

Pre-Health Information for Public Health



Profession web site(s): www.whatispublichealth.org and www.asph.org

Education Programs: <http://ceph.org/accredited>. There are two separate categories of accreditation, schools of public health and public health programs. **Schools** must offer the MPH degree in the five main concentration areas (biostatistics, epidemiology, health services administration, health education/behavioral science, environmental health) and must also offer a doctoral program. **Programs** are only required to offer a single MPH degree, although many offer different concentrations, but they are not required to offer a doctoral program. Identify types of degrees and program specialties that best match your long-term goals and interests.

Application web site: www.sophas.org (more than half of accredited schools and programs participate in SOPHAS)

Admission/Entrance exam: varies by school. Most schools accept the MCAT (Medical College Admission Test), GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test) or GRE (Graduate Record Examination). Some may accept the LSAT, DAT or PCAT.

Transcripts: Official transcripts from ALL institutions attended, including Marquette University, must be sent directly from the institution to the central application service, or to schools directly if the school doesn't participate in SOPHAS.

Course prerequisites: Per the ASPHs web site, "While schools of public health look for high graduate entrance exam scores and GPA, other aspects of an applicant's record, such as a career achievement, professional experience and clarity of career goals, are equally important. Admissions decisions are based on an overall assessment of the ability of applicants to successfully complete the degree track area selected. Each program or track within a given department may set additional requirements for admission, therefore, applicants should refer to the individual programs for details."

Observation hours/experience: Most programs do not require specific types of experiences or minimum number of hours. Given the wide range of programs and concentrations, seek out experiences that will help you determine your future education/career goals, which will be an important component of your personal statement.

Letters of Recommendation (LOR): vary by program, but three letters seem to be the most common requirement.

Statement of Purpose/Personal Statement: a written statement will be required of all programs and SOPHAS allows an applicant to tailor the statement for each school to which he/she is applying. Written statements typically address past experiences as related to career goals and purpose for study and how a specific program will serve future goals. Length of the written statement is typically about one to two pages single-spaced.

Interview: Competitive applicants may be invited to participate in an interview process. Interviews may include faculty members, current students of the program and/or physicians. Interviews may be used to assess oral communication skills, professional behaviors; attitude; knowledge of the profession and/or of health care overall; problem-solving skills; passion for pursuing medicine, etc. Go to your interviews with prepared questions about the school/program that show your interest in what the school has to offer (other than being close to home or low tuition).

Deadlines: Deadlines vary greatly, depending on program start dates.

Admission Decision: Many schools with start dates in fall are part of a voluntary agreement to not send out offers of admissions until April 15th.