

# MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM

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## Overview

Recognizing the need to strengthen the delivery of public health services to minority and medically underserved communities, in 1992 Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) conducted a feasibility study for a Master of Public Health (MPH) Degree Program.

The MPH program, established in 1995, is one of the institution's four academic programs. The first student cohort was admitted in fall 1995 and the first MPH degree was awarded in spring 1997.

The program focuses on providing unique opportunities for students to become engaged in community-based participatory research, student-directed learning, problem solving, and the development of skills and competencies essential to the practice of public health.

An important element in the development of the program was the insertion of a strong community component established through faculty collaboration with public health agencies, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations. These domestic and international partners were pleased to incorporate student training and job placement in their agencies. Since 1995, MPH students have completed practicum experiences (480 hours) with local, state and federal agencies, national and international government agencies, community organizations, and non-governmental organizations.

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Morehouse School of Medicine also offers the dual MD—MPH degree program. The MD—MPH option at MSM provides an outstanding educational environment for training physicians to address the health needs of communities and populations as well as individuals. To learn more, refer to the “MD—MPH Dual Degree” in the MD Program section.

### Accreditation

The MPH program was first accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) in 1999, making MSM the first historically black college/university with an accredited MPH program. In 2007, the program earned a maximum seven-year term re-accreditation period (October 27, 2007 to December 31, 2014).

### Program Mission and Goals

#### Mission

The mission of the MPH program is to prepare individuals who will organize and implement programs to improve the health, quality of life and well-being of communities and people, through education, research and service in public health. The program has a particular emphasis on people of color, minorities, and other underserved populations.

#### Goals

##### Instruction

- Goal I:** Provide students the education, skills, abilities and values to address the public health needs of communities, regions, and nations with a particular focus on underserved populations.
- Goal II:** Prepare graduates for leadership in the Public Health field.
- Goal III:** Increase the representation of African Americans and other underrepresented populations in the Public Health professions.
- Goal IV:** Promote life-long learning through continuing public health education.

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### Research

**Goal V:** Discover, develop, and advance knowledge through basic and applied research in problems that disproportionately affect underserved populations.

### Service

**Goal VI:** Collaborate with local, regional, state and international communities to improve the health and well-being of their underserved populations.

**Goal VII:** Improve and impact public health policies and practices in order to promote health and decrease health disparities among minority and other underserved populations.

### Governance

The Academic Policy Council (APC) establishes academic policy for the School of Medicine. The APC consists of all department chairs, the Director of the Library, two elected student representatives, and two elected faculty representatives. The three standing committees of the MPH Program (Admissions, Curriculum, and Student Academic Progress) are subcommittees of the APC.

**Admissions Committee:** The Admissions Committee is responsible for accepting all students entering the MPH program.

**Curriculum Committee:** The charge to the Curriculum Committee is to develop a curriculum that will lead to the fulfillment of the goals of the program.

**Student Academic Progress Committee (SAPC):** SAPC is charged with monitoring the academic performance of each MPH student.

**Advisory Committee:** In addition to the three standing committees, the Program has an Advisory Committee, an external body comprised of representatives from community health agencies, members of the Atlanta University Center schools, public health agencies, alumni, and student representatives. The MPH Advisory Committee currently has three primary roles:

1. Provide expert advice and guidance in all aspects of the MPH program, including recruitment, mentoring, curriculum and development.

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- **MPH Program Course Schedule Listing:** The listing, published each semester, includes course titles, numbers, instructor, time, course hours, day, and location of courses, and is available in the MPH Program office and the MSM Registrar's Office.
- **Practicum Experience Guidelines:** The guide outlines policies, procedures, responsibilities, planning, and implementation of this course. Appendices include forms, summaries and a glossary.
- **Culminating Experience Guidelines:** The guide explains policies and procedures for conducting the student research experience. Descriptions of thesis and manuscript guidelines are included. Appendices include sample forms, statement and checklists.
- **MSM Student Handbook:** On admission to the program, all students receive a copy of the MSM Student Handbook pertaining to institutional policies and procedures relevant to student life. Copies are distributed at registration by the Registrar's Office.

