



MPH PROGRAM
Community Health Education

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION PACKET

Applications for Fall 2023

Application Deadlines:

Application Window Opens on: **October 1, 2022***

Early Admissions *for both Campus & Online formats*: **February 1, 2023**

Regular Admissions *for Campus & Online formats*: **June 1, 2023**

**Date applies to SJSU/Cal State Apply and MPH*

Accredited by:



**Department of Public Health and Recreation
One Washington Square
San Jose, CA 95192-0052**

A LETTER FROM THE MPH COORDINATORS

Dear Applicant:

Our MPH Program was founded in 1970 to prepare community health education practitioners and has been continuously accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) since 1974. CEPH is the independent agency officially recognized to accredit graduate programs in public health. As stated in its mission statement, CEPH assures quality in public health education and training to achieve excellence in practice, research and service, through collaboration with organizational and community partners.

San José State University offers an MPH degree with a specialization in community health education in two formats: on Campus (regular session) and Online (through the College of International and Extended Studies). Both Campus and Online students engage in the same rigorous course of study.

MPH Campus Format

To the greatest extent possible, our MPH Campus format is designed for working people. Most of the classes meet in the afternoon or evenings, only once a week. Although three of six core courses must be completed during the first three semesters, students are otherwise free to plan out their MPH course of study in a way that meets their interests, resources, and priorities.

It is possible to complete the program in two years going full-time, taking 4 classes per semester, conducting full-time fieldwork during the first summer, and meeting the university's graduation requirement through a comprehensive exam. However, most students are more comfortable completing 42 total units over three years, and some even stretch it out to four or five!

MPH Online Format

In recognition of the increasing global need for graduate public health education, our CEPH-accredited MPH program created an Online 42-unit, 24-month Online Education option. The MPH Online format uses state-of-the-art synchronous web conferencing that includes two-way audio, multi-point video, interactive whiteboard, application and desktop sharing, virtual breakout rooms, and session recording. Online students engage with their professors and peers as if they were in a traditional classroom, but in the convenience of their home or work office.

Online students meet once a year in San José for four to five days in August. Due to COVID-19, the Fall 2020 cohort met virtually via Zoom. We hope to return to our on-Campus meeting in the future. Otherwise, all Online courses, most of which are taught sequentially, are delivered Online, where students meet once a week for a live class session via the Blackboard Collaborate learning platform. Course length varies from five to seven weeks.

Our graduates build interesting and fulfilling careers across a wide variety of roles and settings across public and private sectors. Many work as health educators in local, county, or state health departments. Others work in topic-specific programs, such as HIV prevention or health services, tobacco control, domestic violence, immunization, student health, violence prevention, cancer control, school-based health education, or environmental protection.

Graduates also work within industry and other work settings in employee health promotion or worksite wellness programs, and others have forged new directions in journalism, medicine, and the arts. Each year, one or two of our students decide to go on for doctoral work at other universities. Recent graduates have completed or are pursuing doctoral degrees at the University of North Carolina, Purdue University, Tulane, the University of Michigan, University of San Francisco, New York University, University of California at Berkeley, and the University of California at Davis. We are proud of our program and particularly proud of our students and alumni!

I hope that this brief introduction, along with the materials in this packet, help you in your review of graduate programs. If you would like to find out more about our MPH program or have a chance to ask specific questions of a faculty member, we invite you to attend one of our MPH Admissions Information Meetings held on Campus and Online from October through March. These group meetings are a great way to learn about the program from multiple perspectives and to get more of your questions answered. A [calendar of meeting dates](#) and times for 2022 is updated on our website.

Sincerely,

Jana Ruijgrok Neubauerova
Online MPH Program Coordinator

Vicky Gomez, DrPH, MPH
Assistant Professor of Public Health
Campus MPH Program Coordinator

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OVERVIEW OF MPH PROGRAM

San Jose State University's MPH program was founded in 1970 to prepare community health education practitioners to serve the diverse and dynamic communities of Northern California.

Our essential mission is:

To provide professional education that prepares both students and graduates with knowledge, conceptual frameworks, health education and public health competencies, in order to develop programs, build community capacity, and advocate policy for health equity.

MPH Program Goals

The MPH program seeks to attain its mission through carefully planned efforts to address six broad goals. The goals are mutually reinforcing and crosscut the major functions of instruction, research, service, and leadership.

