Master of Public Health in the Field of Global Health Communication

Program Director K. Ndiaye

Mission

The mission of the master of public health (MPH) in global health communication degree program is to train the next generation of public health professionals engaged in addressing global health issues that are directly related to human behavior. Human behavior is at the core of many of the world’s most pressing public health challenges, including HIV/AIDS and obesity. The program is designed to train professionals to approach the development and evaluation of behavior-change communication programs that address individual- and community-level factors relevant to particular populations and settings.

Goals

Understanding human behavior and developing ways to affect change requires a diverse set of skills. The goals of the MPH in global health communication are to teach students the following:

- How to recognize the complexity of behavior change, especially the multiple levels of influence on human behavior.
- How to apply behavior change and communication theories in the development and evaluation of health communication programs and activities.
- Appreciation for the challenges that may arise in addressing behavior change in global settings.
- Critical thinking skills necessary to interpret and apply public health literature related to health communication and behavior change in global health settings.
- Skills for developing and evaluating health communication interventions in resource-limited settings or for vulnerable populations.
- Qualitative and quantitative research methods relevant to health communication.
- Knowledge of the various types of stakeholders, including governments, international donors, and local players, that may shape health communication interventions in global settings.
- Cultural competency skills necessary to develop programs and work in diverse cultural settings.
- Awareness of the benefits and challenges to collaborating with organizations that serve disenfranchised/vulnerable communities.

Requirements

The following requirements must be fulfilled: 45 credits, including 15 credits in core courses, 10 credits in global health departmental courses, 8 credits in communication program courses, 8 credits in electives, a 2-credit practicum, and a 2-credit culminating experience.

Graduation Requirements

1. Graduate credit requirement: 45 graduate credits.
2. Course requirements: Successful completion of core and program-specific courses.
3. Grade point requirement: 3.0 (B average) overall grade-point average.
4. Time limit requirement: The degree must be completed within four years.
5. Transfer credit policy: Up to 12 graduate credits that have not been applied to a previous graduate degree may be transferred to the Master of Public Health program. External credits must have been earned from an accredited institution in the last three years with a grade of 3.0 (B) or above. SPH graduate certificate students can transfer as many credits as meet program requirements—up to 18 credits—to the MPH degree. Graduate certificate students wishing to transfer to a degree program may apply to do so via the online change of concentration petition after completion of three or more courses and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above. A grade of B or above is required for a course to be eligible for transfer.