### Admissions and Registration

#### Application Requirements for the Master of Public Health Degree

The following information must be submitted in addition to the online application:

- Completion of a bachelor's degree, or equivalent, from a U.S. school accredited by a regional accrediting organization recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or the U.S. Department of Education, or from an appropriately accredited non-U.S. institution is required. Applicants who have completed coursework at, or hold a bachelor's or advanced degree from an institution of higher learning outside the United States must have their transcript(s) certified for equivalency to U.S. degrees or coursework by a credential evaluation service that is a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES). Applicants who have completed coursework at, or hold degrees from, a postsecondary institution in Australia, Canada (except Quebec), New Zealand, or the United Kingdom will normally not need to have their academic transcripts evaluated and certified for equivalency.
- Official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores (from within the past five (5) years)

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### **Application Requirements for MPH/Preventive Medicine Residents**

Individuals interested in applying to the Public Health and Preventive Medicine Residency Program should meet all the following requirements:

- Complete at least one year of supervised clinical training in a primary care specialty that is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).
- Pass Steps 1, 2 and 3 of the United States Medical Licensing Exam (USMLE).
- Meet eligibility for an un-restricted Georgia medical license. (For more information, call the Georgia Board of Medical Examiners at (404) 656-3913.

All applicants without an MPH degree should submit an MPH online application. In addition to the application, the following must also be submitted:

- Official transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate institutions
- Personal narrative statement (two to three pages) answering specific questions
- Three letters of reference
- Documentation of at least one completed year of supervised clinical training in a primary care specialty that is accredited by ACGME
- Scores from USMLE
- An un-restricted Georgia medical license.

MPH/PM applicants are exempt from GRE test scores with proof of a license to practice medicine. Application fees for MPH/PM applicants will be waived. Acceptance to the residency program is contingent upon admission to the MPH program.

**Application Deadline:** MPH/PM applicants are eligible for Spring and Fall admissions.

### **Application Requirements for the Certificate in Public Health**

- Refer to “Application Requirements for the Master of Public Health Degree”
- Personal narrative statement (two to three pages) answering specific questions
- Three letters of reference
- Proof of at least three years of health related work experience (This can include volunteer experience).

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for current rate). Students who register for fewer than nine credits are part-time students. Admission procedures for part-time students are the same as those for full-time students. Students who wish to register for more than 15 credits per term must obtain permission from their Track Coordinator.

Acceptance to the MPH program is based on the profile of the applicant. This profile includes: academic qualifications, work experiences, community or volunteer service, career goals, and the relative strength of each applicant compared to the current pool of applicants.

The MPH Admissions Committee makes the final selection and notifies accepted applicants. All applications, transcripts, test scores and letters of reference are housed in the MSM Office of Admissions. An application will not be considered until all materials (including test scores) have been received.

### **Non-Degree-Seeking Applicants**

#### **Certificate Program**

The Certificate in Public Health is an 18-credit hour, workforce development program designed for persons working in public health without formal training and health professionals interested in enhancing their knowledge of the core public health areas.

#### **Special Status Student**

Special Status Students are only allowed to take core courses. Grades of B or higher earned by a student while in this category can be subsequently applied towards the degree. Any courses with a grade below B cannot be applied towards the degree. Remediation is not an option for Special Status Students. The maximum coursework permitted by students enrolled as Special Status is 12 credit hours (4 courses). Students can only enroll in 2 courses per semester. Students are billed on a per credit hour basis. Financial Aid is not available for Special Status Students. Academic progress and standards apply to all students.

Graduate coursework completed by Special Status Student at MSM will be considered as residence credit and, upon approval of the MPH Program Student Academic Progress Committee (SAPC) may be used with the above limitation as credit toward the MPH degree.

