

# 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

Preference is given to applicants who have successfully completed research methods courses (e.g., statistics, qualitative inquiry, epidemiology, research methods).

**Master of Public Health** programs may be completed through **Distance Education on a [Flexible full-time](#) or [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** 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 **must attend the daytime sections** and complete all requirements within 2 years (6 terms).
- **Flexible full-time** students **must attend the evenings sections** and complete all academic requirements in a **minimum of 3 years (9 terms)**.
- 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 myCoursLink, 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.

## **Specializations available within Public Health**

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

[Epidemiology](#)

[Gerontology](#)

[Indigenous and Northern Health](#)

[Social-Ecological Systems, Sustainability and Health](#)

[Nursing](#)

## General admission requirements to the Master of Public Health program.

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.

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

- a [curriculum vitae \(CV\)](#)
- a [Statement of Goals and Intentions](#)
- 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

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](#) 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.

- 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:
  - International English Language Testing System (IELTS): Minimum overall score of 7.0, with no individual score less than 6.5, and minimum scores of 7.0 in both Speaking and Writing.
  - Duolingo English Test: Minimum overall score of 120.
  - Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT): Minimum overall score of 100 on the current scale (0–120), or a minimum band score of 5.0 or higher on the new TOEFL scale (effective January 2026).
  - Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB): Minimum overall score of 90.
  - Canadian Academic English Language Assessment (CAEL): Minimum overall score of 80.
  - Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic: Minimum overall score of 65, with sub-scores of Listening 58, Reading 58, Speaking 65, and Writing 65.

For more information, see the [Academic Calendar](#) for English Language requirements. All test results must be valid (taken within the past two years) at the time of application.

Applicants are encouraged to visit the [Academic Calendar](#) for program academic requirements, regulations, and course descriptions.

Please also visit our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for information to assist in making your decision to apply to one of our programs.