

Thinking about applying to the Master of Health Sciences or Master of Public Health program? Below you will find answers to frequently asked questions to assist you in deciding to apply to either of these programs and their specializations.

Is previous public health / health sciences experience required?

The MPH program is geared towards working professionals to build on the knowledge foundation of persons currently working in the field of public health. The curriculum focuses on current issues in the science and/or service of public health, so that students may gain experience through opportunities in any of the fundamental disciplines that underlie public health. Though not required, preference is given to applicants who have previous experience in public health or proven experience through research and volunteer opportunities

The MHSc program is primarily intended to prepare skilled graduates who will make a positive impact on health through involvement in research. Therefore, the degree is designed largely to prepare students who will emerge as health researchers, and will provide advanced methodological and health-related education that will enhance both their understanding of health and their ability to contribute to the advancement of health. Preference will be given to applicants who completed a thesis in their undergraduate program or have proven research experience.

The Department of Health Sciences creates and mobilizes 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. Faculty members provide a variety of perspectives focusing on the continuum of healthcare delivery from multidisciplinary areas or research.

For both programs, preference will be given to applicants who have taken statistics and research methods courses.

How competitive are the programs?

Our programs are highly over-subscribed and we usually receive over 400+ applications. **Complete** applications are due in **full by midnight on February 1st**. A complete application includes a CV, statement of intentions and goals, completed references, transcripts, and *if applicable*, English Language requirements, CNO license, hours verifications, or gerontology specialization form.

When and how do I apply?

We have one intake that begins in September. Typically, we begin to accept applications in November, and applications are due in full by midnight on February 1.

To be considered for funding, applications must be fully completed by midnight on February 1. Flexible full-time applications are not considered for funding.

To submit an official application, please visit the link below to access the Graduate Studies Application Portal.

<https://erpss.lakeheadu.ca:8173/Student/Student/GSONlineAppl/IndexGuest>

Are there scholarships or bursaries available?

We have a limited number of Entrance Scholarships that are allocated to high ranking applicants admitted to our programs. Aside from submitting a complete application to the program, nothing further is required to be considered for the entrance awards.

Some faculty have scholarships available and candidates should contact them directly. Opportunities can be found [here](#).

Full-time, on-campus students are eligible for a Graduate Assistantship.

What are the minimum admission requirements and documents required in the application?

The minimum admission requirements to a Graduate program is a 4 year Bachelor's degree with second class standing (B) on their last 20 half courses or equivalent.

Typically, applicants to the Master of Health Sciences and Master of Public Health program have a 4 year Bachelor's degree in a health 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. Preference is given to applicants who have taken courses in statistics and research methods.

All applications to the Master of Health Sciences and Master of Public Health program are required to submit the following general documents:

- [CV](#)
- [Statement of Intentions and Goals](#)
- Name and email addresses of 2 References with the option of submitting 3
 - References should be academic when possible
 - If out of school for several years, professional references will be accepted

- At least 1 clinical reference must be submitted if applying to the Master of Public Health with Specialization in Nursing program or Master of Public Health with Specialization in Nursing with Nurse Practitioner Electives programs.
- Transcripts from postsecondary institutions
- [English Language scores](#) (if applicable)

Gerontology Specialization

In addition to the general application documents, those applying to the Gerontology Specialization will be prompted to complete the [Gerontology application form](#) when submitting an application.

Nursing Specialization and Nurse Practitioner Electives

In addition to the general application documents, those applying to the **Master of Public Health with Specialization in Nursing** must also submit 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.

If applying to the **Master of Public Health with Specialization in Nursing and with Nurse Practitioner Electives**, in addition to the general application documents, evidence of an unrestricted, current Registered Nurse Certificate of Registration (College of Nurses of Ontario) must be submitted. Applicants to this program must have the equivalent of 2 years full-time nursing practice (minimum 4000 hours) within the past 5 years. An hour verification form will be electronically emailed for completion to the name and email address provided when completing an application to the program.

Are the programs offered on campus or at a distance?

