FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

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Admission Requirements

All admission criteria and requirements are the posted on our webpage for each of our programs:

- Online Master of Public Health
- Master of Public Health (on campus)
- Graduate Certificate in Public Health
- Graduate Certificate in Global Public Health

What are the application deadlines?
Application information and deadlines can be found under the ‘Admissions’ tab on our webpage. Please click here for more information.

Are there any circumstances under which I may apply outside of the application deadline?
Application deadlines are strictly enforced due to the high volume of applications processed each semester. However, if you apply late for a semester, your application will be automatically considered for the next available semester.

What is the minimum GPA accepted for the MU Master of Public Health program?
The Graduate Studies Office at University of Missouri-Columbia has a required minimum GPA of 3.0. However, MPH applicants with a GPA below 3.0 are not automatically excluded from the applicant pool. Applicants may submit an explanation of a GPA below 3.0 with their application as a supplemental document, or it may be discussed in their personal statement. The admissions committee will review explanations and will weigh the below-minimum GPA against the applicants’ other credentials.

Are prospective students required to have an undergraduate degree in health sciences or related fields?
No, the MPH Program admits students with a wide range of professional and academic backgrounds, as public health is an interdisciplinary field with diverse applications.

Do I have to wait until I’ve received my Bachelor’s degree to apply?
No, applicants may apply during their final semester of their bachelor’s degree program. The admissions committee will review your application packet and can grant you admission contingent upon receipt of an official final transcript showing that your degree was conferred; all applicants must have their
undergraduate institution send a copy of their official transcript to the MU Office of Graduate Studies before they may enroll.

For questions regarding the GRE, please see the “Testing Information” section.

Program Information

Is the MU MPH Program accredited?
Yes, the MU Master of Public Health Program is fully accredited through the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).

How long will it take to complete a graduate degree?
On average, full-time MPH students complete their degree in two years and graduate certificate students complete their certificate in one year. Time to completion may vary for part-time students.

Can I enroll in public health courses as a non-degree seeking student or a student in another degree program?
Due to space constraints and approved on a case-by-case basis, post-baccalaureate students can request permission to enroll in P_HLTH 7150 Principles of Public Health and/or STAT 7020 Statistical Methods in the Health Sciences. If you are a graduate student in another degree program, please contact the MPH academic advisor for course availability and permission to enroll. Credits taken prior to admission in our program are counted toward the program. For consent to enroll, email mumphprogram@missouri.edu no sooner than seven days prior to the first day of classes.

General Application Compilation

What hard-copy documents should I submit with my application?
The MU MPH Program does not require any hard-copy documents to be sent in for applications. Applicants should submit all required documents electronically though the online application system. Items such as standardized test scores and official transcripts should be sent electronically to the MU Office of Graduate Studies, after admission to the program.

For admission to the Graduate Certificate Program, how is the work experience calculated?
Graduate Certificate applicants are required to either have a 3.0 GPA in the last 60 hours of undergraduate coursework OR two years of professional public health work experience after the completion of their undergraduate degree.

From whom should I request recommendation letters?
It is best to have one letter from a former professor and one letter from a current or former work supervisor. Having letters from both sources will provide the admissions committee with an assessment of both your academic and professional capabilities.

Can I submit my recommendation letters in an electronic format?
Electronic copies of required documents are preferable to hard copies. Please submit your
recommendation letters through the online application. If you have any difficulties, please let us know at mumphprogram@missouri.edu.

Should I wait until I have confirmation of my letters of recommendation and/or test scores before submitting my online application?
No, as soon as your application is complete with items that you have control over (personal statement, résumé/CV, all required sections of the online application, transcripts, and personal data sheet), you should submit your application. This will allow the MPH office to begin verifying and preparing your application for the admissions committee. Test scores and letters of recommendation will be added to your application packet as they are received.

How do I request a waiver for courses I've taken and would like to receive credit for?
During the application process, a course waiver request may be completed and submitted as a supplemental document with your application for consideration by the admissions committee. You may access the waiver form here.

Application Review

How many students do you accept each semester?
Presently our program is not capped at a specific student enrollment. Applicants are admitted based on the extent to which they individually meet the admission criteria.

What is the rate of admission to the program?
Admission varies each semester based upon the level of qualified applicants who apply. For the Fall 2014 semester, approximately 70% of all applicants were admitted. 50% of all applicants to the Spring 2015 semester were admitted. These rates are subject to change and are by no means a tool in evaluating your potential acceptance to the program.

Will the MPH Program begin reviewing my application if it is considered incomplete?
No, our office will not forward your application for review by the admissions committee unless all required items, including official test scores, have been submitted. Within seven business days of submitting your application, you will receive email confirmation from our program stating whether or not your application is complete or requires additional attention.

When and how will I be notified of the admission decision?
Your application will be reviewed within four to six weeks of submission of your complete application. The admission decision will be sent to you via email. If it has been more than six weeks and you have not received a decision, please email mumphprogram@missouri.edu.

I was admitted to the program, what next?
After receiving the admissions offer email, you must first officially accept your offer of admission in the Apply Yourself system. Next, contact the Academic Advisor to set up a meeting for your plan of study. Once you have verified your plan of study, you should be able to enroll in your courses through myZou. Be sure to RSVP for orientation! Please refer to ‘Admitted Students’ in the MU Office of Graduate Studies website for additional information on how to prepare for our program. Also, you should check
out 'Living in Columbia' for advice on housing, transportation, and local activities!

**I was denied from the program, what next?**

Some students successfully reapply after enrolling as a post-baccalaureate student and taking a few of the courses we offer. Others simply retake their standardized exams for better scores. Build up your resume through volunteering, and develop professional relationships with charities and NGOs. If you are planning to reapply for the Graduate Certificate(s), aim for two years of professional public health experience. The stronger your resume and scores are, the more likely you are to be admitted.

