

# certificate of graduate study in public health

Public health is a multi-disciplinary field that reaches into many professional settings. The educational backgrounds of those working in public health are varied, ranging from people with bachelor to doctoral degrees in the arts and sciences, medicine, nursing, social work, law, and public health, to name a few.

Employment opportunities for those who complete the Certificate of Graduate Study in Public Health are diverse:

**Health Departments:** The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control employs nearly 4000 people statewide. For those already working in the health departments, the CGSPH will increase their potential for advancement. For those looking to work with the health department, the CGSPH will improve their marketability.

**Community Organizations:** Community-based organizations are tasked with addressing complex issues and are staffed with employees from various backgrounds. The CGSPH will improve marketability with organizations that need employees with skills in planning, evaluating, and implementing programs and assessing community needs.

**Other Institutions:** Knowledge of the basic concepts of public health are needed in a variety of other institutions and disciplines, including health care, education, risk assessment, state and local government, and law enforcement.



## Certificate Description

The Certificate of Graduate Study in Public Health (CGSPH) is an 18-hour certificate designed for those interested in pursuing studies in public health who are currently not interested in obtaining a graduate degree in public health. Students may have advanced degrees in other disciplines or bachelor degrees and are seeking academic training in public health.

## Program Requirements

Earning the CGSPH involves a focused learning experience in the fundamentals of public health in which candidates must complete 1) three of the five public health core courses and 2) three elective public health courses consistent with the student's background and interests.

### A. Public Health Core Courses (3 courses, 9 hours)

The student chooses three from these five core courses:

Biostatistics (BIOS 700)

Epidemiology (EPID 700)

Environmental Health Sciences (ENHS 660)

Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior (HPEB 700)

Health Services Policy and Management (HSPM 700)

### B. Electives (3 courses, 9 hours)

Each candidate will work with the CGSPH advisor to plan a program of study to match their individual interests (e.g., general public health, nutrition, disparities, preparedness) and/or needs (e.g., evaluation, financial management, statistical analysis, program planning, epidemiology). All electives must be courses offered by the Arnold School of Public Health or approved by the candidate's advisor.

## General Information

Applications are reviewed three times each year and are due April 1 for Summer enrollment, June 1 for Fall, and October 1 for Spring.

Students admitted to the program are assigned an advisor to assist in developing a program of study.

Final authority for all decisions remains with The Graduate School and is based on the Graduate Studies Bulletin and published University policy.

*(continued)*

### **Admission Criteria**

Admissions will be based on the following:

- Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university with a satisfactory GPA
- AU transcripts required
- Completed USC Application Form and fee
- Brief letter of intent addressing how the CGSPH will help advance career goals
- Curriculum Vitae
- Two letters of recommendation

### **How to Apply**

Applications must be submitted online through The Graduate School <http://www.gradschool.sc.edu/futurestudents/OnlineApplication.html>.

When asked for your Degree Status, select “Degree Seeking”.

When asked to select one degree program to which you wish to apply, select “Public Health-Certificate of Graduate Study”.

Complete online application and submit and complete all required paperwork.

Alert the Office of Public Health Practice through email ([ophp@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:ophp@mailbox.sc.edu)) once you have submitted the application.

### **For More Information About the Certificate**

Office of Public Health Practice  
Arnold School of Public Health  
Health Sciences Building  
University of South Carolina  
Columbia, SC 29208  
Phone: 803-777-4788  
Email: [ophp@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:ophp@mailbox.sc.edu)  
Web site: [www.sph.sc.edu/futurestudents/certPublicHealth.htm](http://www.sph.sc.edu/futurestudents/certPublicHealth.htm)

### **USC in Focus**

For 200 years USC has distinguished itself as a center of learning with a tradition of leadership and service in higher education. USC offers a diverse and talented student population, a dedicated and successful faculty, a highly regarded library, outstanding research programs, and a campus that has been named one of the most beautiful in America.

The University offers more than 350 degree programs. Many of these programs are nationally and internationally ranked, from the arts, humanities, public health, physical science, law, business, and engineering. If you want to learn more about the University of South Carolina visit the Web site at [www.sc.edu](http://www.sc.edu).

Information about the city of Columbia can be found at [www.columbiasc.net](http://www.columbiasc.net).



### **Additional Information about the Arnold School**

If you have questions or need additional information on how you can receive a rewarding degree from the Arnold School of Public Health visit our Web site at [www.sph.sc.edu/futurestudents](http://www.sph.sc.edu/futurestudents) or e-mail the Office of Student and Alumni Services at: [sphstsrvc@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:sphstsrvc@mailbox.sc.edu)  
Phone: 803-777-5031

The University of South Carolina does not discriminate in educational or employment opportunities or decisions for qualified persons on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or veteran status.