

Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH)
Fall 2011

Overview: The MSPH is intended for incoming students with a strong background in the sciences or engineering. The MSPH is a terminal degree that prepares students for careers in practice, as well as for further studies and careers in advanced education, research or management in the field of public health with emphasis in environmental sciences and engineering.

Learning Objectives:

Upon satisfactory completion of a MSPH degree in ESE, graduates will be able to:

1. Demonstrate broad knowledge in the core fields of public health;
2. Identify sources of environmental contaminants, and processes that affect the movement, fate, and health effects of contaminants in environmental and human systems;
3. Describe the rationale for and approaches used to measure and model properties of environmental or human systems;
4. Explain the relationships between scientific knowledge, exposure, risk assessment, environmental management and environmental policy; and
5. Demonstrate written and oral communication skills related to environmental sciences and engineering issues within a public health context.

Success in achieving these learning objectives is measured by the successful completion of all degree requirements, including core courses in the School of Public Health; departmental course work; and a comprehensive oral examination, at which time a technical report is presented and defended. Students may also prepare other technical reports; present their work at seminars and at national or international meetings; and publish in the peer-reviewed literature.

Degree Requirements:

The requirements for the MSPH are governed by the Graduate School, the School of Public Health, and the Department. These requirements include:

1. Formation of a three-member committee to guide the student's study and research;
2. A minimum of 42 semester hours of work, which can include no more than six semester hours of transferred credit;
3. A minimum of 24 hours of formal graduate-level coursework, which includes at least 15 credit hours of coursework from the Department;
4. Completion of ENVR 400, the Departmental Seminar;
5. Completion of ENVR 401, Unifying Concepts;
6. School of Public Health core course requirements, which include courses or their equivalents in Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Health Behavior and Health Education, and in Health Policy and Administration;
7. Completion of ENVR 981, Practicum;
8. A minimum of three hours of ENVR 392 (Masters Technical Report), earned for the preparation and defense of a technical report; and
9. A comprehensive oral or written examination.