Finding success in a public health career begins with a simple equation: 4 + 1
That's the amount of time that it will take for you to earn a Bachelor of Science degree from Claflin University and a master of public health degree from the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina.

The “4 + 1 Program” is designed to help you earn a master's degree in five years and get you started in a rewarding career in public health.

Recognizing the need for a more diverse public-health workforce, USC’s Arnold School and Claflin University looked at the academic strengths of each institution and developed a program that will enable students to earn undergraduate and master's degrees in an economical and more timely fashion.

This degree program, one of the first of its kind in the nation, is a response to the need for more public health professionals in our state and nation.

Public health today
Public health is a growing field of study that addresses the health of populations or groups of people – not only individuals. Public health focuses on the prevention of disease and on the promotion of health of people and the communities in which they live.

Public health careers in the 21st century
Because of an aging Baby Boomer population and the retirement of these workers, a shortage of public health professionals already exists throughout the nation – a shortage that is expected to worsen by 2020. Public health professionals have a wide range of career opportunities to choose from – health educator; health services administrators in hospitals, long-term care facilities and physician practices; epidemiologists; nutritionists; laboratory specialists and much more. Don’t forget, if you are concerned about the preservation of our environment, a public health degree will open many doors for you!

Rewards of public health
Those who choose public health careers say that the profession is similar to a “calling.” It is the opportunity to improve the health and well-being of people in your community, state, nation and world. Job growth and job security are important, too, and are a reality during this time of shortage of public health professionals, especially those with an MPH degree. Many people say they find the variety of jobs to be appealing, as well as the opportunities for leadership and to make a difference in the health of people and the environment.

Program Criteria and Application Process
• The 4+1 program is open to qualified Claflin students who are Biology majors and those who have completed at least three years (90 credit hours) of undergraduate study. However, the School of Public Health is open to including Claflin students from other majors. Students are required to have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0.
• Students are required to apply for non-degree Graduate Admission after completing 90 hours at Claflin.
• After students are admitted as non-degree graduate students, it is recommended that they enroll in 1-2 courses each semester. The goal is to make sure that students have a manageable course load.
• During the Spring semester of the students senior year at Claflin, the students must complete the CollegeNet application for admission to the General MPH Program.
• Once accepted into the General MPH Program, a USC representative will work with students to identify their specific area of interest.
• Students must meet the admission and retention criteria at all stages of the program.
• Students will be selected jointly by Claflin University and the University of South Carolina.
• A letter of recommendation from the departmental chair or academic advisor must be included in the student’s application package.
• Application fee waivers are available upon request.

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