Admission Requirements and Process

The Master in Public Health program at UC Davis is open to individuals with an interest in disease prevention and community health. The application deadlines are December 1 (PRIORITY deadline) and January 15 (FINAL deadline). For access to the online application you can visit http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/prospective/applicationlanding.html. Only one application is required for admissions and is submitted through the UC Davis Office of Graduate Studies. The UC Davis MPH program does not use SOPHAS for admissions.

Applications must be submitted by December 1 (priority deadline) or January 15 (final deadline) of the year of anticipated admission. Final deadline for supplemental materials (transcripts, letter of recommendations, and GRE scores) is February 15. If all materials are not submitted to the program by that date, your application will automatically be cancelled. Admission is for Summer II session, which begins the first week of August. Students are expected to attend the mandatory new student orientation, which is scheduled the week before the first day of class.

Academic requirements

1. Applicants must have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution with at least a 3.0 grade-point average (GPA) on graduation. Degrees must be conferred before the program starts in August. An official transcript is required from each undergraduate or graduate institution you attended. You must turn in all required official transcripts (and their English certified version, if applicable) by the application deadline to the MPH program office. (All application materials, including transcripts and GRE scores, become the property of the MPH Program and cannot be borrowed, photocopied, returned to applicants, or sent elsewhere.)

2. Applicants must be in a good academic standing and must disclose any past or present academic misconduct, institutional actions, felonies and misdemeanors. Please see the online application for more details.

3. The following prerequisite courses are required for admission
   - Mathematics (equivalent at least to UC Davis’ pre-calculus Math 12 or Statistics 13),
   - Biological Sciences (equivalent at least to UC Davis’ Biology 2A),
   - Social Sciences (for example, courses equivalent to UC Davis’ General Psychology PSC 1, or Cultural Anthropology ANT 2, Principles of Microeconomics ECN 001A, or Introduction to Sociology SOC 1 courses),

4. Complete and submit results from the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). For reporting scores, use the Institution Code: 4834 and Department Code: 0616. Note: GREs are required for all applicants, with two exceptions: (1) current students in, or recent graduates of, a US or Canadian MD/DO degree program may submit MCAT scores in lieu of the GRE providing these were taken within 7 years of application, and (2) current students or recent graduates of a U.S. MBA program may submit the GMAT scores in lieu of GRE providing these were taken within 7 years of application. The GRE and other submitted test scores must be taken within 7 years of application. There is no minimum for test scores.

5. The UCD Office of Graduate Studies requires the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) if your native language is not English or your instruction has not been in English. The minimum score required for admission to graduate study at UC Davis is 550 for the paper test, and effective with the fall 2012 admission cycle, a score of 80 is required for the Internet-based test. TOEFL scores expire after two years. Scores that are two years old or more will not be accepted.

6. CV and/or Résumé listing your experience and background in public health.

7. A Statement of Purpose

8. Personal History Statement

9. Three academic or professional recommendations (in English) are required. Letters of recommendation are submitted electronically through the online application. Letter service letters are not accepted. There are no exceptions to the online submission rule.
Tips for preparing your Statement of Purpose and Personal Goals Statement

**Statement of Purpose***
The online application asks you to describe your academic plans and research interests, your specialization within your academic field, your research experiences and your career goals. What we want you to do is:

- Describe to us how you will be a successful Master of Public Health Student at UC Davis. Each statement you write should have a clear purpose.
- Keep the statement within the character limit (4000 characters) provided by the Office of Graduate Studies. Your statement should be clear, concise, and relevant.
- Do not let the admissions committee assume anything; be explicit in addressing the following:
  - What in your background, history, training, and experiences (personal, professional, academic) have led you to pursue graduate training and a career in public health?
  - What are you future career goals in public health (e.g., what health condition or population do you want to work with? What do you see as your contribution in public health)?
  - Why do you need an MPH degree to meet your professional goals?
  - Why UC Davis?

**Personal History Statement***

- This statement should reflect on experiences and/or circumstances that are not directly related to your pursuit of graduate training in public health, but have an impact of your candidacy as an applicant. The more directly related something is to your application, the more appropriate it is to put in your Statement of Purpose.
- Address how your personal background (educational, familial, cultural, economic, challenges, community services) contributes to the social, intellectual, or cultural diversity of public health and/or how you might serve educationally underrepresented segments of society with an MPH degree.
- Address any academic difficulties and/or challenges you may have had in school.

*These are merely suggestions and it should be noted that addressing all these suggestions does not guarantee admissions to the MPH program. This may not be applicable or relevant to other MPH programs and you should check with each individual program on their requirements for admissions.

**Frequently asked Questions**

Is there rolling admissions?
No; the program admits for one term only. Students need to apply by December 1 (priority deadline) or January 15 (final deadline).

Is there an advantage to applying by the December 1 priority deadline?
Applicants applying by December 1 will be given priority review if their file is complete at the time of the review meeting. It is possible to receive an early admissions decision, but it is not guaranteed.

What are the average GPA and GRE scores?
Admissions cycle 2012

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How many applications do you receive, and how many do you admit?
The program received 151 applications for the 2012 application season. The program is approved to enroll 25 students each year, and 65 students have been offered admission to date.

Can I double major with another graduate or professional program at UC Davis?
No; the MPH program is a professional degree and charges professional program tuition. You can, however, apply to additional programs while in the MPH and continue your studies here after earning your MPH.