



College of Public Service
School of Health Sciences
Public Health Program

Master of Public Health Degree Program Application Packet



2012 – 2014

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All statements in this bulletin are subject to change at any time by proper authority without prior notice.



Mario Azevedo, Interim Dean
College of Public Service

Dear Prospective Student:

In November 2002, the Board of Trustees, State Institutions of Higher Learning authorized the College of Public Service. This newly formed College encompasses three related schools: the School of Public Health (now the School of Health Sciences), the School of Social Work, and the School of Policy and Planning. The mission of the College is to educate students from diverse backgrounds for outstanding professional service, and to develop local, national, and international innovative leaders in the professional academic disciplines represented in the College. The over arching goal is to move the College forward with the highest quality of excellence through our work *in* communities and *with* communities to advance the public service agenda to new and soaring heights. The College's principle focus is building healthy communities through the integrating schema of a holistic frame of reference.

Within the School of Health Sciences you will find dedicated and accessible faculty, a supportive and challenging learning environment, and opportunities to study and learn among a diverse body of scholars and professionals. On behalf of the faculty and staff of the entire College of Public Service, I welcome your interest in the School of Health Sciences and we invite you to consider joining us in "*Empowering People through Public Service.*"

Mario J. Azevedo, Interim Dean

Dear Prospective Student:



Mohammad Shahbazi
Professor, Behavioral Health Promotion
and Education
Interim Executive Director, School of
Health Sciences

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of the Public Health Program faculty and staff for your interest in the JSU's M.P.H. Program.

Welcome to Jackson State University, School of Health Sciences, Master of Public Health Program where a distinguished and culturally and professionally diverse group of public health professionals are dedicated to teaching, research, and promoting health, and preventing diseases. As a graduate student in the Master of Public Health Program, you will have the opportunity to participate in various conferences, community programs, research projects, and other School sponsored activities.

The mission of the Master of Public Health Program is to provide quality education and leadership in community-based research and practice. Through collaborative efforts with communities, the Program promotes health and seeks to prevent disease and disability, with special emphasis on the underserved and at-risk populations in Mississippi, the nation, and the world. The M.P.H. program has three concentrations: Behavioral Health Promotion and Education, Epidemiology, and Health Policy and Management.

I hope you will decide to join us and take full advantage of our program which is designed to prepare students for the challenging and dynamic world that awaits them in the 21st century. We look forward to working with you.

Mohammad Shahbazi, Interim Executive Director

THE UNIVERSITY

Jackson State University is one of the nation's premiere Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), noted for its accomplishments in providing educational preparation to enable and empower graduates to succeed in an increasingly complex and competitive world. The seventh largest among the 117 HBCUs, and the fourth largest public institution in the state, Jackson State University provides programs at the baccalaureate, masters, specialist, and doctoral levels. In 1979, Jackson State University was officially designated as the Urban University of the state of Mississippi. Located in Jackson, the state's largest urban area and its capital, the University is surrounded by a population of approximately 400,000 people in the metropolitan area.

As the Urban University in the state, Jackson State University is ideally positioned to provide academic and public service programs to address issues and concerns in both urban and rural environments. The University emphasizes the development of persons who can and will assume prominent roles in the dynamics of societal growth and change. Thus, the establishment of degree and non-degree offerings, training and certification programs, and the provision of technical assistance are evidence of the University's role in providing human, cultural, and physical resources in communities throughout the state, nation, and world.



Mission of the University

The Mission of the University is to educate technologically-advanced, diverse, ethical, global leaders who think critically, address societal problems, and compete effectively.

THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

In July 2003, Jackson State University adopted a College structure. At that time, the School of Public Health, formerly the School of Allied Health Sciences, became one of three schools within the College of Public Service. The other two schools are the School of Policy and Planning and the School of Social Work. The departments and degree programs in the School of Public Health were established during the academic year 1998-1999 under the School of Allied Health Sciences. The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) approved the Bachelor of Science Degree in Healthcare Administration to be offered by the Department of Healthcare Administration and a Master of Science Degree in Communicative Disorders to be offered by the Department of Communicative Disorders. The Department of Public Health emerged as the third department offering a Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) Degree and admitted its first student cohort during the academic year 1999-2000.

The departments within the School of Public Health have progressively grown since their beginning in 1998. During the academic year 2004-2005, the School was reorganized into four departments: Behavioral and Environmental Health Communicative Disorders, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Health Policy and Management. In addition, the School of Public Health was approved by IHL in July 2004 to offer the first and only Doctor of Public Health (Dr.P.H.) Degree Program in the state of Mississippi. In 2005, the School's name was changed to the School of Health Sciences offering the M.P.H. and Dr. P.H. degrees in Public Health.



