The Master of Public Health in Community Health Education (MPH-CHE)

Background

• Health Education draws from many different disciplines, including psychology, biology, sociology, communications, business, and education.
• The variety of backgrounds that MPH-CHE candidates bring to the program help those in the program broaden their understanding through informational updates, discussion, and team projects.
• The MPH-CHE curriculum is designed to prepare candidates to practice health education in the seven Areas of Responsibility using the Entry-level and Advanced 1 Competencies and Sub-competencies.
• The curriculum is also guided by the five core public health areas of biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental health, health services administration, and essential social and behavioral sciences.
• MPH-CHE candidates are encouraged to develop collegiality through cooperative ventures while in the program. In their present or future professional situations, teamwork and networking will be essential. Mutual support and collaboration are encouraged both informally and through the curriculum in the MPH-CHE program. Many opportunities to develop creative and innovative approaches to health education, often as a team, are provided. The curriculum stimulates personal challenge and skill development, along with a community connectedness.
• Each MPH-CHE candidate, with the assistance of the program director and faculty, is encouraged to examine career options and personal preferences.
• Opportunities are offered by the program to explore health education in business, communities, schools, clinical settings, and higher education through the core curriculum, electives, workshops, the Preceptorship, and a capstone Thesis or Graduate Project experience.
The mission of the MPH-CHE graduate program at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse is to prepare professionals, using advanced-level health education competencies and public health core areas, who will address quality of life enhancement through health education and health promotion, mindful of the holistic, dynamic and interdependent nature of people and their interactions within the environment.

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION

Accreditation and Recognition
The MPH-CHE program at UW-La Crosse is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), and was the first MPH degree offered in the University of Wisconsin-System. The program was initiated in 1991 and has been CEPH accredited since 1992.

MPH-CHE Student Profile
Students in the MPH-CHE program at the UW-La Crosse come from a wide array of undergraduate backgrounds, professional experiences and geographic locations. Some have majored in health education, while others have majors and/or experience in liberal arts programs, medicine, nursing, the social sciences, and the natural sciences, to name a few. MPH-CHE graduate students also have in common an interest in the human condition in all its diverse aspects. They believe good health is basic to human well-being. MPH-CHE graduate students should have good communication skills. They will become specialists in accessing, processing, and disseminating health information to the public. Graduates from this program are involved in efforts to prevent health problems and optimize healthy lifestyle choices.

MPH-CHE Responsibilities and Competencies

Entry-Level and Advanced I Competencies & Subcompetencies are addressed in the following seven Areas of Responsibility (AAHE, NCHEC, SOPHE: A Competency-Based Framework for Health Educators-2010):

- Area I: Assess Needs, Assets, and Capacity for Health Education
- Area II: Plan Health Education
- Area III: Implement Health Education
- Area IV: Conduct Evaluation and Research Related to Health Education
- Area V: Administer and Manage Health Education
- Area VI: Serve as a Health Education Resource Person
- Area VII: Communicate and Advocate for Health and Health Education

These seven Areas of Responsibility are addressed through 34 Tier-2 Core Competencies from the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc., the Society for Public Health Education, and the American Association for Health Education. These five core areas are addressed through 24 Tier-2 Core Competencies.

MPH-CHE Program Content

PLAN A: Thesis Option: 44 total credits, including a Community Health Education Preceptorship, and a Master’s Thesis

PLAN B: Non-Thesis Option: 45 total credits, including a Community Health Education Preceptorship, and a Graduate Project in Health Education

I. Required courses: (35 Credits)

HED 701 Contemporary Issues in Health Education 3 credits
HED 703 Foundations in Health Education 3 credits
HED 706 Research Tools and Processes 6 credits
P-H 707 Environmental Health 3 credits
P-H 717 Emerging Public Health Issues 3 credits
P-H 720 Program Assessment, Planning and Evaluation in Health Promotion 3 credits
P-H 755 Epidemiology & Public Health Issues 3 credits
CHE 780 Community Health Education Preceptorship 8 credits
P-H 791 Public Health Administration & Organization 3 credits

Plan A: II. Thesis Option

HED 799 4 credits

III. Electives

Plan B: II. Graduate Project Option

HED 798 3 credits

III. Electives

7 credits

Admission procedures
Applications to the MPH-CHE program are considered once per year. The due date for all admissions materials, including application for graduate assistantships, three letters of recommendation, letter of intent and official GRE report is February 15.

Admission requirements
Cumulative GPA: 3.00 or higher
GRE: The Graduate Record Examination taken during the last two years is required.

Work Experience: Minimum of 1 year of voluntary or salaried experience in a health or social service setting

Additionally, for International applicants: Paper-based TOEFL 550/ IBT 79 or IELTS 6.0 for English language requirement

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES EXIST IN:
- Public health agencies
- Voluntary and private agencies
- Hospitals and other health care settings
- Local, state and national governmental agencies
- Business and industrial settings

Additional admission materials should be requested from the Office of Graduate Admissions.

Additionally, for International applicants:

- Minimum of 1 year of voluntary or salaried experience in a health or social service setting

GRE: The Graduate Record Examination taken during the last two years is required

Work Experience: Minimum of 1 year of voluntary or salaried experience in a health or social service setting

Additionally, for International applicants: Paper-based TOEFL 550/ IBT 79 or IELTS 6.0 for English language requirement

PRECEPTORSHIP LOCATIONS (selected examples)
- State health departments in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa
- Local health departments in Wisconsin and Minnesota
- Medical centers, to include the Marshfield Medical Foundation and Clinic; Gundersen Lutheran Medical Centre and Mayo Clinic Health System
- Corporate worksite health promotion sites
- Voluntary and private health-related and human service agencies
- Examples of global health settings include African Nations, Central America, Canada, Great Britain and Sweden