#### **Cross-Registration**

Cross-registration is available between several local graduate institutions.

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Cumulative grade point averages will be calculated each semester. The GPA is computed by (1) multiplying the points earned by the course credit hours; and (2) dividing this product by the total number of semester hours carried. The minimum standard for graduate work leading to the Master of Public Health degree is a B average (3.0 GPA). Only grades of A and B may be modified as A-, B+, B-.

No course credit will be allowed for an F, W, WF, IP\* (In Progress), or I. When a course, seminar, or research activity is intended to last more than one semester, the notation IP\* (In Progress) is made at the end of each grade period until the final grade is given. When assigned work is not completed during a prescribed period, the notation "I" may be given with consent of the instructor. If the work is not satisfactorily completed within the time allowed by the instructor, up to one year, a final grade of F is given.

### Advisement

#### MPH Student Advisement Process

The academic advisement process is intended to ensure that all students receive guidance and direction in developing a plan of study. Students are advised individually by their Track Coordinator or other assigned faculty. During Orientation, each student meets with the Coordinator of his/her track of interest. The requirements for each track are explained and documented.

Within the first three weeks of the first semester, the student and Track Coordinator document a curriculum plan for the duration of the program of study. A matrix is developed that is the product of the student's planned curriculum and a visual map of the student's plan for completing the program.

During pre-registration, each student meets with his/her Track Coordinator and updates and/or revises the curriculum plan and matrix, as necessary. At this time, students register for the following semester.

At the beginning of each semester, Track Coordinators and students jointly update the matrix with grades received from the previous semester's course work, Practicum and Culminating experience.

As required course work is completed, the student and Practicum Coordinator jointly develop plans for the completion of the Practicum Experience, and the Track Coordinators advise students on the Culminating Experience.



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### **MPH 501 Introduction to Environmental Health (3 credit hours)**

**Course Director: Stephanie Miles-Richardson, DVM, PhD**

This course introduces all students to the fundamentals of environmental health sciences. It is designed to enable students to recognize environmental health problems, initiate assessments, and communicate with other professionals and the lay public regarding environmental health issues. (Spring)

### **MPH 502 Epidemiology (3 credit hours)**

**Course Director: Lee Caplan, MD, PhD, MPH**

This course provides students with knowledge of patterns of disease occurrence in human populations and factors that influence these patterns. The course is designed to enable students to identify and use systematic procedures that are helpful in determining epidemiological relationships. Students will gain insight and be able to recognize situations in their public health practice where epidemiological principles are to be applied. Prerequisite: Biostatistics (Fall)

### **MPH 503 Health Administration, Management, and Policy (3 credit hours)**

**Course Director: Stephanie Miles-Richardson, DVM, PhD**

This course provides an introduction to major issues in management of health programs and services. The course exposes students to an overview of theories of administration. Specific aspects of health service delivery, policy and management are explicated with emphasis on the role of the manager in contemporary health systems. (Fall)

### **MPH 504 Social and Behavioral Aspects of Public Health (3 credit hours)**

**Course Director: Rakale Collins Quarells, PhD**

This course provides a survey of the socio-structural, cultural, micro-ecological, and personal determinants of human behavior. This core course provides students with a general appreciation of the central role that human behavior plays in the development and prevention of illness and in the promotion of health. Specific interventions targeted at African Americans are presented to illustrate these theoretical constructs. (Fall)

### **MPH 505 Fundamentals of Public Health (3 credit hours)**

**Course Director: Kwaku Danso, PhD, MPA**

The interdisciplinary foundation course for first-year MPH students is designed to improve their analytical and practical skills in the fundamental principles (values and ethics) and core competencies in domestic and global public health issues. The course integrates theory and practice as important



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### **MPH 517 Statistical Computer Methods I (3 credit hours)**

