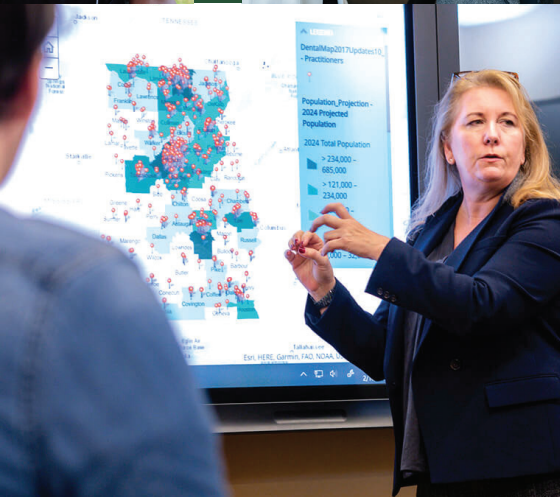




SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Working for a Healthier World



Alabama's Leader in Public Health



Working for a healthier world.

Public health problems are everywhere. Water, air, and soil pollution impact the quality of life in post-industrial cities and agricultural areas alike. Obesity and food insecurity are prevalent in urban and rural communities, due in part to the existence of food deserts. Critical, preventable disparities in health outcomes arise from unequal access to health care across the United States. Global climate change is accelerating the emergence of new pathogens, heat-related injuries, and migration around the world.

Career opportunities in public health are everywhere, too:

in Health Departments, at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the World Health Organization (WHO); in industry, in local non-profits and global NGOs, in health care settings, and at research institutions. Whether it's working in an office or out in the field, dealing with data or directly with people – all of public health is guided by a passion to make the world a healthier place.

If you feel that passion, join us at the UAB School of Public Health.

School of Public Health Accolades

*The only accredited
School of Public Health
in Alabama*



*\$13 million in NIH
funding, which is 22nd
among all schools of
public health*



*More than \$38 million
in active projects*



For over 40 years UAB has been a worldwide leader in public health research. We are home to some of the highest impact research studies in the nation, and our faculty consistently publish in top journals. Our research excellence translates directly into innovative public health practice. Our School was founded to improve the health of the citizens of Birmingham, and we've expanded our reach to serve the state, the region, and the world. Anywhere that evidence-based public health is needed, our students, faculty, and staff are there to make a difference. And that drive – to make the world a healthier place for all – is at the heart of all we do.

The UAB School of Public Health is the only accredited school of public health in Alabama. Other schools offer programs related to public health, but we offer recognized educational excellence. In fact, we were recently ranked 22nd in U.S. News and World Report's list of best schools of public health in the country. This ranking is among 195 schools and programs of public health, including three of our concentrations ranked in the top 20. Our students benefit from a cutting-edge curriculum focused on developing real-world skills and have countless opportunities to get involved in research with faculty and to serve the community. There is simply no better place to start your public health journey than the UAB School of Public Health.

OUR VISION We aspire to fulfill the great promise of the discipline of public health: to protect and improve the health, safety, and well-being of all. We accomplish this through cutting-edge research, educating future generations of outstanding public health practitioners, and serving our community, state, region, and the world.

Welcome to the Magic City.

UAB is located in the heart of the Magic City, putting students at the epicenter of everything Birmingham has to offer.

Birmingham is a beautiful, diverse city in the midst of a cultural rebirth. In the past few years, it has become widely recognized as a “foodie” city, with new restaurants and breweries opening what seems like every day. The downtown has become revitalized, with new loft developments, hotels, food halls, parks, music venues, and more. The city is home to a thriving art scene with concerts, symphonies, festivals, theatrical productions, and more.

Yet, despite all of this activity, Birmingham remains a very easy city to live in. It's easy to get around, there's lots of green space, housing remains relatively affordable, and the health care is world class. The city and surrounding areas are naturally beautiful, with mountains, forests, lakes, and a whole host of outdoor activities.



Student Spotlight



**LEAH GRACE
SIMONS**

**BS in Public Health
with concentrations
in Global Health
Studies and Envi-
ronmental Health
Science, 2018**

**MPH in Epidemi-
ology and Global
Health Graduate
Certificate, 2020**

"Like many, I didn't even know what public health was and as a first-generation college student, I could never have imagined the opportunities that the UAB SOPH could offer me. Studying public health has given me the ability to solve problems and make a difference. I have met people from the UAB campus, Birmingham community, and even in different countries. It's been amazing connecting with people through our shared desire to improve health in our communities and around the world."

"My experience at UAB SOPH has allowed me to put my passions into practice, convert my intellect into action, and transform my faith into function. I have learned so much from my peers and mentors, made lifelong friends, and contributed hours of service. I will be attending UAB School of Medicine in the fall and want to continue research and service in public health with the hope of being part of the change needed in our society as we work toward health quality and equality for all."

