

# PUBLIC HEALTH - PH.D.

College of Public Health and Health Sciences  
www.kent.edu/phhs

## About This Program

The Ph.D. degree in Public Health bridges population health and research methods to prepare graduates for careers in academics, industry and public service agencies. Students concentrate in either epidemiology or prevention science and complete two to three years of coursework with an additional two or more years of research. Students complete a comprehensive exam and oral prospectus defense and prepare a final written dissertation with presentation and defense. Read more...

## Contact Information

- **Thomas Brewer** (Health Policy and Management) | twbrewer@kent.edu | 330-672-4703
- **Eric Jefferis** (Prevention Science) | ejefferi@kent.edu | 330-672-6502
- **Lynette Phillips** (Epidemiology) | lphill20@kent.edu | 330-672-6324
- Connect with an Admissions Counselor

## Program Delivery

- **Delivery:**
  - In person
- **Location:**
  - Kent Campus

*Applications to the Health Policy and Management concentration are not being accepted at this time.*

## Examples of Possible Careers and Salaries\*

### Epidemiologists

- 16.2% much faster than the average
- 12,300 number of jobs
- \$83,980 potential earnings

### Health specialties teachers, postsecondary

- 17.3% much faster than the average
- 289,600 number of jobs
- \$105,620 potential earnings

### Medical and health services managers

- 23.2% much faster than the average
- 616,200 number of jobs
- \$117,960 potential earnings

## Accreditation

The Ph.D. degree in Public Health is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).

\* Source of occupation titles and labor data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook. Data comprises projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years; nation-wide employment numbers; and the yearly median wage at which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

For more information about graduate admissions, visit the graduate admission website. For more information on international admissions, visit the international admission website.

## Admission Requirements

*Applications to the Health Policy and Management concentration are not being accepted at this time.*

- Master's degree in a related discipline from an accredited college or university
- Minimum 3.000 graduate GPA on a 4.000-point scale
- Official transcript(s)
- GRE score or other standardized graduate admission exam with a quantitative component<sup>1</sup>
- Résumé
- Goal statement
- Three letters of recommendation
- Interview with faculty
- English language proficiency - all international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions to waive) by earning one of the following:<sup>2</sup>
  - Minimum 94 TOEFL iBT score
  - Minimum 7.0 IELTS score
  - Minimum 65 PTE score
  - Minimum 120 DET score

Students who do not meet prerequisites for the Ph.D. degree may be required to complete additional coursework.

<sup>1</sup> GRE scores may be waived as determined by graduate coordinator.  
<sup>2</sup> International applicants who do not meet the above test scores will not be considered for admission.

## Application Deadlines

- **Fall Semester**
  - Priority deadline: December 1

*All application materials (including applicable fee, transcripts, recommendation letters, etc.) submitted by this deadline will receive the strongest consideration for admission.*

## Program Requirements

### Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Major Requirements</b>		
BST 83014	APPLIED REGRESSION ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC HEALTH DATA	3
EHS 72018	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CONCEPTS IN PUBLIC HEALTH <sup>1</sup>	3
EPI 72017	FUNDAMENTALS OF PUBLIC HEALTH EPIDEMIOLOGY <sup>1</sup>	3

EPI 72028	METHODS OF EVIDENCE BASED PUBLIC HEALTH	3
EPI 73027	BIOLOGICAL BASIS OF PUBLIC HEALTH	3
HPM 72016	PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION <sup>1</sup>	3
SBS 73020	ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODS IN PREVENTION SCIENCE	3
SBS 74634	SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH BEHAVIORS <sup>1</sup>	3

**Concentrations**

Choose from the following:	48-49
Epidemiology	
Health Policy and Management	
Prevention Science	

**Minimum Total Credit Hours:** 72-73

<sup>1</sup> Course may be waived if completed at the master's level. Students who have course requirements waived may graduate with fewer than 72 credit hours, but no fewer than 60 total credit hours.

**Epidemiology Concentration Requirements**

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Concentration Requirements</b>		
BST 83012	SURVIVAL ANALYSIS IN PUBLIC HEALTH	3
EPI 73034	LONGITUDINAL DATA ANALYSIS	3
EPI 83016	PRINCIPLES OF EPIDEMIOLOGIC RESEARCH	3
Content-Related Electives <sup>1</sup>		9
<i>Culminating Requirement</i>		
EPI 80199	DISSERTATION I <sup>2</sup>	30
<b>Minimum Total Credit Hours:</b>		<b>48</b>

<sup>1</sup> Content-related elective courses should be selected by the student with a faculty advisor, depending upon the student's research interest. The courses may be in the College of Public Health and Health Sciences or other disciplines outside the college.

