



THE UNIVERSITY *of* TEXAS

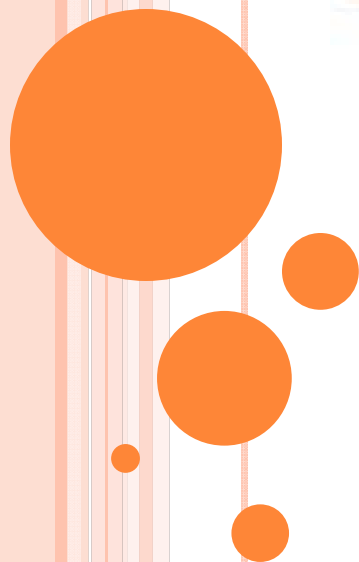
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SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

AUSTIN REGIONAL CAMPUS

**MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
PROGRAM**

Frequently Asked Questions



# GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

- **How long does it take to complete the program?**
  - The MPH Program can be completed in two years with full time enrollment in fall, spring, and summer semesters totaling 45 credit hours. Students have up to five years to complete the program.
- **Is it possible to complete the entire degree program at ARC?**
  - Yes
- **Will I be able to transfer to another SPH campus if needed?**
  - Yes, depending on whether you are able to find a faculty member at the other campus who is willing to serve as your advisor.
- **Is it possible to work full-time and complete the MPH Program?**
  - Only if you have a flexible work schedule. Courses are scheduled M-F in the early morning, late morning, early afternoon, late afternoon, and evenings. In addition to ITV and the traditional format with a local instructor, courses will be available online.



# GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM CONTINUED

- **Is it possible to be a part-time student? Are other students part-time?**
  - Yes, in fall 2008 and spring 2009 part-time enrollment was only slightly less than full-time enrollment.
- **How many MPH students are enrolled at ARC?**
  - As of summer 2009, there are 30 MPH students with a total of 98 students counting non-degree students. In fall 2009, we are anticipating 20 additional MPH students rising the MPH count to 50 MPH students.
- **What is the tuition for MPH Students?**
  - Permanent residents pay \$233.80 per credit hour. Non-Residents pay \$619.80 per credit hour.
  - Additional student services fees are included every semester that total approximately \$150 per semester.
  - Non-Residents can receive in-state tuition if they have a Graduate Research Assistant position.



# GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM CONTINUED

- **What scholarships are available from SPH?**
  - Different forms of financial assistance are listed on the [Student Affairs website](#)
  - There are no scholarship applications available to applicants because
    - students are nominated for the New Student Scholarship and the Texas's Ex Scholarship
    - endowed UTSPH scholarships and traineeships are available to already enrolled students. Students will be notified of the application deadlines every spring semester.
    - The Good Neighbor Scholarship is for international students only.
- **Are MPH students eligible for UTSPH financial aid loans?**
  - Yes, with the exception of international students. Please contact the Office of Financial Aid <http://sfs.uth.tmc.edu/> for more information.



# GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM CONTINUED

- **Are all students able to find a Graduate Research Assistant position?**
  - In spring 2009, 30% of students held a GA position but not all students seek GA positions.
- **Is ARC part of The University of Texas at Austin?**
  - No, ARC is part of the UT Health Science Center at Houston so it is affiliated with UT Austin but it is a separate institution.
- **Will MPH students have access to student services at UT Austin since they are unable to access the services at UTSPH Houston?**
  - Yes. Students at ARC will be able to access the UT Austin libraries, gym, shuttle, health clinic, counseling, wireless internet service, and writing services support.



# QUESTIONS ABOUT ADMISSIONS

- **Can I meet with a faculty member or advisor at ARC before applying?**
  - Yes. Prospective students can meet both with an Academic Affairs Coordinator or faculty member. Email the [Austinregionalcampus@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Austinregionalcampus@uth.tmc.edu) or call 512 482 6176 to set up an appointment with an Academic Affairs Coordinator and contact faculty directly to set a meeting.
- **All are ARC applicants and students interested in Child and Adolescent Behavior and Epidemiology, Chronic Disease Prevention, and Public Health Policy?**
  - No, although many students apply to ARC because of the expertise available on these subjects.
- **How do I view application requirements and access the application?**
  - Visit the Student Affairs Website and click on 'How to Apply.' Afterwards, select the appropriate degree program



# QUESTIONS ABOUT ADMISSIONS

## CONTINUED

- **Where is the application submitted?**
  - Both the SOPHAS and supplemental application and any supporting documents (letters of recommendation, transcripts etc) are sent to The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Registrar's Office: <http://registrar.uth.tmc.edu/> where they are forwarded to the UT School of Public Health at Houston Student Affairs Office, <http://www.sph.uth.tmc.edu/sservices/> and processed.
- **I am applying to ARC, do I need to submit transcripts to ARC?**
  - No, all supporting documents are sent to SOPHAS or the UT Health Science Center at Houston Registrar's Office.
- **Are there rolling admissions?**
  - No, the admissions deadline for Fall entrants is February 1<sup>st</sup> and Spring entrants August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **If SOPHAS sends my application to SPH past the SPH deadline, will it be considered late?**
  - No
- **I have submitted my application. Should I check the status through SOPHAS or UT LINK?**
  - SOPHAS