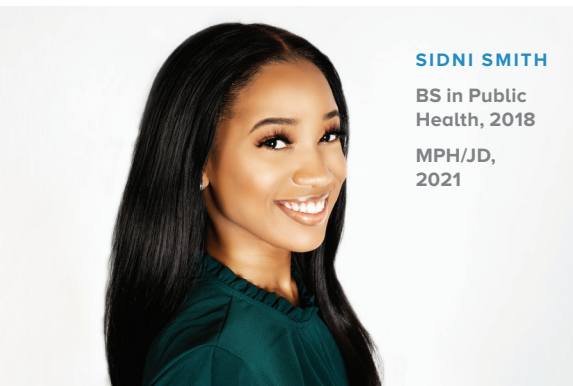


**MATTHEW
MOORE**

**MPH in Maternal
and Child Health
Policy and
Leadership, 2017**

**DrPH in Maternal
and Child Health
Policy, 2020**

"I am currently in the coordinated MPH/JD program which provides a stimulating and rewarding balance of thought, perspective, and knowledge. My goal is to focus on healthcare and environmental issues and, ultimately, advance public health policy initiatives on local, national, and global levels. I envision myself in advocacy work for marginalized groups like African-Americans, veterans, and individuals experiencing homelessness. I am thrilled to embark on a path that is built on passion, service, and excitement."



SIDNI SMITH

**BS in Public
Health, 2018**

**MPH/JD,
2021**



Undergraduate Degree

One of the most dynamic undergraduate programs at UAB

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE (BS)

Drawing on the multiple disciplines that inform public health (e.g., epidemiology, health behavior, policy, environmental health science), the Bachelor of Science in Public Health gives students the skills to analyze and communicate critical public health information to diverse audiences. Whether it's responding to emerging infections like Ebola or COVID-19, developing and delivering educational campaigns to help patients manage chronic conditions like diabetes or heart disease, or helping communities advocate for cleaner air and water, public health is a hands-on field that **makes a difference**. Students majoring in Public Health go on to work in their communities, in state and local health departments, in healthcare settings, or for agencies like the CDC or WHO – anywhere that broad knowledge of the biological, environmental, social, and behavioral influences on health is needed. Many students also continue their training in graduate or professional school (including medicine, nursing, physician assistant, optometry, etc.)

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Every undergraduate student in the School of Public Health participates in at least one course designated as Experiential Learning. Academic advisors help students find the perfect opportunity to meet this requirement while following their public health passion.

Degree Concentrations

Bachelor of Science with a concentration in Public Health

In the Public Health concentration, you will learn about factors and dynamics that contribute to public health issues around the world and gain a broad understanding of current public health practices.

Bachelor of Science with a concentration in Environmental Health Sciences

A concentration in Environmental Health Sciences will prepare you to protect both the environment and workers by identifying and eliminating health hazards in a variety of settings, as well as studying their effects on human and natural populations. Global climate change and sustainability are a major focus of this concentration.

Bachelor of Science with a concentration in Global Health Studies

As a student in the Global Health concentration you will learn about health conditions that affect people around the world and associated challenges that make these issues difficult to address such as poverty, cultural beliefs, and population dynamics.

Minor in Public Health

Our Minor in Public Health complements most major degree programs by providing a broader perspective on health and community concepts. Pursuing a Public Health minor will allow you to incorporate health promotion and disease prevention into any career field and prepares you for a graduate program in public health.

Accelerated Learning Opportunities

The School of Public Health offers several Accelerated Learning Opportunities for high-achieving students to reduce the **time and cost** necessary to complete both their undergraduate and graduate degrees. These opportunities include the Fast Track and Accelerated Bachelor's to Master programs, both of which allow students to begin graduate coursework while finishing their undergraduate degree in any field. Exceptional high school seniors may also be invited to participate in the Early Acceptance Program when they are first admitted to UAB, which guarantees admission to the Master of Public Health program if students maintain a 3.5 undergraduate GPA.



Graduate Degrees

Our graduate programs give students the knowledge, insight, and perspective needed to address complex public health problems in the US and abroad. Students develop the critical scientific, technical, and leadership skills very much in demand by business, industry, academia, and the public sector.

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH)

The Master of Public Health (MPH) is the most well-known Public Health degree. It is considered a “terminal” or “professional” degree, as it fully prepares individuals for lifelong careers in public health practice without the need for additional education.

At UAB, all MPH degree programs begin with a shared MPH Core based on the Evidence-Based Public Health framework, which provides all students with the practice-based skills they need to be effective in the public health workforce. Students further enhance their training through one of many departmental concentrations; these concentrations are designed to deepen students’ knowledge in specific areas of public health. Regardless of concentration, all MPH students engage in an Applied Practice Experience (Internship) in the community and conclude their coursework with an Integrative Learning Experience (Capstone) in which they pull together skills and perspectives learned in both the core and the concentration courses to produce a high-quality written product.

