

University of Texas at Arlington

Graduate Certificate in Public Health Practice

Purpose

The UTA Graduate Certificate in Public Health Practice addresses North Texas' growing demand for professionals with public health training. To address this need, the University of Texas at Arlington created a post-baccalaureate, non-degree program to provide current and future working professionals with the knowledge and skills currently needed in public health practice and industries requiring public health training.

The UTA graduate certificate in public health is well-suited for several key audiences:

- Those who work locally in health care or public health who have not had formal public health training
- Professionals in North Texas with advanced degrees in fields such as social work, kinesiology, nutrition, and nursing who desire to complement their career knowledge with public health training
- UTA graduate students who would like to enhance their graduate training with public health knowledge

Students who earn a Graduate Certificate in Public Health Practice at UTA will:

- Demonstrate knowledge in the five core areas of public health-biostatistics, environmental health sciences, epidemiology, health policy and administration, and social and behavioral population health.
- Apply skills to solving problems based in public health.
- Use fundamental biostatistics skills to analyze data
- Apply principles of epidemiology to research design, program assessment, disease surveillance and prevention within specified populations.
- Identify models to promote behavioral and social changes to improve the health of a

population.

- Discuss the role of health policy and management in cost, quality and access to health care.
- Identify ways in which the environment influences the health of populations.

Program Description

The curriculum is comprised of five 3-hour required courses, distributed among the five public health competency domains defined by the Council on Education for Public Health. All courses are offered at a time and in a format suitable for the schedules of working professionals. Most courses are offered in an online/on-campus hybrid format--the majority of coursework occurs online, complemented with several on-campus sessions.

The hybrid format allows convenience for working professionals, while still offering the benefits of networking, team-based learning, and face-to-face interaction with instructors afforded by the on-campus sessions. One three-hour course will be completed in each of the following defined competency areas:

Biostatistics:

Developing and applying statistical methods to analyze and solve problems in public health, health care, and clinical population-based research.

Epidemiology:

Applying scientific methods of data collection and population surveillance to study the distribution and pattern of health determinants, risk factors, and diseases in a population.

Social and Behavioral Health:

Understanding the social and behavioral factors that influence population health.

Health Policy and Health Management:

Advocating for policies, regulations and laws which maintain and promote the health of a population; as well as governing and operating health facilities.

Environmental Health Sciences:

Assessing and controlling factors in natural and man-made environments which affect population health.

Catalog Description

(to be published in the Fall 2018 UTA Course Catalog)

Objective: Graduate Certificate in Public Health Practice

The Graduate Certificate in Public Health Practice is designed to prepare students who complete the program to apply fundamental public health skills in their professional fields. Public health training in the five core public health disciplines may complement students' current job skills, or provide students with new professional public health knowledge and career opportunities.

Students will gain graduate-level introductory knowledge of the five core disciplines in public health and the accompanying foundational skill sets. A foundational curriculum in biostatistics, epidemiology, health systems and policy, environmental health, and social and behavioral population health prepares students to execute skills to assess, implement interventions, and evaluate the health of a population within their organizations or communities.

Admission into the Graduate Certificate in Public Health

Practice

Admission to the Graduate Certificate in Public Health Practice program is based on completion of general admission requirements of the Graduate School as specified under the Graduate School Admissions Requirements and Procedures in the Graduate Catalog.

Admission criteria include:

Official transcripts showing an earned bachelor's degree from an accredited school, with a 3.0 or higher grade point average for the last 60 undergraduate or the last 18 graduate/post-baccalaureate credit hours completed. The criterion to have previously completed a bachelor's degree will be waived for UTA Bachelor of Science in Public Health students.

The Graduate Record Exam or other standardized graduate school exam is not required for admission to the certificate program. Only GPA and not GRE, or other standardized graduate admission exam, will be considered for admission to the program.

A one-page personal statement written in English describing the applicant's interest in and potential for contributing to public health, career objectives, and self-assessment of abilities and preparation for succeeding in a public health graduate program. The quality of written

expression in the applicant's personal statement will be considered.