The Department of Communicative Disorders is accredited by the *Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)* and offers a Master of Science in Communicative Disorders. The Department of Behavioral and Environmental Health offers the M.P.H. and Dr.P.H. Degrees with concentrations in Behavioral Health Promotion and Education. The Department of Epidemiology offers M.P.H. and Dr.P.H. Degrees with a concentration in Epidemiology. The Department of Health Policy and Management offers the B.S. Degree in Healthcare Administration and the M.P.H. and Dr.P.H. Degrees with a concentration in Health Policy and Management.

THE MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREE PROGRAM

LOCATION

The Master of Public Health Program is conveniently located in the Jackson Medical Mall, home for Jackson State University's School of Health Sciences. The innovative Medical Mall is nationally recognized as a multi-service health care center and among the first of its kind in the State of Mississippi. It houses state-of-the-art research, health promotion and intervention, and treatment programs such as the Jackson Heart Study, Department of Health, Lower Extremity Amputation Prevention Program (LEAP) Initiative for Diabetes, Community-Base Organizations, other health care providers, and a number of retail shops and restaurants.

MISSION

The mission of the Master of Public Health Program is to provide quality education and leadership in community-based research and practice. Through collaborative efforts with communities, the Program promotes health and seeks to prevent disease and disability with special emphasis on the underserved and at-risk populations in Mississippi, the nation, and the world.

To achieve its mission, the Program developed the following goal statements to address each of the three primary functions of instruction, research, and service.

Instructional Goal: To graduate students with discipline-specific and core competencies to enable them to contribute to the promotion of health, the prevention of disability, the elimination of disparities and to support health equity and public health best practices, with a focus on the underserved and at-risk populations in Mississippi, the nation, and the world.

Research Goal: To provide leadership and advance social justice through evidence-based scientific inquiry, generate knowledge in the reduction of risk and prevention of disease and disability among underserved communities and at-risk populations in Mississippi, the nation, and the world.

Service Goal: To provide technical expertise, advocacy, and translational resources to internal stakeholders (University, School, and Program) and external stakeholders (local, national, and global communities, public agencies, and the private sector) to empower and support these communities to become forces in the elimination of health disparities, the promotion of health and prevention of disease and disability, to achieve health equity and to become full participants in workforce development efforts of the state.

PROGRAM CURRICULUM

A minimum of 45 semester hours with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or higher, including successful completion of a field practice internship is required to earn the Master of Public Health Degree. The curriculum is divided into core courses, concentration courses, required electives, and a public health field practice internship.

Core Curriculum

The core curriculum consists of 18 credit hours and is required for all concentrations. The core curriculum provides foundational information for research and practice that is relevant to each public health discipline. See Table 1.

Table 1: MPH Core Course Curriculum

AREAS AND COURSE TITLES	Credits
Core Titles	18
PHS 501 Public Health and Behavioral Sciences	3
PHS 502 Public Health Policy and Administration	3
PHS 503 Biostatistics and Computer Applications	3
PHS 504 Environmental and Occupational Health	3
PHS 505 Principles of Epidemiology	3
PHS 506 Research and Qualitative Methods	3
Concentration Courses	15
Public Health Internship	3
Electives	9
Total	45

Concentrations

The M.P.H. Degree is awarded in three concentrations – Behavioral Health Promotion and Education, Epidemiology, and Health Policy and Management. See Table 2.

Behavioral Health Promotion and Education studies the role of behavioral (social and psychological) factors in disease causation, prevention, and health services, with application to public health education and promotion for the prevention of disease and injury. The objectives are to: develop, implement, and evaluate programs in health promotion and education through collaborative partnerships; establish and maintain community partnerships; apply theoretical perspectives in analyzing the behavioral, cultural and ethical dimensions of community health problems; identify and assess the determinants of community and population health, including social and behavioral factors contributing to health-related behaviors; and conduct scientific investigations.

Epidemiology deals with methods for elucidating the causes of disease and for evaluating health services, programs, and treatments. The objectives are to provide: knowledge on methods for determining the causes of disease and for evaluating health services, programs, and treatments; develop concepts and statistical skills to conduct, study, analyze, and monitor the distribution and determinants of disease and other outcome measures; apply basic methodological skills to analyze discrete problems in health; acquire critical thinking for problem-solving and developing research protocols; and use the problem-solving approach for collection, analysis, and synthesis of data.