### Testing Information

**What are the ETS codes for the GRE and TOEFL exams?**

The institutional code for both exams is 6875. The MPH department code is 0616 for the GRE and 50 for the Internet-based TOEFL.

**Where do I take the GRE?**

For a GRE testing site, please visit the [ETS webpage](#).

**Where do I take the TOEFL?**

For a TOEFL testing site, please visit the [ETS webpage](#).

**What is the minimum GRE Score accepted on applications to the Master of Public Health Program?**

At this time, there is no minimum GRE score required. The MU MPH Program uses the GRE as an indicator of academic success. If your application is strong in other areas (e.g. direct career experience with public health, overall academic record), those factors will be weighted more heavily than your GRE score.

**Am I required to take the GRE?**

Yes, MPH applicants may request to waive the GRE if they have attained an advanced degree (U.S. accredited master’s or doctorate) and/or have taken another professional standardized exam such as the MCAT, LSAT, DAT, or GMAT. The GRE may only be waived for an advanced degree if it has been earned prior to applying. If you are still working towards your master’s degree and/or you attained your medical degree outside of the U.S. or Canada, the GRE is required. You may access the GRE Waiver Request form [here](#). Please complete it and upload it with your application as a supplemental document.

**How long are my GRE scores valid for?**

GRE scores are valid for 5 years after the original test date. Recently, the GRE testing format was revised. If you took the GRE prior to 2011, we strongly recommend that you retake the test for a more accurate score, as the testing format has changed.

**Can I request a TOEFL or IELTS waiver?**

All non-native, English-speaking applicants are required to provide proof of English language ability. However, if the non-native-English-speaking applicant has successfully completed one year of full-time post-secondary (college-level) study in a country where English is the native language within the past two years, then TOEFL or IELTS scores may be waived. [Read more...](#)
Are USMLE or ECFMG scores accepted in place of the GRE?
No, please see “Am I required to take the GRE?” above.

Financial Information

How much does it cost to apply?
The non-refundable Graduate Studies Office application fee is $55 USD for domestic applicants and $75 USD for international applicants. The application fee must be paid (or waived) before the Graduate Studies Office forwards your application to the MPH Program. More information about the application fee and application fee waivers can be found through this link.

What types of funding opportunities are available?
While the MPH Program itself does not offer any assistantships, waivers, stipends, or fellowships, there are many opportunities available to students across campus. They are highly competitive, but many of our students end up obtaining assistantships. Check Hire MU Tigers frequently for opportunities around campus. Please note that students pursuing either Graduate Certificate program are not eligible for assistantships.

How do I apply for financial aid?
If you would like to apply for federal financial aid or other types of funding, consult the Student Financial Aid Office. In addition, you may refer to this reference page posted by the MU Graduate Studies Office on financials.

Are Graduate Certificate students eligible for financial aid?
Yes, public health graduate certificate students are eligible for financial aid. Visit the Student Financial Aid Office for more information.

When should I apply for financial aid?
Financial aid is not awarded until after students offered admission have enrolled, but it is best to have everything in order as soon as possible. Students may begin FAFSA applications as early as January 15. All prospective and incoming students should also correspond with Student Financial Aid Office to establish their financial responsibilities.

How much does it cost to attend Mizzou?
Tuition rates vary between degrees and program. Depending on the MPH program you are applying to (online or campus), the current course fees and tuition are posted by the Office of Cashier’s here: http://cashiers.missouri.edu/costs/index.html. For projections of additional costs, please see: http://financialaid.missouri.edu/cost-of-attendance/graduate.php.

International Applicants

Am I considered an international student?
If you normally reside outside of the United States and/or you are here on an F, J, or H visa, you qualify as an international student/scholar. However, if you are classified as a “Permanent-Resident,” you may apply as a domestic applicant.
Can I apply for entrance in the Spring or Summer semester as an international student?
No, processing visas and other necessary paperwork is a time-consuming process. In order to ensure that everything is in order, international students may only apply for the fall semester of any given academic year.

What additional application requirements must I meet as an international student?
You must have official financial support documentation and an official English proficiency test on record. You can learn more here.

Which transcript evaluation services does the MU MPH Program accept?
The MU MPH Program does not accept any transcript evaluation service, as the MU Office of Graduate Studies conducts in-house evaluations of international transcripts. If you should submit a WES/ECE evaluated transcript, you will be asked to furnish an original copy of your transcripts before your application can be passed on to the admissions committee.

Will my transcripts and diploma specify that I was an online student?
No. Neither your transcripts nor your diploma will identify you as an online student. Transcripts and diplomas are identical for residential and online students.

Are the online courses self-paced?
No, all courses are 16 weeks, instructor-led, and semester-based. Some online courses may even require synchronous sessions.

Visiting Prospective Students

Below are a number of resources which prospective students may find helpful. To schedule an appointment to meet with our program, please email mumphprogram@missouri.edu.

All about MU:
- Advice on Visiting Campus
- Campus Map
- Fact Book
- Independent Audio Tour
- MU Graduate School Highlights
- MU Top Ten

Restaurant Options:

Organic/Vegetarian/Vegan Food Options:
- Café Berlin
- Main Squeeze Café
- The Root Cellar

Gluten-Free Food Options:
- 44 Stone Public House
- Bleu Restaurant & Catering
- Broadway Brewery
- Glenn’s Café
- Main Squeeze Café
- Red Mango
- Room 38 Restaurant & Lounge

Things to do & Places to see:

City of Columbia New Visitor Guide
City of Columbia- Parks and Recreation
Columbia Chamber of Commerce

Columbia Farmer’s Market
Halal Food Options:

- A&Y Global Market
- Casablanca
- International Café
- Olive Branch Café