1. Stimulating and practical graduate education in the foundations of public health and the specialized skills of community health education (*Instruction*)
2. A program environment that honors diversity, civility, honesty, collaboration, engagement, respect, and ethical practice (*Instruction, Leadership, Service*).
3. Learning that integrates theory, practice, evidence, and lived experience over time, from different sources, and in new ecological contexts (*Instruction*).
4. Contributions that advance the body of knowledge and resources in community health education and public health through ethical and community-based faculty and student scholarship (*Research*).
5. Leadership and active participation that contribute to the growth and development of the health education and public health professions (*Instruction/Leadership*).
6. Continuous engagement of the talents, enthusiasm, resources, and imagination of our program's faculty and students in collaboration with community partners in projects and service activities that contribute to eliminating health disparities, and promoting social justice and health equity (*Service, Leadership*).

MPH Program Learning Outcomes

In recognition of the increasing cultural diversity of the state of California and regions beyond, our MPH Program is committed to training culturally competent health educators whose backgrounds and skills reflect our changing demography. Specifically, the MPH Program trains health education practitioners who are able to:

1. Analyze and research emerging trends, priorities, and assets to predict future individual and community health needs and opportunities based on historical foundations, societal changes, and current evidence, and to communicate their implications for public health and health promotion policy and practice;
2. Apply concepts and theories of behavior, education, systems, complexity, communication, and ecological frameworks to design, plan, implement, evaluate, and disseminate health education and health promotion interventions and policy in accordance with public health objectives, community needs, and organizational and community goals;
3. Provide technical assistance and act as a health education resource across a broad range of settings to promote community health through community building and organizing with identified stakeholders, including community members, consumers, health practitioners and health care providers, policy and decision-makers;
4. Apply administration principles and skills to manage human, fiscal, capital, and social resources when administering health education strategies, interventions, and programs.
5. Apply quantitative and qualitative data analysis principles and skills to community health education and promotion;
6. Apply the principles and skills of effective inclusive and multicultural communication when working with individuals, groups, organizations, and communities from diverse cultures and backgrounds;
7. Advance public health practice and the health education profession by drawing upon historical and contemporary contributions of the field and applying principles of social justice.
8. Adhere to standards for ethical practice and research based on their personal values and mission statements, institutional mandates, and the Code of Ethics for the Health Education Profession, in order to apply them to fields of public health and community health education.

DIVERSITY IN THE SJSU PROGRAM

MPH Program Diversity Statement

Our diversity honors experiences, visions, choices, and realities. It is open to varied cultures, classes, ages, genders, orientations, and abilities. It acknowledges differences and the sharing of the experiences, challenges, and contributions of those differences.

Our diversity is built on tenets of respect, support, inclusion, and representation. It embraces and honors community, ethnicity, spirituality, sexuality, gender, and culture.

Our diversity provides a philosophical outlook that searches to find the points of interconnectedness among us, and accepts that not all points of view connect.

Our diverse community resolves to create spaces for all voices and stories to be equally shared, heard, and embraced.

The MPH Faculty has long had a commitment to this kind of diversity. We hope that it is evident in the courses we teach, the environments we co-create with our student partners, in the MPH community we assemble each year, and in the projects we select on campus and in our community work. We very much look forward to continuing to search for those “points of interconnectedness” among us.

THE SJSU MPH PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Our program was established in 1970 by Dr. Sam Radelfinger. San Jose State University's MPH Program in Community Health Education is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), the independent agency officially recognized to accredit graduate programs in public health. Our MPH Program has been continuously accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health since 1974. CEPH is the private, nonprofit organization, with the American Public Health Association and the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health as its two corporate members, which accredits all Schools and Programs of Public Health. CEPH's mission "assures quality in public health education and training to achieve excellence in practice, research and service, through collaboration with organizational and community partners." The Council's objectives are:

1. To promote quality in public health education through a continuing process of self- evaluation by the schools and programs that seek accreditation;
2. To assure the public that institutions offering graduate instruction in public health have been evaluated and judged to meet standards essential for the conduct of such educational programs; and
3. To encourage - through periodic review, consultation, research, publications, and other means - improvements in the quality of education for public health.

The MPH program is housed in the Department of Public Health and Recreation, which is part of the College of Health and Human Sciences. Other departments within CHHS include Aerospace, Hospitality, Tourism and Event Management, Justice Studies, Kinesiology, Nutrition, Food Science and Packaging, and Occupational Therapy. Schools within our college include Journalism & Mass Communications, Library & Information Sciences, The Valley Foundation School of Nursing, and Social Work.

Students

Each year we admit a new cohort in each of the MPH Campus and Online formats. Each cohort consists of approximately 25 students. Our students represent new or re-orienting professionals with public health values and aspirations. To be eligible for admission, applicants ideally have a minimum of two years of work experience in health education or a related field, and a compelling reason for wanting to study community health education. They must also demonstrate, through their backgrounds, previous training, or life experiences, extraordinary potential to contribute to the diverse and multi-talented public health workforce so needed in the 21st century.