Health Policy and Management imparts students with the knowledge and skills to design, implement and manage public health intervention programs. Students are exposed to health policy analysis tools, including financial, statistical, economics as well as evaluation and health policy implementation and managerial skills. Students will be exposed to the processes of health policy-making, analysis of some of the salient public health policies and public health advocacy.

Table 2 Typical Course of Study: Concentration Courses (Student selects one concentration)

PUBLIC HEALTH CONCENTRATIONS	Credits
Behavioral Health Promotion and Education	15
PHS 531 Health Behavior, Promotion Education	3
PHS 532 Community and Patient Health Education	3
PHS 533 Wellness and Health Promotion Management	3
PHS 535 Behavioral Change Program Strategies	3
Epidemiology	15
PHS 521 Advanced Seminar in Epidemiology	3
PHS 522 Multivariate and Probabilistic Statistics	3
PHS 523 Chronic and Infectious Disease Epidemiology	3
PHS 524 Statistical Methods for Applied Epidemiology	3
PHS 525 Epidemiology of Minority and Special Populations	3
Health Policy and Management	15
PHS 511 Organizational Design and Behavior	3
PHS 512 Public Health Policy, Law and Ethics	3
PHS 513 Financial Management of Health Services	3
PHS 514 Health Information Management Systems	3
PHS 515 Marketing Public Health and Strategic Planning	3

Electives

The selections of three electives (9 credit hours) are designed to expand the students' knowledge base within a specific concentration. Although electives may be selected from other disciplines, including non-public health degree programs, they must be related to the students' concentration and approved by the M.P.H. student faculty advisors.

Comprehensive Examination

In order to become a candidate for the M.P.H. Degree, a student must pass a written comprehensive examination. The examination will include core M.P.H. courses and information from each concentration. A score of eighty percent or higher will be required for passing.

Internship Requirements

The purpose of the public health field practice internship is to provide students with the opportunity to apply and demonstrate their acquired knowledge and skill competencies in a public health setting and as practice preparation for professional employment upon graduation. This application of public health concepts, knowledge, and skills is valued as an essential and crucial learning approach.

COMPLETION TIME REQUIREMENTS

Full-time M.P.H. students can usually complete the curriculum in two years. Those seeking a degree on a part-time basis usually require two additional semesters.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Graduate students are required to make arrangements for expenses they incur during their graduate studies. These expenses include tuition and other fees required by the University and/or the academic units in which the students are enrolled. Tuition fees are determined by the Board of Trustees State Institutions of Higher Learning and the Mississippi State Legislature. Information for the respective academic year may be obtained from the current University's official web page at www.jsums.edu.

Residency

In order to meet the legal residency requirement in Mississippi, students must reside in the state for a continuous period of at least 12 months. You must meet this requirement prior to admission in order to qualify for in-state tuition fees.

Financial Assistance

Graduate students are offered a number of options for financing their studies. They may apply for assistantships, scholarships, and fellowships through the School of Health Sciences, Master of Public Health Program. In addition, students may apply for loans and other financial assistance at the University's financial aid office and extramural funds. Applicants must request and submit required information for each respective type of financial assistance.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must apply to the Division of Graduate Studies and to the Master of Public Health Degree Program in the School of Health Sciences. Admission into the Program is on a selective basis, with preference given to applicants with at least one or more years of public health or related experience. Regular or conditional admission may be granted.

Regular Status: Students obtaining regular admission status must be admitted by the Division of Graduate Studies at Jackson State University and have:

- A minimum GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale)
- Satisfactory performance on the TOEFL (international applicants only)
- Academic promise as evidenced by above average achievements in undergraduate and graduate studies
- Statement of purpose
- Three letters of recommendation (two academic and one professional)
- Résumé
- Entrance interview (contingent upon initial assessment)

Transfer students must meet the same admission standards as all other applicants

Conditional Status: Students not meeting regular admission status may be considered for preliminary or non-degree seeking admission with a GPA of 2.50 – 2.99 (on a 4.0 scale). Regular status may be obtained after 12 hours of course work and an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Students obtaining conditional status must be admitted by the Division of Graduate Studies at Jackson State University and have:

- A minimum GPA of 2.50 – 2.99 (on a 4.0 scale)
- Satisfactory performance on the TOEFL (international applicants only)
- Academic promise as evidenced by above average achievements in undergraduate and graduate studies
- Statement of purpose
- Three letters of recommendation (two academic and one professional references)
- Résumé
- Entrance interview (contingent upon initial assessment)

**Jackson State University
College of Public Service
School of Health Sciences**

**Master of Public Health
Degree Program**

Application Information

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Acceptance into the Master of Public Health Degree Program requires dual admission to the Division of Graduate Studies and the School of Health Sciences. Applicants should contact the Division of Graduate Studies at the above mailing address or at (601) 979-2455 to check the status of their application for admission to the Division of Graduate Studies. Inquiries regarding the Master of Public Health Degree Program should be directed to the program at the address below or at (601) 979-8806.

