

MS in Public Health

Admission Requirements

In addition to the Graduate College minimum requirements, applicants must meet the following program requirements:

- **Baccalaureate Field**
 - A major in the biological, physical, or social sciences is preferred.
- **Grade Point Average** At least 3.00/4.00.
- **Tests Required** GRE General. For GRE General Tests, the combined verbal and quantitative scores must be at least 300.
- **English Proficiency** Additional information on the English proficiency test requirement for international students can be found on the [UIC Admissions website](#). Minimum test scores for this program are:

Exam	Score	Reading	Listening	Speaking	Writing
TOEFL iBT (exams taken on or after January 21, 2026)	4.5	4	4	4.5	4.5
TOEFL iBT (exams taken prior to January 21, 2026)	80	19	17	20	21
IELTS Academic	6.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
PTE Academic	54	51	47	53	56

- **Letters of Recommendation** Three required.
- **Personal Statement** Required; the statement should address the applicant's intended research, career goals, and reason for pursuing the MS degree in the chosen area.

Degree Requirements

In addition to the Graduate College minimum requirements, students must meet the following program requirements:

- **Minimum Semester Hours Required** Varies by concentration. 40 for the Health Policy and Administration concentration; 48 for the Public Health Informatics concentration.
- **Coursework** At least 32 semester hours must be in courses other than IPHS 598, and at least 9 semester hours must be at the 500 level. No more than 4 hours of IPHS 596 may be applied to the degree.
- **Comprehensive Examination** Not required.
- **Thesis, Project, or Coursework-Only Options** Thesis only. No other options available.
 - *Thesis*: Thesis required for all areas. Thesis students must earn at least 8 hours in IPHS 598.

School-Wide Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
School of Public Health Core Requirements (22 semester hours)		
BSTT 400	Biostatistics I	
EPID 403	Introduction to Epidemiology: Principles and Methods	
IPHS 450	Foundations and Determinants of Public Health	
IPHS 598	Research in Public Health Sciences - M.S. (8 hours)	

Non-Credit Training Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Required Training		
	Title IX Training - Sexual Harassment	
IPHS 421	SPH Success	
	• Quantitative Baseline Assessment	
	• SPH & UIC Policies Module	
	• Human Subjects Research (HSR)	
	• SPH Academic Integrity Tutorial (AIT)	

Concentration Requirements

Health Policy and Administration Concentration

MS students concentrating in Health Policy and Administration must complete all of the School of Public Health Core Requirements for the MS degree. In addition, 22 hours of coursework relevant to the disciplinary area of Health Policy and Administration are taken in consultation with the faculty advisor.

Code	Title	Hours
HPA 415	Introduction to Public Health Policy	
HPA 460	Introduction to the Economics of Health and Healthcare	
HPA 521	Empirical Methods for Health Research I	
HPA 522	Empirical Methods for Health Research II	
HPA 567	Public Health Policy Analysis	
HPA 581	Advanced Topics in Health Economics	
	Electives - Selected in consultation with the faculty advisor (4 hours)	

Secondary Concentration

Public Health Informatics Secondary Concentration (suspended)

Note: Admission to the Public Health Informatics Concentration is suspended effective Fall 2025. Please contact the department for further information.

Code	Title	Hours
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Secondary Concentration Requirements

MS students concentrating in Public Health Informatics must complete all of the SPH requirements for the MS degree. In addition, students must take the following:

Required Courses

BSTT 401	Biostatistics II	
HPA 465	Health Information and Decision Support Systems	
HPA 481	Development of Public Health Surveillance Information Systems	

Selective Courses

A minimum of 16 hours from among the following:

HPA 480	Health Related Database Design and Analysis	
HPA 483	Management of Communication Systems for Public Health Informatics Applications	
HPA 485	Legal and Ethical Issues in Public Health Informatics	
HPA 486	Survey of Public Health Information Systems	
HPA 488	Public Health Information Systems Evaluation and Project Management	
HPA 563	Web-Based Public Health Information Systems	
HPA 564	Geographic Information System Application in Public Health	
HPA 565	Datamining Applications in Public Health	

Elective Courses

A minimum of 6 hours from among the following:

BHIS 509	Informatics for the Clinical Investigator	
BHIS 527	Knowledge Management in Healthcare Organizations	
BHIS 528	Consumer Health Informatics	
HPA 444	Strategic Planning and Budgeting/ Finance	
HPA 455	Geographic Information Systems Integrative Project	
HPA 486	Survey of Public Health Information Systems	

Students are strongly encouraged to complete at least one course recommended by the Director of Graduate Studies which provides a broad introduction to public health.