

# 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 promotion 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, with the exception of specific course requirements for the Master of Public Health with Specialization in Nursing with Nurse Practitioner Electives, may be completed through Distance Education on a [Flexible full-time](#) basis; those wishing to complete the Master of Public Health program on a full-time basis must apply to the 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.

- For those studying at a distance (flexible full-time basis), 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).

With the exception of Master of Public Health programs with Specialization in Nursing (with or without Nurse Practitioner Electives), students may apply to either a [course-based](#) or [thesis option](#).

**Applicants must indicate their areas of interest for a thesis when applying to the program and must identify a potential supervisor. Admittance is dependent on faculty availability from among [full-time faculty](#) of the Department of Health Sciences;** otherwise, students are offered admission to the course-based option. Students originally admitted to the course-based option may **apply** to the Admissions Committee to transfer to the thesis option after their first term of study, and once final marks are available.

## **Specializations available within Public Health**

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

**Social-Ecological Systems, Sustainability and Health** ([course option](#) or [thesis option](#))

**Epidemiology** ([course option](#) or [thesis option](#))

**Indigenous and Northern Health** ([course option](#) or [thesis option](#))

**Gerontology** ([course option](#) or [thesis option](#))

**Nursing** ([course option](#))

**Nursing with Nurse Practitioner Electives** ([course option](#))

- Please note, the Master of Public Health with Specialization in Nursing with Nurse Practitioner Electives includes on campus requirements and cannot be completed entirely at a distance.
- Applicants who are interested in the PHC Nurse Practitioner elective option will complete the Council of Ontario University Programs in Nursing (COUPN), Ontario Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner Program courses.
- 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.

**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 [flex-time](#) student must complete all requirements within *twelve terms* (4 years) of continuous registration as follows: six terms (2 years) of continuous full-time registration followed by up to six additional terms (2 years) of continuous registration, during which no fees are required.

General admission requirements to a Masters 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.

If applying to a **thesis program**, interested applicants are encouraged to contact potential supervisors directly, **and before**, applying to the program. **Applicants must indicate their areas of interest for a thesis when applying to the program and must identify a potential supervisor. Admittance is dependent on faculty availability from among [full-time faculty of the Department of Health Sciences](#)**; otherwise, students are offered admission to the course-based option.

**If applying to a course-based program you are not required to secure a supervisor.**

In addition to the general admission requirements for Master 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)

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.
- [Official English Test Results](#) (if required)

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

- Evidence of an unrestricted, current Registered Nurse Certificate of Registration ([College of Nurses of Ontario](#))
- The [Personal Essay for Nurse Practitioners](#)
- Name and email address of the person(s) who will complete hours verification form for applicants to the Master of Public Health with Specialization in Nursing and with Nurse Practitioner Electives.

Applicants must have the equivalent of 2 years full-time nursing practice within the past 5 years

Preference will be given to Ontario residents whose work experience in nursing has been continuous and who have practical experience in one or more of the following areas: primary health care; ambulatory care; public health; community health; long term care; emergency care or outpost nursing.

If applying to a **Specialization in Gerontology**, the following requirement also apply.

- [Gerontology application](#) form if applying to a Gerontology specialization

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

- 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.

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.