Training Students in Public Health

UW’s Master of Public Health Program has graduated 200-plus public health professionals.

**Description:** Originally established in 2004 with a grant from the Wisconsin Partnership Program, the Master of Public Health Program offers an interdisciplinary approach to public health, practice and evidence-based teaching with an emphasis on field experience. Housed in the Department of Population Health Sciences in the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, the program received accreditation through the Council on Education for Public Health in July 2009.

**Results:** The MPH program enrolls an average of 35 to 45 new students per semester. Students typically follow a 42-credit program and they are also required to complete a 400-hour field experience, followed by a capstone paper and presentation. The program’s “dual degree” option allows students to tailor a public health degree to accompany degrees in medicine, nursing, veterinary science, law and pharmacy. Its 200-plus graduates have gone on to work in public health-related fields in Wisconsin and across the country. Several recent graduates have accepted positions with the Division of Public Health at the Department of Health Services, and another won a highly competitive fellowship with the elite Epidemic Intelligence Service at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

**Next Steps:** Though the program has focused on traditional, full-time students, it hopes to gradually expand to offer training for working professionals. The program is exploring distance-based technologies to reach an audience broader than on-campus students, as well as shared courses and fieldwork opportunities with other public health programs across the state.

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**MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM**

**Principal Investigator:** Thomas Oliver, PhD, MHA, Population Health Sciences, SMPH  
**Grant Program:** Targeted Research and Education  
**Award:** $592,214 over two years