OVERVIEW
Master of Public Health (MPH) Program
Hispanic & Border Health Concentration
What is Public Health?

- **Profession**: diverse, dynamic
- **Approach**: multidisciplinary
- **Perspective**: social justice
- **Focus**: population (community) health

**Aim**: to promote health, prevent disease, and improve quality of life in communities.
10 Core Functions of Public Health

(CDC, 2008)
What do Public Health Professionals do?

Specific Examples:

- Conduct disease outbreak investigations.
- Design programs to increase child physical activity and reduce obesity.
- Conduct community health surveys.
- Develop natural disaster and anti-bioterrorism response plans.
- Lead cancer, asthma and diabetes prevention initiatives.

- Lobby legislators to improve health care coverage for low-income families.
- Plan environmental health programs.
- Manage pregnancy and breastfeeding initiatives.
- Plan HIV/AIDS & TB prevention initiatives.
- Work as public health physicians, nurses, dentists.
Where do public health professionals work?

**Public, private, non-profit organizations**

- Local/country/state health agencies
- Federal organizations
- Hospitals, clinics, HMO’s
- Insurance companies
- International agencies
- Schools

- Pharmaceutical companies
- Professional organizations
- Industry and business
- Colleges & universities
- Health consulting firms
Many public health jobs require a graduate degree in public health.

MPH is most widely recognized and highly regarded credential for public health professionals.

Gives competitive edge: provides broad knowledge & analytical/technical skills needed to be effective public health leader.
Why a MPH Degree?

- Growing public health worker shortage

- Need 250,000+ new public health workers by 2020 to combat new, evolving and emerging public health threats; aging U.S. population (ASPH, 2009).

New UTEP College of Health Sciences/School of Nursing Building
MPH Program Basics

- Prepares students for public health practice and leadership in public, non-profit, & private sectors.
- Cohort program (Fall admission only)
- Unique “Hispanic and Border Health” concentration.
- Combines classroom instruction, supervised public health practice, & research experience.
Most fulltime students can expect to complete 42 credit hr. degree in 4 regular + 1 summer semester.

All MPH courses held in late afternoons-early evenings to accommodate working professionals.

Teaching & research assistantships; financial aid available for qualified students.

Field research training opportunities in Latin America also available.
MPH Core Courses

- Core courses enhance knowledge & skills in 5 major public health competency areas:
  - Social & behavioral sciences
  - Health services administration & policy
  - Epidemiology
  - Environmental health
  - Biostatistics

(15 credit hrs)
Hispanic & Border Health
Concentration Courses

Prepares students for public health practice in Hispanic and border communities:

- Responding to infectious diseases in Hispanic & border communities
- Eliminating health disparities
- Public health evaluation & research

MPH course project

(9 credit hrs)
Elective Courses

- PUBH (5357) Special Topics in Public Health examples:
  - Global Health
  - Vulnerable Populations to Env/Occup Exposures
  - Health Education
  - Health Promotion Program Planning
  - Grant Writing
  - Public Health Nutrition

- Courses from other UTEP depts.

(6-9 credit hrs)
Practicum in Public Health Agency

Applies public health theory & skills to a real world public health practice setting.

(6 credit hrs)

Practicum site examples:
- El Paso City Public Health Dept.
- Texas State Dept. of Public Health Services
- U.S.-Mexico Border Health Association
- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)
  American Dental Association
- El Paso Independ. School District
- University Hospital
Culminating Experience

Students synthesize, integrate, and apply knowledge and skills gained through coursework and other learning experiences.

- Research thesis
- Grad. research project

(3-6 credit hrs)
MPH Course Schedule

Year 1

1. Fall Semester
   - Social & behavioral approaches to public health
   - Environmental health
   - Biostatistics in public health

2. Spring Semester
   - Epidemiology
   - Health services administration & policy
   - Public health evaluation & research

Year 2

3. Fall Semester
   - Responding to infectious diseases in Hispanic & border communities
   - Elective course
   - Thesis 1 or Graduate Project

4. Spring Semester
   - Eliminating health disparities
   - Elective course
   - Thesis 2 or Graduate Project

5. Summer Semester
   - Practicum (internship) in a public health agency
Minimum Requirements for Admission

- Earned undergraduate/professional degree from accredited U.S. institution or recognized foreign institution.
- Minimum 3.0/4.0 cumulative GPA for all prior academic work.
- GRE scores (general exam)
- Demonstrated prior public experience and/or commitment.

International applicants only: UTEP minimum TOEFL score.
Completed UTEP application form.
- Official college/university transcripts.
- Official GRE General Test scores (or MCAT).
- Three letters of recommendation from academic/professional references.
- Current professional resume/CV.
- A 500-word statement describing prior public health/health experience, reasons for pursuing MPH degree, future career plans.
Completed applications received at UTEP Graduate School by April 15th for full consideration for fall enrollment.

All application documents must be submitted to UTEP Graduate School. Apply online: graduate.utep.edu; then click on Apply Now under Quick Links.

Applicants advised to contact potential faculty research mentors prior to applying. See research interests & contact info. at: http://chs.utep.edu/publichealthsciences/faculty.php
Prometric Test Center (GRE & TOEFL)
Address: 5807 N. Mesa St., El Paso, TX 79912 (next to Sylvan Learning Ctr.)
Tel: (915) 587-7323

UTEP Student Assessment & Testing Office (TOEFL only)
Address: Academic Advising Center Bldg. Room 127
Tel: (915) 747-5009