

The Department of Health Sciences

Master of Public Health

Program Specific Requirements



The mission of the Department of Health Sciences is to create and mobilize knowledge to protect and promote health and reduce health inequities. Through applied research, community engagement, and provision of diverse learning opportunities, we help to build capacity to understand and address the complexities of both current and emerging health issues.

Our vision is to be leaders in applied health research and comprehensive health education that enables and supports individuals and communities to achieve optimal health.

In the **Master of Public Health program**, students will focus on current issues in the science and/or service of public health, so that they may gain experience through opportunities in any of the fundamental disciplines that underlie public health. The program is primarily intended to prepare graduates for a career in public health practice. The program's objectives are to prepare a graduate who:

- possesses advanced health-related education;
- is capable of critical analysis;
- understands health-related decision-making at the level of the individual, population, and government;
- understands research;
- possesses knowledge exchange and dissemination strategies for individuals, populations, and government

Master of Public Health programs may be completed through **Distance Education on a Full-time or Flexible Full-time** basis. Those wishing to complete the Master of Public Health program **on-campus** may apply to the **full-time on-campus program**.

NOTE: Students completing the program as a Full-time student must complete all requirements within six terms (2 years) of continuous registration. Students completing the program as a Flexible Full-time student may complete the program requirements in a minimum of three (3) years **if the schedule and timetable allow**. Flex-time students must complete all academic requirements in four (4) years (12 terms).

For more information on the full-time and flexible full-time definitions, please visit the link below.
<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/programs/graduate/academic-information/options/study-option>

Note that, once admitted to the Master of Public Health program, students are not permitted to change from the Standard Full-time Option to the Flexible Full-time Option, and vice versa.

- Full-time students completing at a distance must attend the daytime classes.
- For those studying at a distance, the Master of Public Health courses are offered using a combination of Zoom videoconferencing technology for real-time scheduled classes, and of Desire2Learn (D2L), a secure password-protected learning environment (e.g., for course resources, e-mail, and online discussions). The connectivity using Zoom allows students to have direct audio and visual contact with the course instructor and with other graduate students during class time and while working together on shared course assignments. In some classes, break-out sessions are structured into the course so that students have both large- and small-group learning experiences.
- Flexible full-time students may complete the program requirements in a minimum of 3 (three) years if the schedule and timetable allow. Flex-time students must complete all academic requirements in 4 (four) years / (12 terms).

Specializations available within Public Health

Applicants may also choose to complete a specialization as part of their Master of Public Health program.

Epidemiology

<https://csdc.lakeheadu.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=30&chapterid=10025&topicgroupid=32430&loaduseredits=True>

Gerontology

<https://csdc.lakeheadu.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=30&chapterid=10025&topicgroupid=32427&loaduseredits=True>

Indigenous and Northern Health

<https://csdc.lakeheadu.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=30&chapterid=10025&topicgroupid=32431&loaduseredits=True>

Social-Ecological Systems, Sustainability and Health

<https://csdc.lakeheadu.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=30&chapterid=10025&topicgroupid=32433&loaduseredits=True>

Nursing

<https://csdc.lakeheadu.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=30&chapterid=10025&topicgroupid=32425&loaduseredits=True>

General admission requirements to a Master's Graduate program at Lakehead University are described below.

Applicants for admission must be graduates of a recognized university, college, or institute as well as show evidence of scholarly achievement. Except where otherwise stated in the Admission Requirements of a particular program, applicants must have a four-year bachelor's degree or its equivalent with at least second class standing (B) based on their last 20 half courses or equivalent. Preferences will be given to applicants who have successfully completed statistics and research methods courses.

Lakehead's MPH program is primarily intended to build on the knowledge foundation of persons working in the field of Public Health. Applicants with a background in Dentistry, Veterinary Sciences, Bachelor of Surgery/Medicine and Pharmacy do not meet of eligibility requirements and will be refused.

In addition to the general admission requirements for Master programs, **applicants must also submit:**

- A **curriculum vitae (CV)**
<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/programs/graduate/academic-information/terminology#CV>
- A **Statement of Goals and Intentions**
<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/programs/graduate/academic-information/terminology#mph>
- Preferences will be given to applicants who have completed statistics and research methods courses
- **Official English Test Results** (if required) see Health Sciences Admission Requirements
<https://csdc.lakeheadu.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=30&chapterid=9804&topicgroupid=31584&loaduseredits=False>

If applying to the **Master of Public Health with Specialization in Nursing program**, the following requirements also apply.

- Four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree or its equivalent from a university of recognized standing with a minimum "B" average
- Evidence of a commitment to nursing as contained in the student's [Curriculum Vitae](#) and [Statement of Goals and Intentions](#)
- Proof of unrestricted, current registration or eligibility to register with the **College of Nurses of Ontario** (<https://www.cno.org/>) or another jurisdiction in Canada for which the practicum will take place.
- Names and email address of two (2) references, where 1 must be clinical.
- [Official English Test Results](#) (if required) See Health Sciences Admission Requirements

In addition to the Faculty of Graduate Studies minimum admission requirements and program specific requirements, the following should also be considered.

Lakehead's Master of Public Health program is primarily intended to build on the knowledge foundation of persons working in the field of public health. Applicants with a **background in Dentistry, Veterinary Sciences, Bachelor of Surgery/Medicine and Pharmacy do not meet our eligibility requirements and will be refused.**

- Typically, successful applicants have a 4-year Bachelor's degree in a health studies related field with at least a 75% average.
 - applicants who have averages below 75% may be considered if they have substantial work experience (5 or more years) in public health.
- Preferences will be given to applicants who have successfully completed statistics and research methods courses.
- Applicants to the Master of Public Health program should have previous experience in public health or proven experience through research and volunteer opportunities.
- Applicants whose native language is not English and who have not studied in an English school system for more than three years must provide proof of meeting requirements by achieving the appropriate scores in one of the following tests:
 - the International English Language test (IELTS) with a minimum score of 7 with no individual score less than 6.5, and speaking and writing a minimum score of 7 or the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a minimum internet-based score of 100, or a minimum computer-based score of 250, or a minimum paper-based score of 600 with a score of at least 5.0 on the Test of Written Language (TWE); Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB) with a minimum score of 90; or a Canadian Academic English Language Assessment (CAEL) with a minimum score of 80. For more information, see the **Academic Calendar** for English Language requirements. (<https://csdc.lakeheadu.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=30&chapterid=9804&topicgroupid=31584&loaduserredits=True>)

Applicants are encouraged to visit the **Academic Calendar** for program academic requirements, regulations, and course descriptions.

<https://csdc.lakeheadu.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&cataloggroupid=32&catalogid=30&topicgroupid=31525&loaduserredits=true&referrer=0>

Please also visit our **Frequently Asked Questions** for information to assist in making your decision to apply to one of our programs.

https://www.lakeheadu.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/60/2024.25%20MHSc%20and%20MPH%20FAQs_Mar13.24.pdf