



Arkansas Colleges of Health Education – Morrison MSDI Program

MHC DI has formed a partnership with the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education (ACHE) to give interns the chance to enroll in fully online, 42-credit-hour, [Master of Public Health \(MPH\) Nutrition \(NU\)](#). The program allows students to pursue their master's degree while completing their dietetic internship. MHC DI guarantees acceptance into the internship if students have a didactic program in dietetics (DPD) verification statement, have completed the DICAS application for Fall MHC DI placement (see Application Steps below), are enrolled in the fully online MPH NU, and have completed at least 9 credits in MPH coursework with a minimum 3.0 GPA. Students who successfully complete the MHC DI and the MPH NU graduate program are awarded the verification statement from MHC DI and are eligible to sit for the registration examination for dietitians (RDN credential).

Admission and Application Requirements

Students enrolled in the MPH NU-MHC DI experience must complete 42 credits of MPH NU coursework as listed. Refer to the [MPH website](#) for full application details.

The admission requirements for ACHE’s MPH program are as follows:

- Bachelor's degree accredited by a regional accrediting body that is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education
- Preferred minimum 3.0 GPA
- Preferred prerequisite coursework (typically obtained through bachelor’s degree)
- Application, and required documents submitted through [GradCAS](#) portal. Priority deadline to apply is May 1 with a final application deadline of 1 week prior to the start of the term.

Plan of Study:

Fall Start (August), MPH Priority Application Deadline – May 1.

Semester	Fall (August-December)	Spring (January-May)	Summer (May-July)	Fall (August-December)	Spring (January-May)
Credits	9 Credits (9 of 42)	9 Credits (18 of 42)	6 Credits (24 of 42)	9 Credits (33 of 42)	9 Credits (42 of 42)
MPH NU Courses	MPH-401 (3 credits) MPH-411 (3 credits) MPH-421 (3 credits)	MPH-402 (3 credits) MPH-412 (3 credits) MPH-422 (3 credits)	MPH-500 (3 credits) MPH-520 (3 credits)	MPH-531 (3 credits) MPH-541 (3 credits) MPH-551 (3 credits)	MPH-602 (1 credits) MPH-612 (2 credits) Electives (6 credits):

					Varies Graduate: May
MHC DI				Begin MHC DI: September	Graduate MPH NU: May Complete MHC DI: April Receive MHC DI verification statement

Program Costs:

MPH tuition is \$520 per credit hour, fees included ([refer to the Cost of Attendance website](#)).

MPH Coursework Requirements

Unit Requirements:

- TOTAL: 42 credits
- COURSE REQUIREMENTS: 36 credits
- ELECTIVES: 6 credits

Orientation:

All newly admitted MPH students must attend the MPH orientation prior to the start of their first term in the program. Dates/details are shared with new students soon after they have accepted their admissions offer from the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education.

MPH NU Requirements:

Following are course descriptions for the required Courses (36 credits). Students must also complete 6 credits of elective courses (details below).

Courses (36 credits)

MPH 401 Foundations of Public Health (3 credits)

Offered: Fall only, 16 weeks (August-December)

This course provides foundational knowledge and historical overview of the profession and science of public health and the essential public health services. Students will study public health principles, evidence-based approaches in public health practice, and the social determinants of health.

MPH 411 Epidemiology for Public Health (3 credits)

Offered: Fall only, 16 weeks (August-December)

This course introduces epidemiology as a scientific discipline in public health. Students will learn the foundational principles and methods of epidemiology by studying determinants of disease, measuring disease in populations, and estimating risks to public health and population health practice. Topics of study include analyzing public health trends and the burden of disease, measures of disease

frequency and association, epidemiologic study designs, screening, surveillance, and outbreak investigations.

MPH 421 Health Behaviors, & Theory (3 credits)

Offered: Fall only, 16 weeks (August-December)

This course prepares students to understand and apply theories and models of health behavior and health promotion to improve population health. Students will apply the Ecological Model, Health Belief Model, Stages of Change Model (Transtheoretical Model), Social Cognitive Theory, and Theory of Reasoned Action/Planned Behavior to design, implement, and evaluate public health interventions.

