



Public Health Certificate

An online, full-time, one-year professional certificate – part-time also available (18 credit hours)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Shenandoah University's Division of Public Health (SUPH) offers a Public Health Certificate designed to offer working professionals, current health professions students, and other students a way to advance their public health training. In this certificate, students will gain a foundation in the core public health courses, including epidemiology, biostatistics, health policy, social and behavioral aspects of public health, and health communication. These certificate courses can be applied towards the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree.

PROGRAM PREREQUISITES

- A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- Graduate application and \$30 application fee.
- Unofficial transcripts from all institutions of higher education previously attended.
- One letter of recommendation from a current supervisor or academic advisor, professor, mentor, or person familiar with the applicant's academic and/or professional ability. A faculty letter of recommendation is strongly encouraged.
- Resume/C.V.
- Personal statement (250 words) that describes the applicant's reasons for pursuing the certificate and their relevant work experience.
- Academic writing sample (excerpt, 2-10 pages) with citations.
 - This includes research papers, presentations, or any writing assignment that required references and used peer-reviewed literature. If the applicant does not have this type of sample to submit, please contact SUGradAdmissions@su.edu for suitable substitutions.
- Language proficiency must be met. Submission of TOEFL, IELTS, PTE, or Duolingo English Test may be required. See our policy for full details: <https://www.su.edu/admissions/international-students>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **How can I make my application more competitive?**
The Admissions Committee holistically reviews all applications and also considers the following factors to determine a candidate's potential for success in the Public Health certificate:
 - Long range goals and commitment to public health
 - Successful leadership experience or potential
 - Documented experience and/or commitment to underserved areas and rural populations

ADMISSION & APPLICATION

Start Term

Fall (August) and Spring (January)

Admission Deadline

Fall: August 1

Spring: December

Minimum GPA: 3.0 cumulative

Completed applications reviewed regularly

Format/Location

Online

How to Apply

Begin the online application process by going to <http://www.su.edu/phapp>

Foreign Transcripts

International transcript evaluation by an accredited agency is an admission requirement. Approved services are listed at www.naces.org and <http://aice-eval.org/>.

Transfer Credit

Up to 6 graduate credits may be transferred when earned at an accredited institution. All transfer credits (earned grade of B or higher) must fill curricular requirements or electives.

Contact Us

Dr. Michelle Gamber

Director of Graduate Public Health Programs
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Office of Graduate Admissions

<mailto:SUGradAdmissions@su.edu>

call: 540-665-4581 | text: 540-401-5709

Office of Financial Aid

<https://www.su.edu/financial-aid/incoming-graduate-aid/>

<mailto:finaid@su.edu> | call: 540-665-4538



Dr. Michelle Gamber
Director of Graduate Public Health Programs



CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

Course	Title	Credits
PH 501	History and Philosophy of Public Health	3
PH 505	Social & Behavioral Aspects of Public Health	3
PH 510	Biostatistics in Public Health	3
PH 515	Principles of Epidemiology	3
PH 520	Health Policy & Management	3
PH 535	Health Communication	3
TOTAL		18

Students wishing to transfer to the Master of Public Health degree may apply to do so after successfully completing at least three courses. Up to 18 credits of coursework may be applied to the MPH program once a student is admitted.

PUBLIC HEALTH CURRICULUM

Shenandoah University's Public Health Certificate is delivered entirely online. Students will attend classes in an online environment that will be engaging and interactive. This learning model requires students to be highly motivated, active, independent, and self-directed learners. Students are expected to think critically and act professionally in the application of course material to real-world health problems.

This program will provide students with an opportunity to analyze current health problems from a variety of interdisciplinary and interprofessional viewpoints. The program provides coursework opportunities for students to obtain broad knowledge and basic skills in public health. The Public Health Certificate provides a foundation in public health training, and earned certificate credit may be used towards completion of the MPH degree at Shenandoah University.

CAREER OUTLOOK

Public health is a dynamic, diverse, and growing field where practitioners work from a myriad of disciplines and approaches to improve the health and lives of people. Practitioners work together to address the root causes of complex and multi-faceted health problems in order to develop practical, sustainable, and cost-effective solutions.

A career in public health allows people to contribute to preventing injury and illness across populations at many different levels, with the potential to reach thousands of people at one time. The variety of jobs available make public health a good fit for those who seek to serve others and make an impact.

The current employment outlook for public health professionals is strong and growing annually. The demand for public health professionals continues to rise in response to increasing domestic and international health concerns such as: growing problems with chronic diseases, potential pandemics, air and water quality issues, workplace safety, and more. As these concerns continue to impact the health of our population, the need for a trained public health force to respond to these issues persists.

Public health offers a wide range of career opportunities, and annual wages for public health jobs range from \$35,000-\$130,000.