The Master of Health Sciences program is an on-campus, thesis based program that may be completed on a full-time or flexible full-time basis. The program is **not available at a distance**.

The Master of Public Health program is offered on a full-time, on-campus basis **or** at a distance on a flexible full-time basis.

Students in the [full-time](#), on-campus stream must complete all academic requirements in 2 year (6 terms) of continuous registration.

Students in the flexible full-time, distance stream must complete all academic requirements in 4 years of continuous registration. **There is no guarantee that the program can be completed any faster than 4 years. Please visit our [regulations](#) for more information on the number of courses flex-time students may register in each term. Scroll half way down the page.**

Can I complete the Master of Public Health with Specialization in Nursing and with Nurse Practitioner Electives entirely at a distance?

The Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner (PHCNP) program uses a blended delivery model of face-to-face instruction and distance education. **There are face-to-face requirements, on campus**, associated with the Advanced Health Assessment and Diagnosis courses, and the Therapeutics courses. Attendance at these seminars is mandatory. There are also 78 hours of clinical practicum associated with each of these courses and all clinical placements are required to be completed in Lakehead University's geographic boundary. The final practicum is 455 hours and it must also be completed in Lakehead University's geographic boundary, which is east to Wawa, north to Hudson's Bay, west to the Manitoba border, and south to the U.S. border.

Where can I complete the Master of Public Health practicum?

The planning of the practicum begins at least 7 months in advance and is the last component of the Master of Public Health program. While the planning is heavily student-driven, with the assistance of the Administrative Coordinator, we try to secure a practicum where the student resides. In some cases, students have had to relocate temporarily or travel longer distances.

For more information on the Master of Public Health practicum process, please visit:

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/programs/departments/health-sciences/graduate-programs/master-of-public-health-programs/practicum-information>

Securing a Supervisor – Thesis Programs Only

Applicants to course-based programs do not need to secure a supervisor.

Applicants to a thesis program must identify a potential supervisor and area of interest. Admittance is dependent on availability of full-time faculty in the Department of Health Sciences. Applicants should carefully review our full-time [faculty profiles](#) to identify faculty who do work in their area of research, reach out to them directly to discuss their availability. We ask that you only reach out to one faculty member at a time. Thank you in advance for not sending multiple emails to different faculty.

Please note, identifying a potential supervisor in your application does not guarantee admission to the program.

For more information on the thesis option, please visit

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/programs/departments/health-sciences/graduate-programs/master-of-health-sciences-programs/about-your-thesis>

Do I have to have completed a thesis to be considered for a thesis program?

Applicants to the Master of Health Sciences program or thesis-based Master of Public Health program should have previous research experience, or have completed a thesis in their undergraduate program.

How will my average be calculated?

Averages are calculated by the Faculty of Graduate Studies by using the last 20 half courses at the 3rd and 4th year level that are most related to the program of application. Courses in progress are not counted in the initial average assessment, however, applicants may submit an updated transcript once grades have been posted.

For further questions related to average calculations, please speak to Graduate Studies. 807-343-8010 Ext. 8785 or email gstudent@lakeheadu.ca

Do you admit based on grades alone?

No, the entire package is considered by the admission committee when reviewing applications. The committee considers grades, CV, letter of intentions and goals, academic and working background, as well as references.

Where can I find program specific requirements?

Up to date information on the academic requirements for each program, regulations, and course descriptions can be found in [Lakehead University's Academic Calendar](#).

When will I find out if I have been accepted?

Offers of admission are usually sent out to the top ranking applicants beginning in March. We hold a waitlist and make further admission offers by way of the waitlist if top-ranking applicants decline their offer. The review committee makes recommendations up to June 1.

You can check the status of your application by logging on to the application system using the LU credentials provided in the application process.

Who should I contact if I have more questions?

For any questions related to the Master of Health Sciences or Master of Public Health program, please email healthsciences@lakeheadu.ca

Any questions related to the application portal should be directed to the Faculty of Graduate Studies by emailing gstudent@lakeheadu.ca

For other information related to Graduate programs and terminology, please visit <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/programs/graduate>