MPH 402 Biostatistics for Public Health (3 credits)

Offered: Spring only, 16 weeks (January-May)

This course introduces the basic principles of applied biostatistics methods in public health practice. Students will review statistical methods in studies related to public health, medicine, and biological sciences to test hypotheses and engage in quantitative analysis of population-based public health problems and interventions.

MPH 412 Health Communication (3 credits)

Offered: Spring only, 16 weeks (January-May)

This course is designed to prepare students to effectively frame communication, select media, and design health promotion campaigns based on their knowledge of the theories and models of health behaviors. Students will apply the principles of communication theory, learn to critically analyze examples of communication, and apply those principles to a wide variety of public health communications, including health promotion, wellness, knowledge exchange, and risk communication. Multiple media types will be introduced, including social media, print, web, and video.

MPH 422 Community Health Assessment (3 credits)

Offered: Spring only, 16 weeks (January-May)

This course introduces concepts and methods of community health improvement through effective community health assessment, intervention, and advocacy. Students will learn how to gather and assess data on community assets and needs regarding policy change, systems change, and environmental change outcomes. Finally, students will explore community impacts of local, state, and national policy efforts.

MPH 500 Policy, Leadership, & Ethics (3 credits)

Offered: Summer only, 10 weeks (May-July)

This course will prepare students to advance policy issues confronting public health practice both nationally and internationally. Through examination of contemporary public health policymaking, students will focus on what has changed over time and why policy matters for public health including ethical consequences for different stakeholder populations. Students will complete a comprehensive policy analysis process to understand the impact on public health and health equity based on a pressing public health need. Students will propose an evidence-based solution that includes an advocacy plan to address improving health outcomes in diverse populations.

MPH 520 Public Health Nutrition (3 credits)

Offered: Summer only, 10 weeks (May-July)

This course will provide foundational knowledge of public health nutrition. Students will learn the basics of nutritional biochemistry as it relates to chronic disease and malnutrition. Finally, students will review existing programs and policies, including strengths, weaknesses, and areas for modification or new interventions.

MPH 531 Nutrition Assessment (3 credits)

Offered: Fall only, 16 weeks (August-December)

This course provides a comprehensive examination of the methods and approaches for conducting nutrition assessment of individuals and populations across the life span. Students will explore various assessment methods, strengths and limitations of methodology, evaluation and interpretation of assessment data, sources of measurement error, validity of assessment methods, and basic analytical approaches used to interpret assessment data.

MPH 541 Obesity & Cardiometabolic Disease (3 credits)

Offered: Fall only, 16 weeks (August-December)

This course will examine the unique nutritional problems related to obesity and cardiometabolic disease. This course will provide a deep dive into social determinants of health, the hunger-obesity paradox, and discuss the nuances of metabolically healthy obesity.

MPH 551 Nutritional Epidemiology (3 credits)

Offered: Fall only, 16 weeks (August-December)

This course will examine the relationship between diet and disease in large samples of people. Students will learn the unique characteristics of nutritional epidemiological methodology and how to interpret its findings.

MPH 612 Capstone Course (2 credits)

Offered: Spring only, 16 weeks (January-May)

Capstone is a culmination of knowledge, theory, and skills learned throughout the curriculum. Upon completion of this course students will demonstrate a mastery of competencies in their concentration, as well as their ability to integrate the competencies for foundational public health knowledge into a final Capstone project.

MPH 602 Applied Practice Experience (APEX) (1 credit)

Offered: Spring only, 16 weeks (January-May)

The Applied Practice Experience (APEX) is a course that provides the student with an opportunity to apply and translate knowledge, theory and skills learned in the classroom into practice within a professional health setting. It is a planned, supervised, and evaluated field-based experience that can take place in a variety of agencies and organizations for community engagement. The APEX strengthens student's foundational and concentration-specific public health competencies through the practical experience.

ELECTIVES (6 Credits)

Students must complete 6 credits (2 courses) of electives. The following is a list of elective courses.

MPH 502 Maternal & Child Health (3 credits)

MPH 512 Research Methods for Public Health (3 credits)

MPH 522 Disaster Relief & Emergency Response (3 credits)

MPH 532 Environmental & Occupational Health (3 credits)

Contact Information

Arkansas Colleges of Health Education MPH NU Program

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