

Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work Picture Page

Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work

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The Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work includes five departments: Dietetics and Nutrition, Environmental and Occupational Health, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Health Policy and Management, and Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and the School of Social Work. Programs of study are offered that lead to a Master's of Public Health degree (MPH) (with specializations in biostatistics, environmental and occupational health, epidemiology, health promotion and disease prevention, health policy and management, and community nutrition); a Master of Science degree in Dietetics and Nutrition, and a Master's degree in Social Work (MSW). A Ph.D. in Public Health (with specializations in environmental and occupational health, epidemiology, and health promotion and disease prevention); a Ph.D. degree in Dietetics and Nutrition; and a Ph.D. in Social Welfare are also offered. In addition, a Bachelor of Science degree in Dietetics and Nutrition; a baccalaureate degree in Health Services Administration (BHSA) and a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work are also offered. The Department of Dietetics and Nutrition also offers an accredited pre-professional practice program, the Coordinated Program (CP).

Accreditation

The Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health. The Didactic (DPD) and pre-professional practice programs (CP) in Dietetics and Nutrition are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Dietetic Education. The BSSW and MSW programs are accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Each degree program is committed to preparing students for the pursuit of excellence in professional and scholarly endeavors in an era of globalization, scientific and technological advances, and demographic changes. The health and well-being of communities as affected by multiple determinants is reflected in our interdisciplinary curriculum. The programs emphasize the involvement of practitioners, academic

researchers, and the community to improve and promote public health and social well-being.

Office of Student and Alumni Affairs

The Office of Student and Alumni Affairs serves as a liaison between the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work and university-wide student support services. The office works with department chairs to coordinate admissions and advising services, and provides students with information on scholarships, assistantships, stipends, curriculum, requirement changes, internships, and graduation application deadlines. The office coordinates alumni services and communication.

The College has dynamic professional staff dedicated to promoting the school and supporting our students while they pursue their academic goals.

For additional and updated information about degrees offered, program requirements, and services, please visit our website at www.cphsw.fiu.edu.

Master of Public Health

The Master of Public Health (MPH) degree is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health. The MPH program is designed to provide fundamental skills in core areas of public health and to serve those seeking a broader base of knowledge to improve environmental and personal health services for the community.

The mission of the program is:

- to educate and train future leaders, researchers, and health professionals from diverse backgrounds;
- to conduct innovative research and to translate that research into policy, program, and practice, and
- to promote healthy lives for the diverse communities of South Florida, especially, the undeserved, and the peoples of the Caribbean and Latin America.

Admission Application for Master's of Public Health

Students seeking admission to the graduate programs in the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work must formally apply to the University for acceptance at <http://gradschool.fiu.edu>. For additional information contact the:

Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work
Office of Student and Alumni Affairs

Email: ph@fiu.edu

Tel: (305) 348-7777

Fax: (305) 348-4901

Website: www.cphsw.fiu.edu

Admission Requirements

Applicants must meet the University's general graduate admission requirements:

1. A Bachelor's degree or equivalent from an accredited college or university or, in the case of foreign students, an institution recognized in its own country as preparing students for further study at the graduate level.
2. A minimum 3.0 GPA (on the last 60 undergraduate hours), In addition, applicants are required to submit 1) a current resume; 2) a written statement of purpose (career goals); 3) three letters of recommendation. (optional)

3. International graduate student applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit a score for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). A total score of 80 on the iBT TOEFL or 6.5 overall on the IELTS is required. Students with diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

Computer Requirements

Entering students must demonstrate basic computer literacy, either through course work or by demonstration to the advisor. Students are expected to show that they can load and run software programs, and have reasonable proficiency in word processing. Two core courses, PHC 6715 Survey Research in Public Health and PHC 6065 Public Health Statistics, require use of SPSS. This requirement will assure that students are prepared for these and other courses which require additional computer skills needed in public health practice.