This information is in addition to the on-line application for Graduate Studies at Jackson State University and must be submitted directly to the Master of Public Health Program at the following address:

**Jackson State University
College of Public Service
School of Health Sciences
Master of Public Health Program Admission Coordinator
350 West Woodrow Wilson Drive, Suite 320
Jackson, MS 39213**

APPLICATION DEADLINE

March 1 for Fall semester admission.

Application Information

**JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PUBLIC SERVICE
SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

Master of Public Health Degree Program

Application for Admission

(All information must be typewritten)

Concentration (Check one)

Behavioral Health Promotion and Education Epidemiology Health Policy and Management

Personal Information

Name (Dr., Ms., Mr.) _____ Social Security # _____

Home Address _____ Date of Birth _____

City/State/Zip _____ Telephone _____

E-mail Address _____ Fax _____

Country of Current Citizenship _____ Gender: Female Male

List all Colleges and Universities Attended

Name of Institution	Location	Attended From – To	Year Graduated	Degree Received	Major

List Names and Addresses of Employers, Dates of Employment, and Position Titles

**NOTE: Please supplement the above information with a résumé. Also, carefully review the enclosed checklist to ensure that you submit all required materials, including the Division of Graduate Studies application and fees.*

I certify that the above information is correct. I understand that admission to the Division of Graduate Studies does not imply acceptance in the M.P.H. Degree Program of the School of Health Sciences.

Signature

Date

**JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PUBLIC SERVICE
SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

Master of Public Health Degree Program

PERSONAL STATEMENT

(All information must be typewritten)

Write a statement reflecting your philosophy of public health, and your personal, professional, and education goals. State how you believe the Master of Public Health Program in your proposed area of concentration will assist you to achieve your career goals. **The statement should not exceed 1500 words, 12-point font size.**

Signature

Date

Please carefully assess the applicant in the areas listed below. In making your assessment, compare the applicant to other individuals you have known who have similar education and levels of professional experience. You may include additional observations in your letter of recommendation. We greatly appreciate your response.

	<u>O</u> tstanding	<u>E</u> xcellent	<u>G</u> ood	<u>A</u> verage	<u>B</u> elow <u>A</u> verage	<u>U</u> nable to <u>A</u> ssess
Analytical Ability	O <input type="checkbox"/>	E <input type="checkbox"/>	G <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	BA <input type="checkbox"/>	UA <input type="checkbox"/>
Oral Communication Skills	O <input type="checkbox"/>	E <input type="checkbox"/>	G <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	BA <input type="checkbox"/>	UA <input type="checkbox"/>
Written Communication Skills	O <input type="checkbox"/>	E <input type="checkbox"/>	G <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	BA <input type="checkbox"/>	UA <input type="checkbox"/>
Leadership	O <input type="checkbox"/>	E <input type="checkbox"/>	G <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	BA <input type="checkbox"/>	UA <input type="checkbox"/>
Ability to be Self-Critical	O <input type="checkbox"/>	E <input type="checkbox"/>	G <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	BA <input type="checkbox"/>	UA <input type="checkbox"/>
Interpersonal Skills	O <input type="checkbox"/>	E <input type="checkbox"/>	G <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	BA <input type="checkbox"/>	UA <input type="checkbox"/>
Initiative	O <input type="checkbox"/>	E <input type="checkbox"/>	G <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	BA <input type="checkbox"/>	UA <input type="checkbox"/>
Reliability	O <input type="checkbox"/>	E <input type="checkbox"/>	G <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	BA <input type="checkbox"/>	UA <input type="checkbox"/>
Ability to Work Independently	O <input type="checkbox"/>	E <input type="checkbox"/>	G <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	BA <input type="checkbox"/>	UA <input type="checkbox"/>

In summary, what is your overall rating of the applicant regarding his/her ability to complete a master program?

Highly Recommend
 Recommend

Recommend with Reservation
 Do Not Recommend

If you indicated “recommend with reservation” or “do not recommend,” please explain.