Our students have ranged in age from 21 to 60+. They have experience in community-based organizations, health education and health promotion, health care, education, worksites, private industry, health policy, health departments, social services, government, and biotechnology industries. We have had students who speak Vietnamese, Swedish, Tagalog, Spanish, Arabic, Hmong, Cantonese, Mandarin, Punjabi, Russian, Ukrainian, Farsi, French - and English - and many have lived or worked outside of the United States. They are extraordinary in their serious orientation to graduate study, their commitments to the communities they represent and care for, and their desire to contribute to public health.

The MPH Course of Study

The Curriculum:

The MPH program is based on the curricular elements identified by CEPH for graduate programs in public health. We offer a MPH degree with a specialization in community health education. The 42-minimum unit curriculum is organized around a health education core (16 units), public health core (21 units), and fieldwork (5 units).

MPH Courses

Health Education Core Courses

- PH 200 Contemporary Practice: Public Health, Health Promotion, and Community Health Education (2 units)
- PH 201: Groups and Training: Theory and Practice (2 units)
- PH 225: Evaluation Methods for Public Health Practice (3 units)
- PH 271: Theoretical Foundations of Public Health (3 units)
- PH 272: Health Promotion Planning and Evaluation (3 units)
- PH 293: Public Health Leadership (3 units)

Public Health Core Course

- PH 205A: Quantitative Methods for Public Health I (3 units)
- PH 205B: Quantitative Methods for Public Health II (3 units)
- PH 215: Qualitative Methods in Public Health Practice (3 units)
- PH 262: Health Policy and Organization (3 units)
- PH 265: Environmental Health (3 units)
- PH 276: Community Organization and Health Promotion (3 units)
- PH 277: Multicultural Communication for Health Professionals (3 units)

Fieldwork

- PH 291 Series (A, B, C and P): Fieldwork Seminar and Fieldwork Practicum and Professional Development (5 units total).

MPH ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Application Deadlines

New students are admitted to the MPH program only once a year to begin during the fall semester.

- Application Window Opens: **October 1, 2022***
- Early Admissions *for both Campus and Online formats*: **February 1, 2023**
- Regular Admissions *for Campus and Online formats*: **June 1, 2023**

*Date applies to SJSU/Cal State Apply and the MPH Program.

Application Guidelines

You must apply to one format only. Applicants may not apply to both the Campus and Online formats. **Please note:** Applicants admitted into either format may not ‘transfer’ to the other format after they are accepted.

Please note that you submit two separate (parallel) applications – one to the **university** and the other to the **MPH program**. Read and follow the instructions below completely. Failure to submit all required materials to the appropriate office by the designated deadline will automatically disqualify the application. Be sure to send information to the appropriate office - information sent to an incorrect address will not be forwarded.

Please note that we do NOT require a GRE score to be submitted as part of your application.

Step #1: UNIVERSITY APPLICATION:

Complete your university graduate admission application by going Online:

<https://www2.calstate.edu/apply>. **Please be sure to complete the appropriate application – our Campus format is listed separately from the Online format (listed under “special session”).**

SJSU’s ETS institution code for both GRE and TOEFL is **4687**

– indicate Public Health (0610) for the department.

Payment of the CSU Application Fee of \$70 will be accepted by credit card or PayPal only. The payment must be made in order to submit your [Cal State Apply](#) university application.

Submit all required university application materials to the San Jose State University Graduate Admissions and Program Evaluations office. This is the office that handles all graduate admissions. Applicants must be admitted to the University’s Graduate Division, and you must be accepted in order to begin the MPH program. Be sure to check that you have included all the required materials. Information about graduate admissions can be found at <http://www.sjsu.edu/graduateadmissions/>

After submitting your Cal State Apply application Online, you will receive an ***application confirmation number***. You will need your ***application confirmation number*** in order to access your San Jose State University Graduate Admissions and Program Evaluations (GAPE) application information.

Step #2: MPH PROGRAM APPLICATION:

The SJSU MPH admissions application process is completely electronic. Please note that you must use a computer (not a mobile device) to complete this application. You will be required to upload your statement of purpose and resume during this application process. Submit your MPH Program Application Data Form by clicking the following URL (if it fails to direct you to the site, then copy the URL into your browser):

MPH Program Application Data Form Available On the [Admissions Website](#)

In this application, you will be asked to provide information about yourself, which program (Campus or Online) you are applying to, your work experiences, your volunteer experiences, your educational background, and at least 2 recommenders who will write your letters of recommendation. You will also be asked to upload your resume and your statement of purpose as part of this application.

You must fill in all parts of the application for it to be considered “complete.”

You have not applied to the MPH Program if you do not complete the MPH Program Application Data Form AND the SJSU/Cal State Apply Application.

