Community Health

**Master of Science (MS)**

The Master of Science in Community Health is a degree that prepares students to practice in the field of public health, which serves to enhance health through education, research, and policy. The curriculum of the M.S. focuses on preparing students to work in prevention at the community level through programming, advocacy, as well as needs and needs/outcome assessments. Although its focus is on rural health and is designed to address health issues and needs of rural communities, the skills gained from this program prepares graduates to work in any local, national or international entity. The program is a total of 45 credit hours and includes 6 credits of internship and 6 credits of professional project work.

**Requirements for Admission**

**General Graduate Admission Requirements (see page 10)**

**Additional Admission Requirements**

1. A minimum undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 (A=4.0) is required in the final 60 credits of baccalaureate work, to qualify for full admission.
2. All majors are welcome to apply.
3. Submission of three professional letters of recommendation with cover sheets from persons who can provide information about the academic and teaching potential of the applicant (e.g., former or current professors, school administrator, or other professional references).

*A student who does not satisfy one or more of the above may, in some cases, be conditionally admitted.*

**Program Requirements**

Students must earn a 3.0 average in order to register for the HLTH 691/692 and HLTH 696/697. If a student earns below a 3.0 in two or more courses within one academic year, the graduate faculty will meet with the student regarding his or her academic standing. A development plan outlining the expectations for the student will be developed and additional support systems available will be identified. If improvement is not achieved in the agreed upon time frame, the student may be dismissed from the program.

*The 45 credit hours are divided as follows:*

**Community Health Core** ............................................... 15
- HLTH 560  Environmental & Occupational Health
- HLTH 600  Social/Behavioral Determinants of Health
- HLTH 605  Biostatistics
- HLTH 610  Epidemiology
- HLTH 655  Health Policy & Administration

**Rural Health Education Focus** ..................................... 21
- HLTH 520  Current Topics in Rural Health
- HLTH 625  Research & Assessment
- HLTH 630  Health Disparities
- HLTH 640  Program Planning
- HLTH 645  Program Evaluation
- HLTH 690  Internship I
- HLTH 691  Internship II

**Community Health Elective** ....................................... 3
- HLTH 660  Professional Development Seminar

Additional electives will be developed based on faculty research and teaching interests

**Culminating Experience** ............................................. 6
- HLTH 696  Professional Project I
- HLTH 697  Professional Project II

*All courses are 3 credits unless noted.*

**Required Culminating Experiences**

**Internship Requirements**

Students will complete a 240-hour (6 credit) internship. Students will enroll in HLTH 690/691 in the last two semesters of study. Since students will be registered for classes at SUNY Potsdam, it is expected these internships be at local public health agencies or organizations and that students spend 8-10 hours per week with the agency/organization.

**Professional Project Requirements/Guidelines**

The culminating experience for the Community Health M.S. is the completion of a project requiring students to synthesize and integrate knowledge acquired during their coursework. As such, the project involves planning, implementing, evaluating and communicating the results of a public health initiative such as a program or intervention.

Students will form a Project Committee to include a faculty member from the Community Health M.S. program who will supervise the project from beginning to completion. The committee will also include a member from the agency in which the project will be implemented, and another SUNY Potsdam faculty member with relevant qualifications. The M.S. Program Coordinator in conjunction with the Committee Chair will approve committee membership. The committee must be selected by the end of the 2nd semester of full-time study or the end of the 4th semester of part-time study.

In the 2nd semester of full-time study or the end of the 4th semester of part-time study, students work with the Internship Coordinator and Project Chair to identify the organization or agency with which to work and to develop a preliminary proposal. In the 3rd semester of full-time study (7th for part-time), students will register for HLTH 696. Students will work in conjunction with that organization and committee to develop a project proposal. In other words, they will design a program/intervention that will be implemented with the community. Included in the program proposal will be:

1. Introduction
2. Statement of the problem/Background
3. Literature review (past practice, research)
4. Theoretical Framework
5. Methodology (program plan, research plan, work plan)
6. Evaluation plan
7. References

Before the end of the semester, students will have also prepared and submitted projects that qualify for approval by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at SUNY Potsdam. The grade in this course will be determined by the quality and feasibility of the completed project proposal. The project proposal must be completed by the end of the semester in which they enrolled in HLTH 696.

In HLTH 697, students will implement the project they proposed in HLTH 696, and then evaluate the results of the project. Students will prepare a professional paper of publishable quality as their final task for the project. Students will also be required to present the results of their project to the Community Health M.S. program faculty. The grade in this course will be determined by the quality of the project implemented and the strength, not of the results, but of the way the results were communicated. The project must be completed by the end of the semester in which they enrolled in HLTH 697.

Final paper will adhere to the following format and style guidelines:
1. Title page
2. Abstract
3. Introduction
4. Literature review
5. Theoretical framework
6. Methodology
7. Results
8. Discussion
9. Conclusion
10. References
11. Appendices

Format and Style:

a. The paper will be formatted in a manner appropriate for submission to a scholarly journal (such as the American Journal of Public Health, Health Education, or Health Communication).

b. The paper should be cited in APA format.

Organizational Performance & Technology

Requirements for Admission

General Graduate Admission Requirements (see page 10)
Additional Admission Requirements

1. A minimum grade point average of 3.0 (A-4.0) is required in the most recent 60 semester hours of undergraduate study for full admission. Applicants with a minimum grade point average of 2.75 in the most recent 60 semester hours may be considered for conditional admission.

2. Submission of two professional letters of recommendation with cover sheets from persons who can provide information about the academic and teaching potential of the applicant (e.g., former or current professors, school administrator, or other professional references).

Candidates with a 3.5 GPA or higher OR a GPA of 3.0 and at least two years of professional work experience may qualify for expedited admission. Consult the Center for Graduate Studies for details.

A student who does not satisfy one or more of the above may, in some cases, be conditionally admitted.

The MS Organizational Performance and Technology program is intended to prepare students for careers in human performance improvement, training, and development, with an emphasis on the use of technologies to solve performance problems. The program is also targeted for individuals seeking careers in leadership or management positions in organizations such as higher education, social service agencies and the military.

A minimum of 36 credit hours with an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher is required for the granting of Master of Science, Organizational Performance & Technology degree.

Concentration in Organizational Performance, Leadership & Technology

Course Requirements

The 36 credit hours are divided as follows:

Required Courses ............................................................... 21
IT 607 Principles of Leadership
IT 608 Organizational Development
IT 615 Critical Issues in Performance and Leadership Technology
IT 635 Research & Theory on Communication and Performance Technology
IT 648 Principles of Performance Technology
IT 653 Instructional Planning and Development Process
IT 654 Program Evaluation
Technology Requirement (one of the following required).....3
IT 544   Desktop Publishing
IT 545   Preparing and Delivering Professional
         Presentations
IT 546   Preparing Performance Support Materials
IT 549   Web Page Development

Controlled Options/Concentration.................................9
At least three courses which focus on management, training
or hardware utilization, selected with prior approval of the
adviser.

Culminating Experience..................................................3
IT 658   Needs Assessment

All courses are 3 credits unless noted.