# QUESTIONS ABOUT ADMISSIONS

## CONTINUED

- **Why does my application appear to be incomplete?**
  - You could be missing a SPH supplemental application or other documents such as transcripts. Please contact the Austin Regional Campus 512 482 6176 AND either SPH Student Affairs Office (713) 500 - 9032 or UTHSC Houston Registrar's Office (713) 500-3361
- **What are the acceptance rates at ARC?**
  - 57% of applicants were accepted in fall 2008
  - 86% of applicants were accepted in spring 2009
- **I want to apply to the MPH program but I am concerned that my GPA and GRE scores are not competitive. Will the Certificate Program strengthen my application?**
  - Yes. If you perform well in the class(es) and get to know faculty this will increase your chances of getting accepted into the MPH program.
- **What are the average GRE scores?**
  - Average fall 2008 and spring 2009 scores were quantitative 675 (66.4 percentile); verbal 525.31 (65.5 percentile); total 1200; analytical 4.6 (49.2 percentile).



# QUESTIONS ABOUT ADMISSIONS CONTINUED

- **What is the average undergraduate GPA?**
  - Average fall 2008 and spring 2009 undergraduate GPA was 3.47.
- **Do most students at ARC have public health work experience?**
  - Average fall 2008 and spring 2009 work experience was approximately 3 years however about 33% of students enrolled with no prior public health work experience.
- **Are there any prior course requirements for the MPH Program?**
  - No, just the completion of a bachelors degree.
- **Are there any international students enrolled at ARC?**
  - Yes, in fall 2008 and spring 2009 10% of ARC students were international (non-citizen status).
- **What are MPH students most common undergraduate major?**
  - In fall 2008 and spring 2009, the majority of students had a degree in the biological sciences followed by a degree in liberal arts.



# QUESTIONS ABOUT ADMISSIONS CONTINUED

- **Where have most of ARC applicants completed undergraduate degrees?**
  - In fall 2008 and spring 2009 out-of-state and in-state institutions were almost fairly represented. Over half of students with a Bachelors degree from Texas received their degree from The University of Texas at Austin.
- **Do students at ARC typically have advanced professional degrees?**
  - In fall 2008 and spring 2009, approximately 17% of students had an advanced professional degree. Of these, over half of students with advanced professional degrees were physicians. The remaining students had either law or other graduate degrees.
- **I have just been admitted to a degree program at ARC, will I be contacted for a new student orientation?**
  - Yes, ARC will send you a letter a few weeks before orientation with detailed information.



# QUESTIONS ABOUT COURSES

- **What courses are offered through the MPH Program?**
  - The following courses satisfy the M.P.H. core public health discipline requirement. Where more than one course is listed, the student is expected to choose one of the options listed.
  - Biostatistics:
    - PH 1610 Introduction to Biostatistics (Online)
    - PH 1725 Intermediate Biostatistics I
    - PH 1726 Intermediate Biostatistics II
    - PH 1725 and PH 1726 must be taken in a sequence; one course alone does not satisfy the core requirement.
    - PH 1725 and PH 1726 are required core courses for M.P.H. majors in the Biostatistics Division.



# CORE CLASSES CONTINUED

- Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences:
  - PH 2100 Foundations of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences
  - PH 2110 Overview of Environmental Health
  - PH 2120 Man's Impact on the Environment (Online)
  - PH 2100 is a required core course for M.P.H. majors in the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Division.
- Epidemiology and Disease Control:
  - PH 2610 Introduction to Epidemiology
  - PH 2612 Introduction to Epidemiology for Majors
- Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences:
  - PH 1110 Social and Behavioral Aspects of Community Health
  - PH 1111 Health Promotion Theory and Methods I
  - PH 1112 Health Promotion Theory and Methods II
  - PH 1111 and PH 1112 must be taken as a sequence; one course alone will not satisfy the core requirement.
  - PH 1111 and PH 1112 are required for M.P.H. majors in the Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences Division.



# CORE CLASSES CONTINUED

- Management, Policy and Community Health:
  - PH 3710 Administration and Public Health
  - PH 3715 Introduction to Management and Policy Sciences
  - PH 3720 Principles and Practice of Public Health
  - PH 3725 Health and Safety Program Management
  - PH 3740 Community-Based Health Assessment
  - PH 3922 Economic and Social Determinants of Health
- Additional elective courses are listed every semester on the [Austin Regional Campus Course Schedule](#)
- Course descriptions are available [online](#) as well



# QUESTIONS ABOUT COURSES CONTINUED

- **What percentage of courses are taught via ITV, online, and in the traditional formats?**
  - In spring 2009, 29% were online, 25% ITV local instructor, 38% ITV no local instructor, 8% in person no ITV.
- **Where are classes located?**
  - Currently, classes are held at the Trinity office in the conference and board rooms: 313 E 12th St. Suites 220 and 260 Austin, TX 78701. There is parking across the street in the Capital visitor's parking garage. First 2 hours are free. \$.75 for each additional ½ hour.
- **How many courses should an MPH Student take every semester?**
  - Students taking 9 credit hours in the fall or spring semesters or 6 credit hours in the summer are considered full-time students. Satisfactory course completion is possible with full-time status and a 20 hour per week employment.



# QUESTIONS ABOUT REGISTRATION

- **How do I get an approval code to register for a course?**
  - Email the professor and request an approval code. Access the professor's email address through the [UTHSCH- People Directory available on UTSPH Quicklinks](#).
- For further questions please contact [Austinregionalcampus@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Austinregionalcampus@uth.tmc.edu)

