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 training students to work in prevention at the community level through programming, advocacy, as well as needs and needs/outcome assessments. It has a focus on Rural Health Education and is designed to specifically address the health-related needs of rural communities, preparing graduates for work in other rural areas in New York State, nationally, or internationally. 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 9)

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 in each graduate level course for the course to count towards the degree requirements. 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 600 Social/Behavioral Determinants of Health
HLTH 605 Biostatistics
HLTH 610 Epidemiology
HLTH 650 Environmental & Occupational Health
HLTH 655 Health Policy & Administration

**Rural Health Education Focus** ...........................................21
HLTH 620 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
Electives will be developed based on faculty research and teaching interests

**Culminating Experience** ..................................................6
HLTH 698 Professional Project I
HLTH 699 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 should 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 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 3rd semester of full-time study (7th for part-time), students will register for HLTH 696. In this course, students work with the Internship Coordinator to identify the organization or agency with which to work. Once the organization/agency is chosen, students will work in conjunction with that organization 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. Statement of the health problem
2. Review of literature
3. Program plan
4. Evaluation plan

Before the end of the semester, students will have also prepared and submitted their project for approval by the IRB at SUNY
Potsdam. No projects will be implemented until IRB approval has been obtained. 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. Methods
5. Results
6. Discussion
7. Conclusion
8. References
9. Tables and figures

Format and Style:
- 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).
- The paper should be cited in APA format.

A step-by-step guide to preparation to submission of the culminating paper or thesis will be provided for students enrolled in the Community Health M.S. program.

Organizational Performance & Technology

Requirements for Admission

General Graduate Admission Requirements (see page 9)

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.

There are two concentrations within the MS Organizational Performance and Technology program. These concentrations are 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 programs are 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.

Concentration in Organizational Leadership

*This concentration is offered exclusively at the Watertown Extension site at Jefferson Community College in Watertown, NY.

Course Requirements

The 36 credit hours are divided as follows:

Required Courses .............................................................12
IT 607 Principles of Leadership
IT 608 Organizational Development
IT 648 Principles of Performance Technology
IT 654 Program Evaluation

Controlled Options/Concentration.....................................12
At least four courses which focus on management, selected with prior approval of the adviser.

Elective.................................................................3

Performance or Technology Utilization..............................6
At least two courses which focus on technology, selected with prior approval of the adviser.

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

All courses are 3 credits unless noted.