This course provides intermediate level of SAS and SPSS to gain proficiency in the use of data management, processing and storage, manipulation and retrieval of data and statistical summaries are emphasized. (Fall)

### **MPH 518 Applied Epidemiology Methods (3 credit hours)**

\*Prerequisite: MPH 601 Intermediate Epidemiologic Methods

This course is designed to address the use of epidemiologic methods in applied settings, with a focus on issues faced by health departments. This course will partner with local and state epidemiologists to provide in depth understanding of the methodology used in day-to-day practice. Case studies will be derived from current literature. (Fall)

### **MPH 536 Biostatistics Methods (3 credit hours)**

\*Prerequisite: MPH 500 Biostatistics

This course covers the fundamental aspects of experimental design as well as regression and multi variant analysis. This course builds on MPH 500 Fundamentals of Biostatistics. (Fall)

### **MPH 601 Intermediate Epidemiology Methods (3 credit hours)**

\*Prerequisite: MPH 502 Epidemiology

This course discusses methodological issues important to the design of epidemiological studies of both infectious and non-infectious diseases are covered at an intermediate level. Topics include formulation of a research question, types of studies, sample size, sampling methods, biases and confounding, data collection instruments and the presentation and interpretation of data. (Spring)

## **Health Administration and Policy (HAP) Track**

Stephanie Miles-Richardson, DVM, PhD - Track Coordinator

### **Goal and Course Offerings**

The goal of the Health Administration and Policy track is to prepare students for generalist positions in health services administration. Developments in the U.S. healthcare environment place greater emphasis on prevention, evidence-based management, cost containment and community-oriented population-based training. The HAP track is dedicated to providing a learning and training environment for students grounded in knowledge and skills that emphasize these issues.

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### **MPH 691 Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)**

**Track Coordinators: Kwaku Danso, PhD, MPA; Rakale Collins Quarrels, PhD, MS; and Lee Caplan, MD, PhD**

This course provides an opportunity for students to synthesize and integrate the knowledge base and competencies acquired in coursework and practicum. Students can demonstrate this achievement through writing and presenting a thesis or manuscript, which is submitted to a pre-selected Public Health journal. (Fall and Spring)

### **MPH 692 Public Health Leadership Seminar (0 credit hours)**

These seminars expose students to innovative leaders in public health who explore a variety of issues and strategies used in public health and provide a forum for exchange on contemporary practice and theory. Local, regional and national leaders present on selected topics and students interact in a seminar format. Students must attend five seminars per semester and a total of 20 to meet the graduation requirements. It is mandatory that students attend five of the seven seminars offered per year by the MPH Program. Students are encouraged to attend seminars provided by other MSM departments and external organizations to fulfill the graduation requirement. (Fall and Spring)

### **MPH 693/694 Directed Study (1-2 credit hours)**

Directed Study is an MPH course in which students pursue independent research under the guidance of a MSM faculty member. Students can complete a Directed Study to pursue in-depth research in a general area covered in a course, or to explore a topic not normally covered in the curriculum. (Fall and Spring)

### **MPH 695 Career/Personal Development Workshops (0 credit hours)**

These workshops provide technical skills required to lay the foundation for proficient performance in the job market. Professional success mandates effective marketing of skills, knowledge and abilities for new opportunities. Professional and career development training classes are the critical elements to a successful career. (Fall and Spring)

### **MPH 696 Quantitative and Qualitative Labs (0 credit hours)**

The Quantitative labs specialize in statistical applications such as SPSS, SAS, and Epi Info, and are designed to introduce methods of statistical data analysis and develop an understanding of the appropriate use of statistical

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### Health Education and Health Promotion (HE/HP) Track

Rakale Collins Quarells, PhD - Track Coordinator

#### Goal and Course Offerings

The Health Education and Health Promotion Track prepares students for positions in the private and public sectors as developers and managers of programs designed to prevent disease and promote healthy behaviors. Upon completion of the interdisciplinary curriculum, students will demonstrate the ability to implement behavior change strategies, design and evaluate health messages, identify and use information sources, assess community needs, and evaluate programs.