An applicant whose native language is other than English must demonstrate a sufficient level of skill with the English language to assure success in graduate studies as defined under Admissions Requirements and Procedures in the Graduate Catalog.

The applicant's resume or CV, highlighting professional experience such as accomplishments, linguistic abilities, computer expertise, and analytics expertise.

Probationary Admission

Probationary admission is not available for this program.

Provisional, Deferred and Denied Admission

Provisional, deferred and denied admission decisions meet the criteria as defined under Admission Requirements and Procedures in the Graduate Catalog.

Certificate Requirements

The Graduate Certificate in Public Health Practice is a certificate program consisting of 15 credit hours to include one required 3-hour course in each of the five public health disciplines:

Biostatistics

KINE 5376 (online/on campus hybrid) Introduction to Biostatistics
OR
KINE 5305 (on campus) Applied Statistical Principles in Kinesiology

Epidemiology

KINE 5372 Introduction to Epidemiology

Health Policy and Health Management

KINE 5377 Introduction to Health Systems and Policy

Environmental Health

KINE 5373 Introduction to Environmental and Occupational Health

Social and Behavioral Health

KINE 5375 Population Health

Students have three years to complete the program.

Foundation Requirements

No previous specific coursework is required.

Transfer Credit

Students may transfer one course (3 SCH) into the GCPHP program. The course must have been completed at the graduate level at an accredited university, with a grade of "B" or above, and be determined to be equivalent to the course offered at UTA. The course should not have been used for another degree or certificate program.

Determination of course equivalency will be made by the course instructor on a case-by-case basis.



Graduate Certificate in Public Health Practice: 15 Credit Hour Curriculum

Biostatistics: One required 3-hour course

KINE 5376: Introduction to Biostatistics (on-campus, evenings)

The course will introduce students to analysis skills applied in the public health sciences. Students will learn how to apply descriptive statistics, t-tests, ANOVA, correlation, multiple regression, and non-parametric statistics to public health problems using real-life datasets.

Epidemiology: One required 3-hour course

KINE 5372: Introduction to Epidemiology (online and hybrid)

By participating in this course students will learn the critical role that epidemiology plays in preventing and controlling disease. This course will provide students with a foundation of the methods and concepts used in epidemiology. Students will learn the measures used in epidemiology and apply principles of causality, study design, disease surveillance, and outbreak investigations. In addition, students will be introduced to sources of data used in epidemiologic studies. The major course project will provide students with hands-on experience using skills sought by employers in public health agencies.

Health Policy and Health Management: One required 3-hour course

KINE 5377: Introduction to Health Systems and Policy (hybrid)

What is population health, and why does it matter? Why are U.S. health care costs so high? How is the U.S. health system financed? What are the basic principles of health insurance? Who are the uninsured? It is critical that public health professionals be able to answer these questions and understand the basic functions that comprise the U.S. health care system. This course will help students answer these questions through an introduction to health systems and policy, including the delivery, quality and costs of health care for individuals and populations. The course will also examine the structure, processes and outcomes of health services, financing, organization, outcomes and accessibility of care.

Environmental Health: One required 3-hour course (online and hybrid)

KINE 5373: Introduction to Environmental and Occupational Health

This course provides an overview of the critical environmental health problems in industrialized and developing countries, their causes and solutions, emphasizing the role of science in environmental policy decisions. Topics include climate change, water and air contaminants, injury risk and prevention in the workplace, food and waterborne disease, and toxic metals, and how the body reacts to environmental pollutants.

Social and Behavioral Health: One required 3-hour course (hybrid)

KINE 5375: Community Health

This course will explore population health information and perspectives, providing students with an understanding of what public health is and why it is important. Course activities and assignments assist students in learning their role in population health dynamics in their own community. The course will provide students with theoretical and evidence-based strategies designed to improve community health from population-based approaches. Students will narrow those areas of foci to contemplate real-world, practice-based learning experiences.

