21 credits
- Electives 9-12 credits
- Integrated learning experience (ILE)
- Applied Practice Experience

The MPHTM has two tracks: Clinical track for physicians and Public Health track.

- Master of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

**Master of Science (MS)**

The Master of Science degree is an academic research degree. The MS requires 36 to 45 credits depending on degree area. The MS degree requires course work in Biostatistics, Epidemiology and the area of study. All SPHTM student must take SPHL 6020 Foundations in Public Health or pass a challenge exam. Student must conduct a research project and write a research thesis.

We offer the following MS programs:

- MS in Biostatistics
- MS in Epidemiology
• MS in Clinical Investigation
• MS in Tropical Medicine

Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH)
The Master of Science in Public Health is a public health professional degree with a science orientation. The MPH degree requires 42-45 credits (depending on concentration) composed of:

• Five Foundational courses* 15 credits
• Required programmatic course work 18-21 credits
• Electives 9-12 credits
• Integrated learning experience (ILE)
• Applied Practice Experience

SPHTM offers the following MSPH programs:

• MSPH in Biostatistics (BIOS)
• MSPH in Global Environmental Health Sciences
• MSPH in Industrial Hygiene

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
The Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health is an academic research degree that prepares students for research roles in public health and a variety of other careers. The PhD requires a minimum of 72 credits beyond the bachelor's degree. Students enter the PhD with a master’s degree; up to 42 master’s credits directly related to the area of study may be applied toward the PhD degree. At least 30 credits of advanced course work must be completed at SPHTM. PhD student take a comprehensive exam, develop a research prospectus, conduct a major research project and defend a dissertation. The PhD program includes course work in advanced biostatistics and epidemiology beyond the foundational level and a research methods course. All SPHTM student must take SPHL 6020 Foundations in Public Health or pass a challenge exam.

The PhD in Public Health is offered with concentrations in:

• PhD in Biostatistics
• PhD in Epidemiology
• PhD in Global Community Health and Behavioral Sciences
• PhD in Global Environmental Health Sciences
• PhD in Health Policy and Management
• PhD in Tropical Medicine

Doctor of Public Health (DrPH)
The Doctor of Public Health is an applied professional doctoral degree that prepares students for leadership roles in public health practice. The DrPH builds on the foundational areas of public health. A MPH is required for entry into the DrPH and up to 42 credits may be applied to the total of 72 credits. At least 36 credits of advanced course work must be completed at SPHTM. The DrPH program includes course work in advanced biostatistics and epidemiology beyond the foundational level and a research methods course. DrPH student a comprehensive exam, an applied practice experience and compete a dissertation. The DrPH is offered in Community Health and Behavioral Sciences.

• DrPH in Global Community Health and Behavioral Sciences

Academic Departments

• Department of Epidemiology (https://catalog.tulane.edu/public-health-tropical-medicine/epidemiology)
• Department of Global Biostatistics and Data Science (https://catalog.tulane.edu/public-health-tropical-medicine/global-biostatistics-data-science)
• Department of Global Community Health and Behavioral Sciences (https://catalog.tulane.edu/public-health-tropical-medicine/global-community-health-behavioral-sciences)
• Department of Global Environmental Health Sciences (https://catalog.tulane.edu/public-health-tropical-medicine/global-environmental-health-sciences)
• Department of Health Policy and Management (https://catalog.tulane.edu/public-health-tropical-medicine/health-policy-management)
• Department of Tropical Medicine (https://catalog.tulane.edu/public-health-tropical-medicine/tropical-medicine)
• Joint and Combined Degrees (https://catalog.tulane.edu/public-health-tropical-medicine/joint-combined-degrees)
• Undergraduate Public Health (https://catalog.tulane.edu/public-health-tropical-medicine/undergraduate-public-health)