Signature

Date

Title

Name (type or print)

Institution

Address

Please return the completed form to the applicant with your signature on the seal across the back of the envelope. The student should return to: Admission Coordinator, School of Health Science, 350 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave., Suite 320, Jackson, MS 39213

Jackson State University’s School of Health Sciences, College of Public Service recruits, admits and provides services, financial aid, and instruction to all students without regard to race, sex, religion, national origin, or physical disability.

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Reliability	O <input type="checkbox"/>	E <input type="checkbox"/>	G <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	BA <input type="checkbox"/>	UA <input type="checkbox"/>
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**JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PUBLIC SERVICE
SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

Master of Public Health Degree Program

**CRITERIA FOR GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP/SCHOLARSHIP
(Tuition & Stipend)**

1. Required Cumulative Grade Point Average

Student must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher in all coursework toward the M.P.H. Degree.

2. Enrollment

Student must be degree seeking.

Student must be enrolled full-time during the academic year that the assistantship is awarded.

3. Specifications and Limitations of Assistantship

Assistantship will provide a monthly stipend for 15-20 hours per week of service provided to the Program / School.

4. Award Period

Assistantship will be awarded for study during the academic year (students must reapply each academic year).

5. Duration of Assistantship

Students may receive the assistantship for a minimum of one academic year of study toward the M.P.H. Degree.

6. Employment Restriction

Students are not to engage in full-time employment during the period of the assistantship.

**JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PUBLIC SERVICE
SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

**Master of Public Health Degree Program
APPLICATION FOR GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP/SCHOLARSHIP
(Tuition & Stipend)**

Name (Dr., Ms., Mr.) _____ Social Security # _____

Present Address _____ Telephone _____
_____ Zip _____ Cellular Phone _____

Permanent Address _____ Telephone _____
_____ Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____ Date of Birth _____

Business Address _____ Telephone _____
_____ Zip _____ Fax _____

Graduate Cumulative Grade Point Average _____

Honors/Awards/Leadership Activities:

I certify that I have read the criteria for the graduate assistantship and honestly completed the application.

Print Name

Signature

Date

**JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PUBLIC SERVICE
SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

**Master of Public Health Degree Program
STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY**

This statement must be signed and returned with your application packet.

I certify that I have answered all of the questions completely and truthfully. I understand that misrepresentations and false information given as part of my personal statement and/or supporting credentials and documents may be cause for cancellation of further consideration for admission to or continuation in the Master of Public Health Degree Program at Jackson State University. I also understand that all credentials and documents that I submit become the property of Jackson State University.

Signature

Date

**JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PUBLIC SERVICE
SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

Checklist for Application to the Master of Public Health Degree Program

Please check this list to make sure you have submitted the followings materials and send them directly to:

- The Division of Graduate Studies, Jackson State University, P.O. Box 17095, Jackson, MS 39217 and
- Master of Public Health Degree Program, School of Health Sciences, Jackson State University, Attn.: Admission Coordinator, 350 W. Woodrow Wilson Ave., Suite 320, Jackson, MS 39213.

All application materials must be received by **March 1** to be considered for **Fall** admission. All items in both Checklists must be completed. Only information on the Master of Public Health Degree Program Checklist must be enclosed and mailed to the Master of Public Health Degree Program shown above.

The Division of Graduate Studies Checklist

- Division of Graduate Studies Application for Admission
- Two official copies of all undergraduate transcript(s)
- Two official copies of all graduate transcript(s)
- Official copy of TOEFL scores (international applicants only)
- Financial Aid Application
- Out-of-State and International Application Fee of \$25.00
- Immunization Record showing proof of immunization compliance for measles and rubella, if born after December 1957

Master of Public Health Degree Program Checklist

- Program Application for Admission**
 - Résumé
 - Statement of Purpose
 - Recommendation forms and letters
 - Statement of Authenticity

Signature

Date

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Matriculation into the Master of Public Health Degree Program requires dual admission to the Division of Graduate Studies and the School of Health Sciences. You should contact the Division of Graduate Studies at the above mailing address or at (601) 979-2455 to check the status of your application for admission to the Division of Graduate Studies. Inquiries regarding the Master of Public Health Degree Program should be directed to the program at the above address or at (601) 979-8806 (telephone) or (601) 979-8809 (fax).



CONTACT INFORMATION

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PUBLIC SERVICE
SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES
MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREE PROGRAM
350 West Woodrow Wilson Drive, Suite 320
Jackson, MS 39213
Phone: (601) 979-8806