Masters Culmination

All MPH students must complete either a field-training experience or a research option as a core requirement.

Field Experience Option

This option is a requirement for all students with less than three years of work experience in a public health. Field experience gives the student the opportunity to gain practical experience under preceptor-guided supervision in a public health agency. Students should consult the Internship Coordinator for further information.

Research Options

These options are recommended for students entering the program with three or more years of experience in a public health-related program.

Master's Research Project

The research project affords the opportunity to conduct research on a specific public health problem or topic in either a community or institutional setting. MPH students who select the research project must choose a faculty member to direct their research. The advisor and the student may identify other resource persons to serve in an advisory capacity for the research project.

Master's Thesis

The thesis option provides students the opportunity to conduct original research on a public health problem or topic and to report this in a scholarly manuscript. Students who select this option must choose a major professor to act as the chair of their thesis committee and two additional members. Before beginning work on a thesis, student must present a proposal to their committee for approval. The committee will direct and supervise the work carried out by the student.

Degree Requirements

Students must complete at least 45 semester hours of approved course work with a minimum of a 'B' average. Public Health Core Courses must be passed with a grade of 'B' or higher, with one exception of a 'B-' grade in one course only. Students must complete all core courses prior to proceeding to specialization or elective courses. No

more than two core courses may be taken simultaneously with specialization courses, as long as the rest of the core courses have been completed. All work applicable to the degree must be completed within six years of first enrollment in the master's program.

At the completion of the public health core courses, students must take and pass all five core areas of an examination. Students who fail the examination content of a core area, must audit the respective core course. Students may not proceed to Supervised Field Experience (PHC 6945) or Masters Research Project (PHC 6977) until passing all five core areas of the examination.

Public Health Core Courses: (15 credits)

PHC 6065	Health Statistics	3
PHC 6000	Introduction to Public Health	
	Epidemiology	3
PHC 6315	Introduction to Environmental Health	3
PHC 6410	Health Behavior and Public Health	3
HSA 5125	Introduction to Health Policy and Management	3

Online Master of Public Health Option

Students may be admitted to the Master of Public Health Online program. All admissions and graduation requirements are the same as the traditional programs. Each Online class is the equivalent of an on-campus section of the same course, in terms of objectives, content, rigor, and transferability. Students must meet stated prerequisites or assessment scores, where applicable. The main difference is the degree of flexibility that an Online format provides the student.

Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Public Health is designed to prepare graduates to engage in research for public health practice and policy and for leadership positions in national, state, and local public health and other health agencies. The degree will provide a foundation in current public health research and practice with opportunity for specialization in one of three areas: Epidemiology, Environmental and Occupational Health, or Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. The curriculum of the doctoral program is built around the core competencies necessary for public health. Students will be expected to demonstrate significant research capacity by completing 60 credits beyond the Master's degree and through the writing of an original dissertation.

Doctoral Admissions

Applicants must meet the University's general graduate admission requirements:

1. A four year bachelor's degree or equivalent from a nationally accredited institution or, in the case of foreign students, from a well established institution of higher learning that is authorized to grant degrees by appropriate authorities in that country.
2. A minimum of a 3.0 GPA, "B" average, in the last 60 upper-division undergraduate coursework, or a graduate degree from a nationally accredited institution.
3. Official GRE scores (scores must be no more than five years old). Nationally-normed exam scores should be at or above the 60th percentile (e.g., 1120

combined verbal and quantitative scores on the GRE).

- International graduate student applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit a score for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). A total score of 80 on the iBT TOEFL or a 6.5 overall on the IELTS is required.

The College also requires:

- A current resume.
- Three letters of recommendation.
- A writing sample (master's thesis or project, published manuscript, or other).

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to contact individual faculty to discuss common research interests since admission decisions may require identification of a potential faculty mentor.

Doctoral Requirements

A student may enroll for dissertation credits after completing all coursework, passing the candidacy examination, and being advanced to candidacy. Dissertation credits cannot be taken before advancement to candidacy.

