Population Health, MS

Do you hope to improve health in communities? Do you aspire to uplift others, appreciating the powerful social and environmental influences shaping health? Population health professionals apply analytic and leadership skills to these complex systems to improve health outcomes. This is a growing career field with a promising outlook.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MS Population Health
The MS program in population health brings together multiple disciplines to prepare students to understand the complex factors that affect the health and well-being of populations. The program addresses the interaction between health systems and other sectors of society, including the private sector; government, nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations; media; and academia to affect population health outcomes. The program includes a strong repertoire of systems science, quantitative and qualitative research methods, epidemiology and biostatistics, and ethics courses together with applied experience.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** College of Health Solutions
- **Location:** Downtown Phoenix

Degree Requirements

36 credit hours and a thesis, or
36 credit hours including the required applied project course (POP 593)
Required Core (21 credit hours)
BMI 515 Applied Biostatistics in Medicine and Informatics (3)
BMI 517 Advanced Biostatistics for Biomedical Research and Health Care (3)
HCD 520 Population Health (3)
POP 575 Social Determinants of Population Health (3)
POP 605 Population Health Systems Science and Theory (3)
POP 633 Population Health Ethics (3)
POP 644 Epidemiology in Population Health (3)

Research (3 credit hours)
POP 641 Qualitative Research Methods (3)

Electives (3 or 6 credit hours)

Other Requirement (3 credit hours)
POP 680 Practicum (3)

Culminating Experience (3 or 6 credit hours)
POP 593 Applied Project (3) or
POP 599 Thesis (6)

Additional Curriculum Information
This program has a thesis option or a nonthesis option. Students selecting the thesis option enroll in POP 599 for six credit hours and complete three credit hours of electives from an approved list of courses. Students in the nonthesis option take the POP 593 Applied Project course for three credit hours and complete six credit hours of electives. Electives should be selected in consultation with program advisor.

Admission Requirements
Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the College of Health Solutions.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in a relevant health or related field from a regionally accredited college or university.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or they must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:
1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. two letters of recommendation
4. letter of intent  
5. professional resume  
6. proof of English proficiency  

**Additional Application Information**  
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of their current residency.  

Prior to starting the program, applicants are expected to have completed a statistics course (e.g. HCD 300, STP 226 or PSY 230).  

**Tuition Information**  
When it comes to paying for college, everyone’s situation is different. Students can learn about [ASU tuition and financial aid](https://www.asu.edu) options to find out which will work best for them.  

**Application Deadlines**  

**Fall**  

**Career Opportunities**  
The Master of Science program in population health prepares graduates for careers in county and state health departments and in national governmental health organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Health Resource and Services Administration and the US Public Health Service. They may also work in nonprofits, such as The Prevention Institute, or for nongovernmental organizations such as the American Diabetes Association, the American Lung Association and others. In these roles, graduates would be especially well-suited to conduct assessments and data-driven analyses to contribute to policy-making or strategic planning affecting entire populations. Potential positions include:  

- director of population health  
- lead population health analyst, including informatics or data analysis  
- lecturer in schools of population health  
- manager: wellness strategy, communications and integration  
- population, public, environmental or behavioral health program director, manager, coordinator or specialist  
- public health initiatives coordinator  

**Professional Licensure**
ASU programs that may lead to professional licensure or certification are intended to prepare students for potential licensure or certification in Arizona. Completion of an ASU program may not meet educational requirements for licensure or certification in another state. For more information, students should visit the ASU professional licensure webpage.

Graduates from this program are eligible to sit for the Certified in Public Health exam upon graduation and three years of relevant work experience. More information on the credential is available on the National Board of Public Health website: https://www.nbphe.org/eligibility/.

Contact Information

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CHSGrad@asu.edu | 602-496-3300
Admission Deadlines