DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
COMMUNITY-ORIENTED PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE

The University of Washington Master of Public Health (MPH) in Community-Oriented Public Health Practice (COPHP) is an innovative program that combines rigorous academic preparation with a foundational commitment to anti-racism, social justice and community engagement. The COPHP program promotes a student-centered approach to learning and builds practical skills that graduates apply as problem solvers, advocates and leaders in community health.

HIGHLIGHTS

Problem-based learning (PBL): Students learn through active inquiry and analysis of relevant case studies rather than through traditional lectures. Students work in small groups, with the assistance of faculty facilitators, to examine cases, identify key issues and find and apply the information needed to define and address community-based health problems. Students master a variety of core public health disciplines — including epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental health, social and behavioral science and health services management.

Experiential learning: COPHP uses fieldwork in organizations, agencies, and communities to help students integrate and apply their course work with real-world experience.

Practical skill building: COPHP builds skills that students will need throughout their careers, such as recognizing and deconstructing problems; collecting, analyzing, evaluating and managing information; and presenting information clearly and persuasively in oral and written reports and presentations.

Anti-racist commitment: Racism and oppression are a fundamental cause of poor health and health inequities. As part of its mission, COPHP seeks to prepare students to understand and address racism and oppression in their public health careers. COPHP is also dedicated to the goal of becoming an anti-racist program that can identify and disrupt how racism affects learning. Each year the program identifies steps for faculty and students to take towards this goal such as trainings on Undoing Institutional Racism and White Fragility.

DEGREES AND/OR CERTIFICATES OFFERED

Master of Public Health (MPH)

Students who wish to concentrate in a specialized area (such as Global, Maternal and Child Health and HIV and STIs) during their program may earn a graduate certificate. Approximately 18 additional credit hours are required to earn a certificate. Please see these websites for more information:
http://grad.uw.edu/admissions/find-a-program/graduate-certificate-programs
http://sph.washington.edu/prospective/edprograms.asp

APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS

COPHP attracts students from diverse backgrounds and experiences who are interested in health equity and social justice. COPHP strongly recommends that applicants have two years of post-graduate community-based work experience before applying. We also encourage you to visit a PBL-class session. Preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate an effort to learn about our program and the PBL method.

ACADEMIC/PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

COPHP graduates are uniquely prepared for leadership roles in a variety of public health settings. Our alumni work in public health community agencies, nonprofits, academic institutions, research centers, healthcare organizations, and government agencies. Alumni job titles include Program Manager, Research Coordinator, Health Equity Coordinator, Development Manager, and Consultant.

ADMISSIONS

Detailed instructions are at: http://depts.washington.edu/cophp/admissions

Applicants submit GRE scores, resume or CV, statement of purpose, statement of personal history, three recommendation letters, and transcripts. International applicants may need to submit TOEFL scores.

Prospective students should contact the program (cophp@uw.edu) before applying to learn about PBL, and (if possible) to schedule a classroom visit.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Autumn Quarter Entry
December 1: Early Decision
January 16: Regular Decision
March 1: Space Available

CONTACT INFORMATION

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