The candidacy examination will be prepared and graded by a committee consisting of a minimum of three faculty members. Admission to candidacy requires that a majority of the committee members agree that the student passed the examination. A candidacy examination may not be passed conditionally. A "Pass" on the examination cannot be made contingent upon other factors such as the completion of additional coursework or the preparation of extra research projects. Students will be allowed only two attempts to pass the candidacy examination.

After a doctoral student is admitted to candidacy, continuous registration for at least 3 dissertation credit hours each semester (including the summer term) is required until the dissertation requirement is fulfilled.

Required Courses

The program requires a minimum of 75 credit hours beyond the baccalaureate which includes a minimum of 24 hours of dissertation credits. There are three components to the College Ph.D. curriculum. The first is a core curriculum shared across all specializations (12 credit hours). The second component is specific to the specializations (27 credit hours) and secondary field courses (12 credit hours). The third component consists of the dissertation, including 24 dissertation credit hours.

Shared Core Courses

PHC 6601	Emerging Issues in Public Health	3
PHC 6718	Quantitative Research Analysis in Health and Urban Affairs II (or other approved Quantitative Methods course)	3
PHC 7981	Research Concepts and Proposal Development	3
PHC 7705	Methods in Evidence Based Public Health	3

Specializations: A minimum of 9 credit hours in Methods, 18 credit hours in Content Courses, and 12 credit hours in a Secondary Field is required.

Methods Courses 9

Specific methods courses for each concentration

Content Courses

Courses to be identified by field faculty in specific field courses for each concentration 18

Secondary Field Courses

Secondary field courses selected from approved graduate school courses in consultation with academic advisor. 12

Dissertation Requirements

PHC 7980 Dissertation 24

Master of Science in Dietetics and Nutrition

Admission Requirements

Minimum entrance requirements under current University Graduate School must be met. For the M.S. this includes a 'B' (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) average in all upper division work. An applicant who feels the earned GPA is not indicative of his or her ability to be successful in a graduate program may submit scores for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) which will be taken into consideration by the admission committee in its evaluation of the application.

Students who are candidates for the Master of Science degree in Dietetics and Nutrition must complete a minimum of 37 semester hours of graduate study including at least 30 hours at this University. All course work must be recent enough to be relevant to the contemporary field of nutrition.

Graduate students wishing to become a Registered Dietitian can be considered for admission into the FIU Coordinated Program in Dietetics. The Coordinated Program (CP) is currently granted continuing accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation of Dietetics Education of The American Dietetic Association, 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2000, Chicago, Illinois 60606, (312) 899-0040, ext. 5400.

The program combines didactic requirements with supervised practicum experience. Graduates from the CP are eligible to sit for the National Registration Examination for Dietitians

Graduate students having successfully completed a Didactic Program in Dietetics will be evaluated for course equivalency prior to admission into the CP. Upon determination that they have the necessary coursework equivalents (and applied labs), students must pass the DIE 4963 Comprehensive Dietetic Examination before placement in the supervised practice component of the CP.

The student must make formal application to the Coordinated Program by February 1 before Summer admission. This special application form can be obtained from the department. Criteria for admission include grades in prerequisite course work, work experience, and letter of application. Students accepted into the CP will undergo a background screening and drug testing. Twelve graduate credits of supervised practice experiences (DIE 5946 & 5947) must be completed by graduate students.

Costs of the program to students in addition to tuition and fees (including a \$50/credit practicum fee) include: providing transportation to practicum sites, lab coats and professional attire, annual laboratory tests at the student health services clinic.

Students must meet all graduation requirements for the M.S. in Dietetics and Nutrition degree in order to receive the verification statement of Coordinated Program completion.

