MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Mission Statement
The mission of the UWF Master of Public Health program is to empower a generation of public health professionals with skills, knowledge and competencies to contribute creatively and ethically to education, research and service to promote public health and disease prevention.

Student Learning Outcomes [Program Competencies]
Graduates with a Master of Public Health degree from the University of West Florida should be able to:

Content [Basic Public Health Sciences Skills]
- Explain factors impacting the health status of populations, including determinants of health and illness, factors contributing to health promotion and disease prevention, and factors influencing the use of health services.
- Define and apply public health science research methods.
- Articulate the historical development, roles, and functions of local, state, and federal agencies and private organizations in fulfilling the mission of the public health profession.

Critical Thinking [Analytic Skills]
- Define problems in public health and effectively utilize basic research methods to address the problem.
- Articulate the impacts of a public health problem along multiple dimensions, including consideration of ethical, political, scientific, economic, and overall public health impacts.
- Apply epidemiological methods to conceptualize public health studies and statistical methods for the analysis and interpretation.

Communication [Communication Skills (and Informatics)]
- Demonstrate proficiency in writing and oral communication by using appropriate epidemiological and statistical terminology when defining a public health problem, conceptualizing an intervention, analyzing data, or communicating the results of data analysis.
- Defend and justify conclusions based on benefits to the target populations, as well as ethical, scientific, economic, and overall public health impacts.
Integrity/Values [Social and Cultural Skills]
- Describe the role of local, state, and federal regulatory agencies on ethical and legal decision-making in public health.
- Develop and adapt approaches to problems that take into account cultural differences.
- Interact sensitively, effectively, and professionally with persons from diverse groups.

Project Management [Policy Development/Program Planning/Management Skills]
- Articulate the health, fiscal, administrative, economic, ethical, scientific, legal, social, and political implications of each policy option as they affect decision making in public health policy.
- Translate policy into organization plans, structures, and programs.
- Develop mechanisms to monitor and evaluate programs for their effectiveness and quality.

Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes:
Graduate students in the Master of Public Health program will acquire advanced skills and knowledge that enable them to join the public health profession or pursue additional graduate studies at the doctoral level. Direct assessment in this program is conducted using examinations, short essays that incorporate public health principles and concepts to problem solving, semester projects, a comprehensive exam, and evaluation of student performance in the Internship in Public Health course, which is the required culminating experience at the end of a student’s program of study. The internship provides field experience in a public health-related area under the direction of a preceptor, requires a written report on the research conducted, and includes a final oral defense (conducted in person or via Web-conferencing) of the conclusions and recommendations included in the report. The student will be assessed on abilities to integrate core public health principles of epidemiology, evaluation, and data analysis into practice, collaborate and communicate effectively during the internship to solve public health problems, abide by ethical standards in the conduct of research with humans and animals, make a creative contribution to the field, and work independently on internship research and tasks within reasonable timeframes. Indirect assessment practices in this program include an exit survey and student evaluations of courses.

Job Prospects for Master of Public Health Graduates
- Public Health (county, state, national and international opportunities)
- Community Health
- Infection Control
- Medical Research
- Industry
- Government
- Education
- Health Professions
- Research Laboratories
- Teaching
- Pollution Control
- Environmental Health

Find out more about the Master of Public Health at UWF:
http://uwf.edu/sahls