All application materials become the property of SJSU – no materials will be returned to the applicant. **Re-applicants must submit all new material.**

Resume:

A resume is typically a 1-2 page document that provides a snapshot overview of your education, career, and experiences to date. The SJSU Career Center provides this guide to support creating a resume: https://www.sjsu.edu/careercenter/docs/career-guides/Guide_Resume.pdf

Statement of Purpose:

A Statement of Purpose is a concise 1-2 page essay that helps us to learn a bit more about your and understand why you are pursuing an MPH, why you are pursuing your MPH at SJSU in our department (and why the Campus or the Online MPH), why you would be a good fit for your program, and how getting an MPH builds on your career so far and will help you achieve your professional goals in the future. The SJSU Career Center provides information in this guide to support creating a Statement of Purpose:

https://www.sjsu.edu/careercenter/docs/career-guides/Guide_ApplyingGradSchool.pdf

Letters of Recommendation:

At least **two letters of recommendation** are required for your application to be considered complete. In your application data form, please provide the names and contact information of the people who will provide your letters of recommendation. We will email them a link to upload their letters. The people who write the letters must use their organization's letterhead. The SJSU Career Center provides information in this guide for identifying recommenders and requesting a letter of recommendation:

https://www.sjsu.edu/careercenter/docs/career-guides/Guide_ApplyingGradSchool.pdf

Admissions Decisions

MPH admissions decisions are based on several factors, including academic preparation, work experience, evidence of commitment to public health, potential for contribution to the field, and the overall quality of the application. If applying to the **Online** format, we are also looking for applicants who recognize the personal commitment and discipline that an Online education approach to learning will require for successful completion of the MPH degree. This learning method is appropriate for those who have good time management skills and can properly blend their personal and professional lives with the fast-paced demands of Online learning. Please be assured that all of the materials in your admission folder will be thoughtfully reviewed by our MPH Admissions Committee.

Our goal is to admit a cohort of approximately **30** highly dedicated individuals, ready for graduate work, and committed to the principles and approaches of social justice, community health, advocacy, and health promotion. We particularly value diversity, practical community or health education experience, strong academic skills, and upper division course work in the health, social, and behavioral sciences.

Registration

If you are offered admission to the University, and the MPH Program, you will receive an electronic letter of admission from SJSU and an emailed letter from the MPH Program. You will be able to use the same MYSJSU website to see when you will receive your registration appointment date for course registration. Course registration and paying of student account bills are all done Online. Please note that students have 14-days to pay for their courses after completing the Online registration. The Registrar will drop you from your courses if payments are late.

Additional Guidelines for International Applicants

The SJSU MPH Program welcomes applications from international students, as we recognize that health professionals in other countries need access to graduate public health degrees in order to address the increasingly complex public issues that they encounter. Below are some important facts to keep in mind as you consider the SJSU MPH Program. They are based on some of the questions received from potential international applicants.

- Visit <http://www.sjsu.edu/graduateadmissions/want-to-apply/international-steps-to-admission/index.html> for updated information regarding international applicants.
- **International Students and Online Learning:** Under U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) rules (Revised effective 1/1/03; 67 FR 76256), **F-1 visa students cannot be accepted to the SJSU MPH Online format** because all MPH course are delivered Online and F-1 students cannot enroll in more than one Online class (or three credits) per academic semester/quarter. **If you are applying using an F-1 visa, you will therefore need to apply to the Campus MPH format.**
- **Graduate assistantships and scholarship:** The SJSU MPH Program does not offer graduate assistantships or scholarships, regardless of residency.
- **In-person requirement for Online MPH:** International students who are able to apply and are accepted into the SJSU MPH Online format should plan on spending approximately 7 days in San José in mid-August 2023, 2024, and 2025. There are no other days required in the USA. This requirement may change based on COVID-19.

The Staley & Hussey Scholarship

for Outstanding Achievement in Promoting LGBTQ+ Equality and/or HIV Prevention

Thanks to a generous gift from Matthew Staley, an MPH alumnus of the SJSU MPH Program, a \$1,000 scholarship award has been established to honor an MPH student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in promoting LGBTQ+ Equality and/or HIV Prevention. Matthew Staley, a SJSU MPH Class of 2000 Graduate, dedicated many years of his personal and professional life to HIV Prevention at the local, state, and national level before being forced into early retirement due to complications from the disease he worked with others to prevent. Quin Hussey (formally Wendy Hussey), a SJSU MPH Class of 2001 Graduate, was instrumental in helping to establish an annual Diversity Event previously held on SJSU's campus. This event was one of many lifelong achievements in promoting LGBTQ+ equality. We hope to bring back this joyful event to campus!

Application and supporting documents are due at the time of application for admission into the MPH program. Awards will be announced at the time of acceptance of the MPH program Online and Campus cohorts.

Thank you for your interest in the MPH Program at San Jose State University

