

Pre-Public Health Program at Messiah College

Messiah College has a proud tradition of preparing students for a variety of careers in Public Health. There are five core areas of Public Health, and the academic and experiential requirements vary by institution and by program. Prospective applicants are encouraged to research the schools to which they may apply early in their college career to best plan their curriculum. The purpose of this document is to present a brief outline of what is generally expected of successful applicants to Public Health School. You will note that at Messiah we have a Pre-Public Health **Program**. Our program is individualized and is based on the students' core selection. Consequently this document is general with respect to academic requirements and specific with respect to the application process.

Preparing for a Career in Public Health

Description of the Profession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association of Schools of Public Health webpage (www.asph.org) • www.explorehealthcareers.org
Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 5 core areas of public health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Biostatistics — Epidemiology — Health Services Administration — Health Education/Behavioral Science — Environmental Health • Many schools offer concentrations in addition to the 5 core areas of public health • Check the Association of Schools of Public Health website (www.asph.org) for a list of schools of public health
Course Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements vary by school
Application Timeline	<p>Public health school directly after Messiah College:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required courses completed by end of senior year (although preference may be given to applicants that complete the required courses sooner) • Apply during fall of senior year
Standardized Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually Graduate Record Exam (GRE), but varies by school • Given virtually daily at computer test centers • Register on-line (www.gre.org) • Length 3 h • 3 sections : verbal (scores 200-800), quantitative (200-800), analytical writing (0-6) • Receive scores immediately
Application Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 of the 39 schools of public health participate in the Schools of Public Health Application Service (SOPHAS) (www.sophas.org) • Available ~ September 1 • APPLY EARLY!!!

Length of Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varies by school • Master degree programs ≈ 1-2 years • Doctoral degree programs ≈ 3 years or more 	Admissions Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GPA • GRE • Letters of evaluation • Health-related experience • Personal statement
Degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Public Health (MPH) • Master of Health Administration (MHA) • Master of Science (MS) • Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) • Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) • Doctor of Science (ScD) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Additional Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association of Schools of Public Health (www.asph.org) • www.publichealthjobs.net • www.whatispublichealth.org • American Public Health Association (www.apha.org) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •