

Public Health MPH Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

Why Graduate Studies in Public Health?

Public health initiatives like clean air and water standards, vaccination and tobacco control have changed the world, yet some of our greatest challenges may still be ahead. The dynamic and growing field of public health needs graduates who can effectively take the best available evidence from research, context and experience and move it into action that reduces inequities, prevents disease and improves health and well-being for all.

Boost your career prospects by completing a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree at Queen's. Develop your capacity to lead Evidence-Informed Action for Public Health.

Why Queen's?

The Queen's Master of Public Health is a professional, course-based degree that educates, equips and inspires students to take Evidence-Informed Action for Public Health. Our generalist MPH degree focuses on the foundational sciences of epidemiology and biostatistics. We train our students to effectively define public health issues and search, appraise, synthesize, and adapt public health evidence in order to implement and evaluate public health programs and policies.

We teach our students face-to-face and prioritize collaborative learning. Through a combination of academic course work and a 400-hour summer practicum, our students learn to:

- Think like public health professionals – we educate students on public health theory and methods



"The Queen's MPH program exposed me to areas in public health that I had not previously considered. With a focus on evidence-informed action, it prepared me for tackling public health issues in my current work." – MPH Graduate

- Perform like public health professionals - we equip students with practical skills and competencies
- Act like public health professionals – we inspire students to lead with the ethics and values of public health

Program Structure

We offer two MPH program options:

- **Our 16-month MPH** attracts applicants from a range of disciplines. The degree includes 9 courses (6 core, 3 elective), a Public Health Professional Development course, and a 400-hour practicum.
- **Our 12-month Accelerated MPH** is for experienced professionals with a minimum of 2 years full-time cumulative paid work experience in health care, public health or a related field. The degree includes 8 courses (6 core, 2 elective) and a 400-hour practicum.
- Part-time studies are also available.

Earn a specialization in Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC)

The MPH with Specialization in IPAC (IPAC Specialization) is a unique, embedded training opportunity within the MPH.

To complete the MPH with Specialization in IPAC, students must complete six required foundational courses and three IPAC courses:

- **EPID 851** - Medically Relevant Microbiology in Infection Prevention and Control.
- **EPID 852** - Fundamentals of Infection Prevention and Control and Environments of Care.
- **EPID 853** - Healthcare Quality, Safety and Risk.

And complete the 400-hour practicum placement with an IPAC focus

Visit the [Public Health Sciences website](https://www.queensu.ca/grad-postdoc) to learn more about the program and its opportunities.



Public Health MPH Map

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH)

How to use this map

Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics. To make your own custom map, use the My Grad Map tool: careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps.



GETTING STARTED

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

WRAPPING UP

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Get settled in Kingston and begin your course work.
- Begin to collect and generate artifacts for your MPH Competency ePortfolio.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and [School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs \(SGSPA\) professional development workshops](#), the department Grad Chair and the [SGSPA website](#).

MAXIMIZE THE IMPACT OF YOUR PRACTICUM

- Consider the learning objectives of the practicum, and what areas of public health you are most interested in.
- Connect with the Professional Development Officer to discuss your practicum goals.
- Strengthen your professional career skills in the [Public Health Professional Development course](#).

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Serve on departmental or university committees. Talk to the [Public Health Sciences Student Association](#) for tips on getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the [SGPS](#), or media outlets like the [Queen's Journal](#), [CFRC](#), and the [SGSPA Blog](#). Look in the [AMS Clubs Directory](#) for more ideas.
- Check out professional development workshops.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, such as [Southeast Public Health](#), [Kingston General Hospital](#), and the [Kingston Community Health Centres](#).

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a [Career Services](#) workshop or meeting with a career educator and coach.

- Continue your core coursework and choose electives that deepen knowledge and skills in your areas of interest.
- Keep working on your MPH Competency ePortfolio, gathering artifacts and organizing them into themes.

- Apply to various practicum opportunities or negotiate your own.
- Confirm your practicum and complete the administrative requirements.

- Attend a public health-related workshop or conference.
- Keep developing your MPH Competency ePortfolio to collect and reflect on your skills and achievements.
- Seek opportunities to deepen your public health experience and connections.

- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and more.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by [Volunteering with QUIC](#) for the English Conversation program.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an [International Student Advisor](#).

- Explore different careers of interest by using LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni.
- Check out [Career Cruising](#) for more information.

- Complete your course work.
- Finalize a MPH Competency ePortfolio that articulates your professional identity and demonstrates your competencies and accomplishments in public health.

- Leverage your practicum experience to clarify your professional goals, and help you transition from graduate studies to professional work in public health.
- Consider being interviewed on the [SGSPA radio show Grad Chat](#) to talk about your research or practicum.
- Consider putting an article in [The Conversation](#).

- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the [OPHA's Fall Forum](#) or The [Ontario Public Health Convention](#).
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a [Career Services](#) workshop.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through the [Centre for Teaching and Learning](#), [SGSPA professional development](#), [MITACS](#), or other sources to boost your skills.

- Do some targeted networking with people working in public health, through LinkedIn, the [Queen's Alumni Association](#), professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Consider joining professional associations like the [Ontario Public Health Association](#) and the [Canadian Public Health Association](#) and [IPAC Canada](#).

- Research organizations of interest, use your MPH Competency ePortfolio and resume, and begin your job search plan. Get help from [Career Services](#) with job searching, resumes, and interviews.
- Find impactful work that aligns with your values using the [Queen's Career Guide to the UN Sustainable Development Goals](#).

Knowledge & Workplace Skills

A Master of Public Health can equip you with:

- **Public Health Sciences:** Key knowledge and critical thinking skills related to epidemiology, biostatistics, prevention of disease and more
- **Assessment and Analysis:** Skills to collect, assess, analyze, and apply information
- **Policy and Program Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation:** Skills to plan, implement, and evaluate policies and programs
- **Partnerships, Collaboration, and Advocacy:** Ability to influence and work with others, to build teams and mediate different interests
- **Diversity and Inclusiveness:** Ability to interact effectively with diverse individuals, groups, and communities
- **Communication:** Skills to communicate effectively in written, oral, and multimedia forms to different audiences
- **Leadership:** Ability to build capacity and improve performance, as well as create, communicate and apply shared vision, mission, and values

Career Possibilities

A Master of Public Health degree can take your career in many directions. Our graduates hold positions as:

- Evaluators
- Health Promoters
- Infection Control Practitioner
- Project Managers
- Research Analysts
- And more

Queen's MPH graduates work in health units, government agencies, hospitals, community organizations and research institutes across the country and beyond. Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

Graduate Studies FAQs

How do I make the most of my time at Queen's?

Use the Grad Map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. Everyone's journey is different - the ideas on the maps are just suggestions to help you explore possibilities. For more support with your professional development, take advantage of the SGSPA professional development framework and the new Professional Development Plan (PDP) process to set customized goals to help you get career ready when you graduate.

Where can I get help?

Queen's provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Check out the [SGSPA website](#) for available resources.

What is the community like?

At Queen's, graduate students from all disciplines learn and discover in a close-knit intellectual community. You will find friends, peers and support among the graduate students enrolled in Queen's more than 130 graduate programs within 50+ departments & research centres. With the world's best scholars, prize-winning professional development opportunities, excellent funding packages and life in the affordable, historic waterfront city of Kingston, Queen's offers a wonderful environment for graduate studies. Queen's is an integral part of the Kingston community, with the campus nestled in the core of the city, only a 10-minute walk to downtown with its shopping, dining and waterfront. For more about Kingston's history and culture, see Queen's University's Discover Kingston page.

Application FAQs

What do I need to know to Apply?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Minimum 75% average in one of the following degrees awarded by a recognized university:

- An Honours Bachelor Degree in Arts or Science
- A Bachelor Degree in Applied Science or Law
- A Degree of Doctor of Medicine
- Or equivalent

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Undergraduate-level course in mathematics, statistics or data analysis with a minimum grade of 75%.
- Two copies of transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended.
- Two academic reference letters.
- Statement of Interest responding to specific questions outlined in the "How to Apply" section of the MPH program website.
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCELERATED MPH PROGRAM

- Demonstration of a minimum of two years cumulative full-time paid employment in health care, public health or a related field.
- Work experience may include two years of accredited residency through the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.
- Eligible work experience is paid employment after the completion of an undergraduate degree and may not include co-op work experience that was part of an undergraduate degree. Supervisors may be contacted to verify your employment and role.
- Reference requirements are one academic reference from a professor under whom you have recently studied, and one professional reference from a supervisor in a relevant employment setting

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- **Application due:** January 31.
- **Admission:** There is only one admission date per year, in September.

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate studies application process.

What about Funding?

Queen's University does not provide funding to students entering professional degrees. As a result, the Master of Public Health program is not funded by the Department of Public Health Sciences or Queen's University. MPH students are responsible for supporting themselves financially over the course of the program. Students who apply for the Specialization in IPAC are eligible for consideration for the [IPAC Canada Scholarship](#).