

Comparison and Contrast of the Modified DrPH and Proposed PhD Degree Programs in the Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences

DrPH	PhD
The DrPH program prepares students for positions of leadership in the social and behavioral sciences areas of public health practice.	The PhD program prepares students to conduct research and teach in the social & behavioral sciences areas of public health in academic settings.
Objectives	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Critically integrate the social and behavioral sciences with management, advocacy, leadership, ethics, and communication skills within an area of concentration. Utilize social ecological frameworks to design, implement and manage public health programs that translate research into practice; Utilize social ecological frameworks to conduct applied research to evaluate public health programs and policies using qualitative and quantitative methodologies; Develop partnerships and conduct collaborative projects with diverse communities, community organizations and public health organizations; Develop strategies to communicate effectively with diverse constituencies including policy-makers, researchers, public health practitioners and the general public in order to conduct advocacy for change and disseminate evidence-based research results. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Develop critical thinking and problem solving skills using various models and conceptual frameworks from the social and behavioral sciences; Develop an understanding of the social ecological context within which public health programs are designed, implemented and researched; Apply qualitative and quantitative methodologies in order to design and conduct rigorous and scientifically valid research at various levels of human activity (e.g. intrapersonal, interpersonal, organizational, community, public policy); Develop a social justice perspective in the consideration of and sensitivity to ethical issues that influence public health, health policy, and the delivery of health care; Apply data management and analysis skills, and competencies in communicating research findings orally and in writing.
Admission requirements	
DrPH	PhD
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> An MPH degree. A degree from a CEPH- accredited school is highly desirable. Applicants must demonstrate in their application statement that they have a clear understanding of how the program of study will benefit them in achieving their career goals. The Doctoral Committee puts great weight on the quality of the applicant's statement. The application must be submitted with three letters of recommendation from individuals who are in a position to judge the applicant's professional and/or academic abilities. Applicants must have a graduate quality or grade point average of at least 3.3. Transcripts of all college level study must be submitted. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants must hold a post-baccalaureate degree in a discipline relevant to public health. However, in exceptional cases, an applicant with a baccalaureate degree and significant professional public health experience may be considered. Applicants must demonstrate in their application statement that they have a clear understanding of how the program of study will benefit them in achieving their career goals. The Doctoral Committee puts great weight on the quality of the application statement. The application must be submitted with three letters of recommendation from individuals who are in a position to judge the applicant's professional and/or academic abilities. Applicants must have a graduate quality or grade point average of at least 3.3. Transcripts of all college level study must be submitted.

<p>5. Applicants must submit the scores on the verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing portions of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). The test must have been taken within three years of the application date. There is no absolute cutoff. Scores of 500 or higher on the verbal portion of the GRE, 550 on the quantitative portion, and 5.0 on the analytical portion are highly desirable.</p> <p>6. Applicants must have completed all other courses listed on the Prerequisite Course Form for GSPH applicants.</p> <p>7. Applicants who hold an international MPH will have their qualifications reviewed on an individual basis. They must hold a degree equivalent to a U.S. MPH, as determined by the University of Pittsburgh's Office of International Services.</p> <p>8. Applicants for whom English is not their first language will undergo an Assessment of English Language Proficiency based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The applicant is a citizen of a country whose official language is English; b. A minimum result of 80 on the iBT (Internet-based test), 550 on the PBT (Paper-based test), or 213 on the CBT (Computer-based test) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL); c. A minimum result of Band 6.5 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS); d. Completion of a degree program at a regionally accredited institution in the U.S. 	<p>5. Applicants must submit the scores on the verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing portions of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Scores of 500 or higher on the verbal portion of the GRE, 550 on the quantitative portion, and 5.0 on the analytical portion are highly desirable. Experience in a health related field is highly desirable.</p> <p>6. Applicants must have completed all other courses listed on the Prerequisite Course Form for GSPH applicants.</p> <p>7. Applicants who hold a first international professional degree will have their qualifications reviewed on an individual basis. They must hold a degree equivalent to a U.S. post-baccalaureate degree, as determined by the University of Pittsburgh's Office of International Services.</p> <p>8. Applicants for whom English is not their first language will undergo an Assessment of English Language Proficiency based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The applicant is a citizen of a country whose official language is English; b. A minimum result of 80 on the iBT (Internet-based test), 550 on the PBT (Paper-based test), or 213 on the CBT (Computer-based test) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL); c. A minimum result of Band 6.5 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS); d. Completion of a degree program at a regionally accredited institution in the U.S.
Course of study	
DrPH	PhD
See DrPH checklist	See PhD checklist

Preliminary Examination	
DrPH	PhD
<p>The student will select a public health topic of interest. The Doctoral Committee will provide the student with a real-life scenario related to this topic. The student will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide a social-ecological review of the public health issue, from the point of view of social justice. b. Prepare a theoretically-based program design to translate research to practice. The design must include an evaluation component. c. Provide a plan for communicating the evaluation findings to practitioners, researchers, and the public. d. Provide a plan to advocate for the needs that would result from this study. 	<p>The student will select a public health topic of interest. The Doctoral Committee will review and approve the topic. The student will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide a social-ecological review of the public health issue, from the point of view of social justice. This background should inform the research questions and designs. b. Design two parallel research studies to address the research questions developed. One of the studies will use quantitative methodology and the other will use qualitative methodology. c. Provide paths for integration of the two studies d. Provide a plan for dissemination of research results.
Comprehensive Examination	
DrPH	PhD
<p>Paper and defense</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Paper: The paper is an exploration of the relevant body of literature in the student's area of interest. b. Topic: It is expected that the dissertation topic will emerge from this larger body of literature. c. Outcome: This paper should demonstrate the student's thorough knowledge of the literature—the central themes, issues and questions which are driving the student's field of interest. This is necessary so that s/he is in a position to implement and evaluate programs in this area and influence policy. In addition, the paper must demonstrate a command of the main theoretical concepts and methodologies currently used in the field. This paper will form the basis of the comprehensive examination. The student will schedule a defense meeting at which time s/he will respond to questions from the committee. 	<p>Paper and defense</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Paper: The paper is an exploration of the relevant body of literature in the student's area of interest. b. Topic: It is expected that the dissertation topic will emerge from this larger body of literature. c. Outcome: This paper should demonstrate the student's thorough knowledge of the literature—the central themes, issues and questions which are driving the student's field of interest. This is necessary so that s/he is in a position to in order to conduct research and teach this area. In addition, the paper must demonstrate a command of the main theoretical concepts and methodologies currently used in the field. This paper will form the basis of the comprehensive examination. The student will schedule a defense meeting at which time s/he will respond to questions from the committee.
Dissertation	
DrPH	PhD
<p>Original research on a practical public health issue in the social and behavioral sciences. For example: program evaluation, program design, and policy analysis.</p>	<p>Original research on a social and behavioral public health issue.</p>

Other experiences	
DrPH	PhD
<p>Executive Management Practicum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. This high-level practicum will expose the student to management, planning, and advocacy from the point of view of a health organization. We envision students conducting their practicum in public and non-profit organizations working in health promotion and prevention of disease. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Example organizations: Institute of Politics; Allegheny County Health Department; Consumer Health Coalition; Adagio Health. 	<p>Research practicum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Student will be required conduct a research practicum under the supervision of a faculty member. This practicum should include research design, data collection, management and analysis, and reporting or publication. The practicum may or may not be part of the student’s graduate student researcher position (GSR). <p>Teaching requirement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. PhD students are required to complete a 1-credit course on teaching and a practicum, where they will plan and teach several sessions in a course, under the supervision of a faculty member.