

MPH Track Descriptions

Below is a chart comparing the seven SMS MPH tracks.

1. **Description:** General description of the track
2. **Skills/knowledge:** What specialized knowledge and skills will students develop in each track?
3. **What distinguishes each track from other SMS tracks?**
4. **Who should apply?:** Ideal candidate attributes, skills, work experience, other background as relevant
5. **Graduates:** What kinds of positions, in what kinds of industries or environments, might a person who graduated from each track hold?

	Aging and Public Health Track	Global Health Track	Health Promotion Track	History and Ethics of Public Health Track	Sexuality and Health Track	Social Science Research Track	Urbanism and the Built Environment Track
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers a public health perspective on aging that incorporates culture and a life-span perspective. • Incorporates applied and policy dimensions related to aging and health. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers expertise in SMS theories and methods as related to international health work, particularly in the developing world. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed for students interested in developing, implementing, and evaluating strategies that address health promotion issues at multiple levels- individual, interpersonal, organizational, community, economic, political, cultural • Conceptualizes health behavior as an interactive product of the social environment. • Draws on the multidisciplinary resources of SMS to apply a range of approaches to the process of developing, implementing, and evaluating public health interventions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasizes training health professionals in historical methods • Provides a unique opportunity to develop an understanding of the context in which ethical considerations have emerged in public health and medicine. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides public health students with the conceptual and practical skills necessary to identify, analyze, and address health issues connected to sexuality within a global context. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focuses on the conduct and interpretation of public health research • Emphasizes research methods with a strong social science orientation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers a public health perspective on cities that encompasses both applied and policy dimensions • Provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the special health challenges of an urbanized population.

	Aging and Public Health Track	Global Health Track	Health Promotion Track	History and Ethics of Public Health Track	Sexuality and Health Track	Social Science Research Track	Urbanism and the Built Environment Track
Skills/ knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design, implement, evaluate public health programs for aging populations • Develop and analyze health policy for aging populations • Design and conduct research on the health of older adults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design, implement and evaluate health programs for populations in various international settings • Be able to use social theory to understand influences of local settings on health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to analyze the foundations, articulate the historical and philosophical foundations, and explain the dominant theories and conceptual frameworks in health promotion from an ecological perspective • Competence to explain how theories and conceptual frameworks are used to inform the development, implementation, and evaluation of health promotion interventions • Facility to apply a systematic process to design and develop implementation plans for multi-level health promotion interventions based on theory, empirical findings from the literature, and data collected from the intended intervention recipients • Competence to identify and address threats to validity in the design and implementation of health promotion programs • Ability to design an evaluation plan including indicators to assess program implementation and measure impact, propose quantitative and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use history and ethics as a means of informing and shaping contemporary policy debates • Develop an understanding of the context in which ethical considerations have emerged in public health and medicine. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design, implementation, and evaluation of policies, programs, and advocacy efforts to enhance sexual health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social science theory and research methods, and their application to public health issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A developed understanding of how health is shaped by individuals embedded in family-in neighborhood-in city context • Ability to utilize data on the built environment, physical and social structures of a neighborhood, and stakeholder interaction to inform programs, research, and policies

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			qualitative measures to analyze evaluation indicators, and analyze and translate evaluation results into implications for public health practice and policy.				
What distinguishes track from other SMS tracks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the special public health challenges of an aging population. • Integrates research, service and policy in public health as it relates to the aging population. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A six month practicum experience that is guided by Columbia faculty at one of three international sites • Core coursework specifically oriented toward developing GH-related skills and experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The focus on developing, implementing, and/or evaluating health promotion initiatives at multiple levels (from individual to community to national levels) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training health professionals in historical methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop knowledge and skills to identify, analyze, and address health issues connected to sexuality within a global context. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepares students to participate as members of research teams, enabling them to contribute to various phases of research, including study design, data collection and management, data analysis, and the reporting of findings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers a public health perspective on cities that encompasses both applied and policy dimensions • Provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the special health challenges of an urbanized population.

	Aging and Public Health Track	Global Health Track	Health Promotion Track	History and Ethics of Public Health Track	Sexuality and Health Track	Social Science Research Track	Urbanism and the Built Environment Track
Who should apply?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who have an interest in aging-related concerns and issues, and who are seeking a public health perspective • Public health professionals who are providing clinical services, managers and administrators of aging-related institutions, community-based social service and health care agencies, geriatric clinicians, and health services researchers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students with at least one year of formal global health experience in an international setting. • Interest in working long-term in a global health context, particularly in the developing world • Cross-cultural sensitivity and desire to work collaboratively with local organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interests in taking action (program development) on health promotion issues (e.g., preventable diseases such as diabetes, health promotion models such as harm-reduction). • Interests in researching health issues for the goal of developing or implementing health promotion programs. • At least 12 months of full-time work experience in public health or areas related to health promotion. <p><i>Evening Program in Health Promotion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working professionals interested in developing advanced skills in health promotion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public health practitioners, policy analysts, epidemiologists, clinicians and medical center staff, and clergy • Recent college graduates with training or an interest in history, ethics, sociology, political science, philosophy, or other humanities and social sciences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students with at least two years of experience in health promotion or a related field (paid and/or unpaid) who want to strengthen their theoretical understanding and practical skills in the field of sexuality and health • Those with an interest in working in the field of sexual health promotion through intervention, advocacy, and policy development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who seek research careers at the M.P.H. level. • Students who plan to pursue doctoral studies or postdoctoral studies. • Postdoctoral students from other fields who wish to pursue public health research. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who have an interest in city life and the intersection between the built environment, urban planning and public health • Public health professionals who lead community agencies, provide community-level needs assessment, or work in conjunction with city agencies to plan for any and all aspects of the city's future
Graduates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private and non—profit agencies serving the elderly, government health agencies, aging-related community-based groups, Schools of Public Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government and non-governmental organizations working on international health from a programmatic, research, or policy perspective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government health agencies, community based organizations, private sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program prepares graduates with knowledge and skills to work in academic, policy, and administrative positions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizations that address sexual health exclusively or as a part of a broader agenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In organizations that conduct public health research including government agencies, community based organizations, and private sector companies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positions in organizations that plan for any and all aspects of the city's future, such as city planning, neighborhood-based research and interventions, and transnational exchange of city planning principles.