MPH in Public Health Preparedness Policy and Management

The initial response to a disaster or crisis generally occurs at the local and state levels. If the event is high impact and high consequence, personnel and resources from multiple agencies are required to successfully respond. The health and safety of our communities depend on public health, health care, and emergency agency leaders who can recognize natural and man-made threats to the community, know how to plan for those threats, and how to respond to and recover from those events if they occur. This program provides the necessary tools and skills to prepare these leaders and managers for future public health challenges.

This degree program meets all MPH core competency objectives as well as the following preparedness competency objectives:

- Explore the history of preparedness as it applies to public health and the logic associated with the formulation and evaluation of preparedness policy
- Learn of the typology and mitigation strategies for environmental disasters
- Explore the means and methods of risk communications and message formulation and delivery during times of disaster preparedness and response
- Learn the methods of needs assessment for preparedness at the community level
- Explore the epidemiology, risk, and mitigation strategies for agroterrorism events
- Explore methods and practices of detection of chemical and biological weapons

Admissions: Applicants must meet the general admission requirements for the Master of Public Health degree program. Visit the School of Public Health Web site for detailed admission information: www.soph.uab.edu. Applicants with a previously earned doctoral degree may be waived from the requirement to submit a GRE score. This program is open to students with a bachelor’s degree.

For more information:
Contact Melanie DeRamus-Bailey, Program Coordinator, phone: 205-934-3748, email: deramus@uab.edu

Curriculum: Students in this track take 46 – 52 hours depending on prior experience. The work can generally be completed in two years or less.

MPH Core Courses (19 hours):
MCH 610 Introduction to Public Health (3)
EPI 600 Introduction to Epidemiology (3)
HB 600 Social & Behavioral Sciences Core (3)
ENH 600 Introduction to Environmental Health Sciences (3)
BST 600 Introduction to Biostatistics (4)
HCO 690 Integrative Experience (3)

Preparedness Core Courses (12-15 hours):
HCO 604 Public Health Politics & Policy (3)
HCO 670 Social & Ethical Issues in Public Health (3)
HCO 607 Public Health Law (3)
HCO 640 Disaster & Emergency Management (3)
HCO 641 Public Health Preparedness & Response Policy (3)

Specialized Content (15 hours):
ENH 610 Environmental Disasters (3)
EPI 605 Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases (3)
HCO 643 Communication Issues in Disaster Preparedness (3)
HCO 644 Community Preparedness Needs Assessment & Evaluation (3)
One of: HCO 642 Prevention & Response to Agroterrorism Events (3)
ENH 770 Advanced Topics in Environmental Disasters & Public Health (3)

Internship (3 hours):
HCO 697 Internship in Preparedness Policy & Management (may be waived with prior experience in a relevant field)