BUILD ON YOUR CAREER IN PUBLIC HEALTH

The PhD in Public Health Studies, requiring 72 credit hours of study, gives students expert skills in research design, methods and dissemination, and a solid understanding of public health science, including the distribution and determinants of health and disease across populations.

Students are able to choose one of seven concentrations (identified below). Each concentration is intended to provide an educational experience that our faculty feel meets the intellectual and professional requirements for PhD-trained students. These concentrations consist mainly of prescribed and elected coursework and participation in mentored research. Students will also complete a dissertation project corresponding with student goals and division resources.

CONCENTRATIONS

- **Behavioral Science and Health Education**: Prepares students to use behavioral science principles to develop and evaluate programs, policies, and environmental changes that promote public health. Students learn to conduct independent research as well as design and evaluate community-based interventions at individual, organizational, community or societal levels.

- **Biosecurity and Disaster Preparedness**: Provides the knowledge required for biosecurity professionals, teaching students skills such as emergency management, homeland security, epidemiology, communicable disease management and disaster/pandemic planning. The program includes online courses, but requires 2-3 years of residency at Saint Louis University.

- **Biostatistics**: Prepares students to be experts in research design, analytic statistical methods, computational/statistical programming and data management administration. Graduates are able to conduct or manage biostatistical operations related to planning, analysis and evaluation of research in public health, health services, epidemiology and medical care. Our program encourages application of knowledge in practical settings.

- **Environmental and Occupational Health**: Prepares students to master laboratory techniques, understand the etiology of occupational and environmental disease, conduct exposure assessment, analyze policy, and design and build control techniques for biological, chemical, or physical hazards. Students might pursue careers as independent investigators working in academia, government, business, consulting, or in non-governmental agencies.

- **Epidemiology**: Advances a student’s understanding of the distribution and determinants of health and disease in human populations. This track is designed to produce academicians and well-trained practitioners of epidemiology, who are highly qualified as independent investigators and teachers.

- **Health Management and Policy**: Focuses on the policy and politics, financing, organization, delivery and associated outcomes of health services. Drawing upon the disciplines of economics, finance, management science, political science and sociology, faculty and students are able to address societal, systemic and organizational health care issues in a comprehensive and systematic way. The program’s research agenda is active and diverse with particular emphasis on projects involving underserved communities.

- **Health Outcomes Research/Health Services Research**: Examines the interplay among multiple aspects of health care, including clinical care, access, utilization, organization, financing, cost and outcomes. The program prepares students to conduct basic and applied research that reveals a deeper understanding of the clinical, personal, economic and societal results of health care services. Health services research is a high-demand field that offers numerous opportunities across corporate, government, non-profit and academic settings, especially in the current era of health care system reform.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The field of public health offers a wide variety of career options for a student pursuing a PhD in Public Health Studies. Students can work to promote the health of communities in academic settings, non-profits, government agencies or the private sector.
FACULTY & RESEARCH
Our faculty are internationally recognized as leaders in public health. PhD students have the opportunity to work on projects with faculty members in their research areas. Each of our faculty has active research in such areas as:

Behavioral Science and Health Education
+ Physical Activity
+ Injury Prevention
+ Cancer Prevention
+ HIV/AIDS Prevention

Biosecurity and Disaster Preparedness
+ Health Care Infection Prevention
+ Technologies for Improving Responsiveness
+ Countering Biological Weapons Terrorism

Biostatistics
+ Data Management Using GIS
+ Health Risk Appraisal Methodology
+ Measurement of Physical Activity and Nutrition

Environmental and Occupational Health
+ Exposure Assessment
+ Biomarkers
+ Applied Environmental Chemistry
+ Poisoning Prevention and Abatement

Epidemiology
+ Global Health
+ Exposure Assessment
+ Indoor and Outdoor Air Pollution
+ Cancer Epidemiology

Health Management and Policy
+ Health Disparities
+ Minority Men’s Health
+ Health Information Technology
+ Policy Change Implications

Outcomes Research
+ Comparative Effectiveness Research
+ Clinical Trials
+ Patient Centered Outcomes Measurement
+ Organ Transplantation, Diabetes, Geriatrics

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES/ ASSISTANTSHIPS
SLU offers students several options for financial aid, including graduate research assistantships, part-time jobs, presidential and diversity fellowships and loans.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS/DEADLINES
This program is designed for individuals who already hold a master’s degree in public health or a related field. All applications are considered on an individual basis with a balanced approach. Students are required to have a grade of “B” or higher in an analytic course above the 500 level within the past 5 years. This may require taking the course in the summer prior to entering the doctoral program. (An applicant’s GRE score may be substituted by GMAT, MCAT or LSAT.) Scores may not be more than 5 years old. Applicants with an existing doctoral-level degree do not need to submit GRE scores.

Application requirements:
+ An earned master’s degree from an accredited college or university (a transcript from this institution is required).
+ A résumé or curriculum vitae and a two page, double-spaced essay describing interests in the field and career goals and objectives.
+ Four confidential letters of recommendation from individuals qualified to evaluate an applicant’s potential for success in the program.

The PhD program only accepts applications for the fall semester. The application deadline is January 15.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Please contact: Bernie Backer, Director of Graduate Admission
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