



**Department of
Higher Education**

Mike DeWine, Governor
Randy Gardner, Chancellor

Change Request: Online or Blended/Hybrid Delivery

Institution offering the degree program: Kent State University

Degree designation: Master of Public Health degree in Public Health, Epidemiology concentration

The program will satisfy the following criteria:

- The program will use Quality Matters or similar metric-driven online course design/assessment tools.
- All instructors will be trained in offering online content and online assessments.
- The offering university has an institutionally approved plan for securing authorizations to deliver distance learning content in other states (e.g., NC-SARA membership).
- The offering university has approved all online courses for this program as academically appropriate for graduate study.

Is this degree program subject to approval/accreditation by a governing body beyond the Ohio Department of Higher Education and the Higher Learning Commission?

- No Yes *Kent State's College of Public Health has been accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) since 2012. Next review is in December 2020.*

Does this degree program include the creation of original research or scholarship?

- No Yes

Does this degree program include an experiential component?

- No Yes *See the attached Supplementary Information form.*

Will the program be offered in partnership with a third-party, commercial online service provider?

- No Yes *Kent State will utilize educational consultant Everspring Inc. to provide student services in recruitment, admission and advising.*

Approximately what percentage of program content will be completed online?

The M.P.H. degree, Epidemiology concentration, will be offered fully online, in addition to on-ground, see the last page for course delivery. The M.P.H. degree concentrations in Health Policy and Management and Social and Behavioral Sciences are offered fully online (CCGS approved Health Policy and Management in May 2014 and Social and Behavioral Sciences in May 2017).

The person listed below verifies that this request has received the necessary institutional approvals and that the above information is truthful and accurate.

Cynthia R. Stillings
Interim Dean of Graduate Studies
Kent State University
Date

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FORM

Experiential Component

Describe how professional or clinical experiences are implemented and assessed. At a minimum, address the following areas (1) criteria for selecting the location(s) of such experiences; (2) qualifications of preceptors or faculty; (3) a list of competencies that will be evaluated; and (4) assessment strategies used to evaluate student performance. Include any additional information needed to provide assurance that the quality of the experiential component will be equivalent to that of students who are overseen in local environments.

Since practical knowledge and skills are essential to a successful career in public health, students in Kent State's M.P.H. degree undertake a planned, supervised and evaluated practicum to fulfill their degree requirements.

Criteria of setting for the public health practicum (EPC 60192 Practicum Experience in Epidemiology):

1. To provide an opportunity for the student to synthesize, integrate and apply practical skills, knowledge, and training learned through courses
2. To gain professional experience in a public health work environment
3. To work on public health projects that align with student interest.

Prior to starting the practicum, students must complete an online course in human subjects research provided by the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program). Students complete either the Biomedical or Social Behavioral-Educational module. or Biomedical module.

Student Responsibilities:

1. Review practicum guidelines
2. Discuss practicum and related issues with your practicum faculty advisor
3. Proactively select a practicum site and site preceptor
4. Complete all forms in Blackboard Learn
5. Act as a professional always

Practicum Faculty Advisor Responsibilities:

1. Act as a guide for the student
2. Review specific practicum requirements
3. Discuss potential sites and types of practicum experiences
4. Discuss practicum progress
5. Review and approve the following forms:
 - a. Student application
 - b. Preceptor's application and résumé (CV)
 - c. Student's practicum plan
 - d. Midpoint evaluation and revised practicum plan, if submitted
 - e. Final evaluations: site preceptor and student
 - f. Judge practicum based on evaluation and input from the site preceptor and faculty reviewers

Site Preceptor Responsibilities:

1. Review practicum guidelines
2. Submit a preceptor profile application, including résumé (CV)
 - a. Preceptor must have at least a master's degree and/or substantial practice experience
3. Review and develop project
4. Review and approve student's practicum plan
5. Engage with student and provide constructive feedback and guidance
6. Provide guidance for professional conduct
7. Verify student's weekly contact hours
8. Complete the following on the practicum website:
 - a. Midpoint evaluation form in conjunction with the student
 - b. Final site preceptor evaluation of the student and practicum
 - c. Evaluate the student's professional behavior

M.P.H. DEGREE COMPETENCIES

As part of the practicum portfolio, students are asked to describe how they met these competencies during the program.

Evidence-Based Approaches to Public Health

1. Apply epidemiological methods to the breadth of settings and situations in public health practice
2. Select quantitative and qualitative data collection methods appropriate for a given public health context
3. Analyze quantitative and qualitative data using biostatistics, informatics, computer-based programming and software, as appropriate
4. Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy or practice

Public Health and Health Care Systems

5. Compare the organization, structure and function of health care, public health and regulatory systems across national and international settings
6. Discuss the means by which structural bias, social inequities and racism undermine health and create challenges to achieving health equity at organizational, community and societal levels

Planning and Management to Promote Health

7. Assess population needs, assets and capacities that affect communities' health
8. Apply awareness of cultural values and practices to the design or implementation of public health policies or programs
9. Design a population-based policy, program, project or intervention
10. Explain basic principles and tools of budget and resource management
11. Select methods to evaluate public health programs

Policy in Public Health

12. Discuss multiple dimensions of the policy-making process, including the roles of ethics and evidence
13. Propose strategies to identify stakeholders and build coalitions and partnerships for influencing public health outcomes
14. Advocate for political, social or economic policies and programs that will improve health in diverse populations
15. Evaluate policies for their impact on public health and health equity

Leadership

16. Apply principles of leadership, governance and management, which include creating a vision, empowering others, fostering collaboration and guiding decision making
17. Apply negotiation and mediation skills to address organizational or community challenges

Communication

18. Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors
19. Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation
20. Describe the importance of cultural competence in communicating public health content

Interprofessional Practice

21. Perform effectively on interprofessional teams

Systems Thinking

22. Apply systems thinking tools to a public health issue

Public Health – M.P.H. Degree
Concentration in Epidemiology

✓ Course is offered currently for that delivery

★ Course will be offered online after proposal approval

Major Requirements (19 credit hours)		Online	Hybrid	Ground
BST 52019	Biostatistics in Public Health	✓		✓
EHS 52018	Environmental Health Concepts in Public Health	✓		✓
EPI 52017	Fundamentals of Public Health Epidemiology	✓		✓
HPM 52016	Public Health Administration	✓		✓
HPM 53010	Community Health Needs Assessment	✓		✓
SBS 54634	Social Determinants of Health Behaviors	✓		✓
Epidemiology Concentration Requirements (15 credit hours)				
BST 63012	Survival Analysis in Public Health	★		✓
or EPI 63034	Longitudinal Data Analysis	★		✓
BST 63014	Applied Regression Analysis of Public Health Data	✓		✓
EPI 63014	Epidemiology of Chronic Diseases	✓		✓
EPI 63015	Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases	✓		✓
EPI 63016	Principles of Epidemiological Research	★		✓
Practicum and Electives (12 credit hours)				
EPI 60192	Practicum (<i>see note</i>)		<i>off-site experience</i>	
<i>Students choose either 3-credit hour or 6-credit hour practicum</i>				
Major Electives (with advisor approval)		✓		✓
<i>Students choose two or three courses (6-9 credit hours) from College of Public Health courses</i>				

Note:

3-credit hour practicum requires 150 contact hours

6-credit hour practicum requires 300 contact hours