Doctor of Philosophy in Dietetics and Nutrition

Minimum entrance requirements under current University Graduate School must be met. For the Ph.D., the University Graduate School GRE requirement is 1120 (verbal plus quantitative). Additional requirements include submission of a 2-3 page statement of purpose, objectives and goals for Ph.D. studies, a resume and 3 letters of recommendation. Previous completion of an M.S. degree is not required for admission. Qualified students will be accepted into the Ph.D. program on the basis of their compatibility with the research interests of departmental faculty. English proficiency is required for teaching assistantships. Students for whom English is not the primary language and want to be considered for a teaching assistantship must take the TSE (Test for Spoken English); a minimum score of 26 on the speaking portion of the iBT TOEFL or 7 in the speaking portion of the IELTS is needed. Alternatively they may achieve a level 5 score on a proficiency test administered by the English Language Institute, but are free to acquire proficiency in any way they choose. All teaching assistants must complete the FIU Academy of the Art of Teaching workshop and receive the Teaching Assistant Certificate. Application procedures for admission are detailed in the Graduate Admission section of this catalog.

Ph.D. students must complete a minimum of 55 hours after M.S. degree or 75 hours after the B.S. degree. See Department pages for required coursework.

Certificate Programs in Public Health

Public Health offers a variety of graduate certificates which may be earned in conjunction with an MPH or other graduate degree. The certificates provide graduate level training and instruction in Environmental Health, Epidemiology, Health Promotion, and Public Health Foundations. Each certificate requires 18 credit hours of approved graduate level course work. Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent from an accredited college or university. Program requirements for specific certificates can be found beginning on page 567.

Master of Social Work

The program and courses listed in this catalog are under review and changes may be made without advance notice.

Social Work offers an integrated program that leads to the Master of Social Work (MSW) degree. The program is designed to give the student professional education for the advanced practice of social work. The curriculum applies a bio-psycho-social model within the context of a social systems framework to understand client systems, address problems and develop interventions.

All students will be required to acquire or to possess the common base in the areas of professional study considered essential in social work education: human behavior and the social environment, social welfare

policies and services, research, and social work practice. The knowledge acquired in the professional courses will be applied in supervised field experiences in social agencies.

The program offers a concentration in advanced clinical practice and students complete a field practicum program that supports practice in that concentration. With the help of faculty, students will develop individualized programs in the concentration to meet their educational needs and contribute to their professional objectives. The program provides a curriculum which meets the current educational requirements for clinical licensure in Florida.

For additional information regarding the graduate social work program of study and degree requirements, contact the School of Social Work at (305) 348-5880.

The Master of Social Work Program at Florida International University is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

Doctor of Philosophy in Social Welfare

The Doctor of Philosophy in Social Welfare aims to prepare students for careers in research, university teaching, and leadership in social work and social welfare.

The overarching emphasis in the Ph.D. program is on research to develop effective and culturally competent interventions (from direct practice to social policy) to meet the human needs of individuals, families, groups, and communities in urban settings.

In courses, seminars, and supervised study and research, students are assisted to develop and strengthen their skills in methods of scientific inquiry, to deepen their understanding and analysis of social problems and public issues, and to contribute to the knowledge base of social welfare. Students pursue a course of study focused on social problems, levels of intervention, and research methodologies related to an area of specialization of particular interest to them. While in the program, students are expected to disseminate the results of their study and research in appropriate forums. Students are also offered opportunities to teach.

Certificate Programs

Graduate Certificate in Addictions

This graduate certificate provides specialized advanced clinical training for social work students and professionals working in the addictions field. It will meet all of the classroom educational requirements laid out by the State of Florida for certification through the Florida Certification Board.

Graduate Certificate in Management in Social Work

This graduate certificate provides specialized management training for social work students and professionals planning to enter or work in managerial positions in the social work field. Courses do not meet elective requirements for MSW clinical program. All certificate students will be required to take the three required courses as well as the two from the approved list.

**Graduate Certificate in Social Work
Practice with the Elderly**

This graduate certificate provides specialized advanced clinical training for social work students and professionals working with elderly populations.