<sup>2</sup> Each doctoral candidate, upon admission to candidacy, must register for EPI 80199 for a total of 30 credit hours. It is expected that a doctoral candidate will continuously register for EPI 80199, and thereafter EPI 80299, each semester, until all degree requirements have been met.

**Health Policy and Management Concentration Requirements**

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Concentration Requirements</b>		
HPM 70199	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE	1
HPM 73031	PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY ANALYSIS	3
HPM 81000	PUBLIC HEALTH LAW AND REGULATION	3
Content Related Electives <sup>1</sup>		12
<i>Culminating Requirement</i>		
HPM 80199	DISSERTATION I <sup>2</sup>	30
<b>Minimum Total Credit Hours:</b>		<b>49</b>

<sup>1</sup> Content-related elective courses should be selected by the student with a faculty advisor, depending upon the student's research interest. The courses may be in the College of Public Health and Health Sciences or other disciplines outside the college.

<sup>2</sup> Each doctoral candidate, upon admission to candidacy, must register for HPM 80199 for a total of 30 credit hours. It is expected that a doctoral candidate will continuously register for HPM 80199, and thereafter HPM 80299, each semester, until all degree requirements have been met.

**Prevention Science Concentration Requirements**

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Concentration Requirements</b>		
SBS 73018	THEORIES OF PREVENTION SCIENCE	3
SBS 73019	EVALUATION RESEARCH METHODS IN PREVENTION SCIENCE	3
Content-Related Electives <sup>1</sup>		12
<i>Culminating Requirement</i>		
SBS 80199	DISSERTATION I <sup>2</sup>	30
<b>Minimum Total Credit Hours:</b>		<b>48</b>

<sup>1</sup> Content-related elective courses should be selected by the student with a faculty advisor, depending upon the student's research interest. A minimum 3 credit hours of content-related courses must be in research methods or statistics. The courses may be in the College of Public Health and Health Sciences or other disciplines outside the college.

<sup>2</sup> Each doctoral candidate, upon admission to candidacy, must register for SBS 80199 for a total of 30 credit hours. It is expected that a doctoral candidate will continuously register for SBS 80199, and thereafter SBS 80299, each semester, until all degree requirements have been met.

**Graduation Requirements**

Minimum Major GPA	Minimum Overall GPA
-	3.000

- Pass concentration-specific candidacy exam

**Program Learning Outcomes**

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Explain public health history, philosophy and values.
2. Identify the core functions of public health and the 10 Essential Public Health Services.
3. Explain the role of quantitative and qualitative methods and sciences in describing and assessing a population's health.
4. List major causes and trends of morbidity and mortality in the United States or other community relevant to the school or program.
5. Discuss the science of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention in population health, including health promotion, screening, etc.
6. Explain the critical importance of evidence in advancing public health knowledge.
7. Explain effects of environmental factors on a population's health.
8. Explain biological and genetic factors that affect a population's health.
9. Explain behavioral and psychological factors that affect a population's health.
10. Explain the social, political and economic determinants of health and how they contribute to population health and health inequities.

11. Explain how globalization affects global burdens of disease.
12. Explain an ecological perspective on the connections among human health, animal health and ecosystem health (e.g., One Health).

## Full Description

The Ph.D. degree in Public Health bridges public safety and health career pathways to address a nationwide shortage of public health workers.

The Public Health major comprises the following concentrations:

- The **Epidemiology** concentration prepares students to examine the distribution and determinants of diseases in populations. Graduates are able to apply quantitative and qualitative methods to examine critical and/or emerging health issues, gain advanced ability to conduct large studies and analyze data sets in order to project health trends in populations of interest. Students in this concentration benefit from active faculty research agendas in biopreparedness, public health surveillance systems, chronic disease, cancer and infectious disease epidemiology.
- The **Health Policy and Management** concentration prepares students to design and implement studies and use advanced research methods to examine critical and emerging health issues. The heart of the concentration is a focus on interdisciplinary skills to meet the rapidly changing health needs of communities. Students benefit from active faculty research agendas in health systems research, occupational health and safety, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, access to health care, health literacy, substance abuse prevention and community-based programming.
- The **Prevention Science** concentration is an interdisciplinary program aimed at promoting healthy behaviors in populations across the life course. Graduates are prepared to design and evaluate public health interventions and have expertise in a variety of theoretical and substantive perspectives for conducting research within systems of the family, health and education, workplace and community. Active faculty research provide students the opportunity to work on community-based prevention research.