#### Required Track Courses

##### **MPH 530 Community Health Promotion I (3 credit hours)**

This course examines methods of community health assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation. Students learn to develop or adapt a health promotion program that reflects cultural competence, analyze types of program evaluations that can be used for a health promotion program and create written materials to support a health promotion program. (Fall)

##### **MPH 531 Community Health Promotion II (3 credit hours)**

This course is designed to provide students with the knowledge skills, and abilities that are required to assess, organize, and prepare communities for public health emergencies. Building on the core competencies of public health, the course will include team-building, lectures, small group work, interacting with community emergency responders, community organizing, community service and program evaluation. (Spring)

##### **MPH 532 Methods of Program Evaluation (3 credit hours)**

This course introduces students to quantitative, qualitative and ethnographic methods of quality measurement and improvement in public health. Students will learn formative and summative program evaluation methods and explore public health standards for conducting program evaluation. (Spring)

##### **MPH 534 Health Communications (3 credit hours)**

This course is intended to complement courses in social and behavioral approaches to community health. This includes the intervention core in Community Health Education and the social and behavioral science perspec-

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### **MPH 524 Managing the Health Sector in Developing Countries (3 credit hours)**

This course introduces students to the management of the health sector in developing countries. It provides an understanding of the social and political economy and theories of management, organizational behavior and development at the local and national levels. It also introduces students to the systems approach in the study of centralization versus decentralization, policy formulation versus implementation and service delivery. (Spring)

### **Elective Courses**

### **MPH 535 Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Management (2 credit hours)**

This course provides an overview of the fundamentals of emergency preparedness and disaster management at the local public health department level. Course instruction will blend the application of management theory with practical applications and students will learn how to develop and effectively implement disaster preparedness plans. Through this approach, students will strengthen their knowledge of emergency preparedness and the management of public health disasters that may be terrorist, biological, or chemical in nature. (Spring)

### **MPH 537 Non-parametric Methods (2 credit hours)**

Prerequisite: MPH 500 Biostatistics or equivalent

The course includes an analysis of qualitative data as it applies to experimental design in biology, public health and medicine. It also discusses binomial and chi-square to the k-sample case and non-parametric measures of correlation and association. Analysis of variance of ranked data is included. (Fall)

### **MPH 538 Analysis of Frequency Data (2 credit hours)**

Prerequisite: MPH 500 Biostatistics

This course evaluates tests and measurements of association for contingency table analysis; partitioning chi-square; the odds ratio, comparative trials; analysis of categorical data with matched samples; combining evidence from contingency tables; effects and controls of misclassification errors, and multi way contingency tables. (Spring)

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### **MPH 635 Reproductive Health: An Epidemiological Approach (2 credit hours)**

This course will introduce students to epidemiological and application methods to reproductive health research. A range of reproductive health issues, health conditions, and changing health service delivery strategies for women will be introduced. The course provides key indicators, which are monitored through federal, state, public and private organizations covering: socioeconomic, cultural, health, behavior, and social environments. This course is mandatory for students in the International Health Track who are interested in completing an international practicum. (Spring)

*Morehouse School of Medicine reserves the right to terminate or modify program requirement content, and the sequence of program offerings from semester to semester or year to year, for educational reasons that it deems sufficient to warrant such actions.*

*Further, MSM reserves the right to terminate programs for financial or other reasons that it determines warrant such action. The content, schedule, requirements, and means of course presentation may be changed at any time by the School of Medicine for educational reasons that it determines are sufficient to warrant such action. Programs, services or other activities of the School may be terminated at any time due to reasons beyond the control of the School including but not limited to, acts of God, natural disasters, destruction of premises, labor disturbances, governmental order, financial insolvency, or other reasons or circumstances beyond the control of the School of Medicine.*