Common career settings for individuals holding the MPH degree include State and Local Health Departments; community-based organizations and non-profits; healthcare consulting firms; international, state, and federal agencies (e.g., WHO, CMS, CDC); managed care organizations; and various clinical

settings. Because of their broad training in public health management, individuals holding the MPH degree have excellent prospects for advancing into leadership roles in these settings.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

Working with communities is at the core of what we do at the UAB School of Public Health. Students have countless opportunities to work with faculty and community partners on the community health issues they’re passionate about, whether it’s addressing environmental justice concerns in North Birmingham, exploring heightened stroke risk throughout the rural South, or combatting HIV-related stigma and discrimination in developing countries. MPH and DrPH students also participate in a formal Applied Practice Experience (internship or practicum) as part of their degree requirements. In this structured experience, students demonstrate such critical practice-based skills as coalition building, negotiation, advocacy, interprofessional teamwork, and targeted communication under the direction of a preceptor and faculty advisor. Students create at least two work products that can be used by the community partner, demonstrating their readiness to make an impact in the public health workforce.



OUR DEGREE OVERVIEW

MPH The MPH is the signature Master's degree in the field of public health. It focuses on developing practice-based skills to critically examine and address the breadth of public health challenges.

MS The MS is offered through the Department of Biostatistics. The objective is to produce research-oriented scientists who anticipate a career performing data management and statistical analysis.

MSPH In contrast to the MPH, an MSPH degree prepares students for careers in research. Whether it's academia, government, or industry, the ability to plan and conduct rigorous scientific studies is in high demand. This degree is especially well-suited for clinicians who want to sharpen their analytic skills and for students planning to study for a doctoral degree.

PhD Our school's PhD programs provide a balance between theory and application. The emphasis on scientific research differentiates these degrees from the DrPH.

DrPH The DrPH is the doctoral degree in Public Health. With a strong emphasis on public health practice, the DrPH is ideal for students who plan to become leaders in the field of public health.

Degree Concentrations

Biostatistics

Biostatisticians apply statistical methods for research in the health sciences, use mathematical principles and historical trends to predict outcomes and influence life-changing decisions, and interpret data to draw conclusions regarding observed behaviors.

MS Biostatistics

MSPH Biostatistics

PhD Biostatistics

DrPH Biostatistics

Environmental Health Sciences

Environmental health scientists work to understand the causes and hazards related to public health issues and to influence policy about both natural and man-made environmental factors.

MPH Environmental and Occupational Health
also available online

MSPH Industrial Hygiene

MSPH Environmental and Occupational Health Science

PhD Environmental Health Sciences

Epidemiology

Known as "disease detectives," epidemiologists investigate causes of diseases and work to control their spread. They also determine risk factors for disease and identify targets for preventive medicine and public policies.

MPH Epidemiology
also available online

MSPH Applied Epidemiology

PhD Epidemiology

Health Behavior

Health behaviorists use data and theory to develop and evaluate programs addressing behaviors that lead to disease and promoting benefits to the public's health. Research topics include obesity, addiction, sexual health risks, and family and adolescent health issues.

MPH Health Behavior

PhD Health Behavior

Health Policy and Organization

Students in Health Policy build the skills required to recommend or evaluate systems or policy changes, while students in Health Organization learn to effectively lead and manage while working in public health. Maternal and Child Health (MCH), focusing on vulnerable populations, provides additional skills in comprehensive systems development and evaluation. Outcomes Research focuses on the evaluation of the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of specific clinical healthcare interventions or treatments.

MPH Health Policy and Organization
also available online

MPH Maternal and Child Health Policy and Leadership
also available online

MSPH Outcomes Research
only available online

DrPH Health Policy and Organization

DrPH Maternal and Child Health Policy

DrPH Outcomes Research

Population Health

This individualized concentration is designed for professionals working in health-care-related fields or for students enrolled in one of our coordinated degree programs.



MPH Population Health
also available online



Coordinated Degree Programs

Individuals training for a wide range of professions (e.g., medicine, law, business, social work) can benefit from adding the population health perspective offered by an MPH degree. Our coordinated degree programs allow students to combine training in their chosen field with an individually-designed MPH concentration in Population Health. In addition to the MPH Core based on the Evidence-Based Public Health framework and a course on multidisciplinary perspectives on Population Health, students select from all available Master's-level courses to design a unique concentration that supports their career goals. Because a portion of the coursework in the coordinated degree programs is shared between the two degrees, students are able to complete both degrees more quickly and at a reduced cost.

Online Degree Programs

Many degree programs in the School of Public Health are available completely online and do not require any travel to Birmingham. These online degree programs are identical to the on-campus versions and award the same degree upon completion. All online students are assigned both an academic and a faculty advisor and have access to all UAB and School of Public Health resources necessary to be successful.

Consistently ranked as some of the best online public health programs in the nation, our online offerings are carefully designed using best practices in online education to provide an exceptional educational experience. All courses are asynchronous, meaning students can view course content, work on assignments, and coordinate team-based work at times convenient for their schedules. Courses are taught by the same highly qualified faculty who teach on campus; these faculty are regularly available to consult with online students by email, phone, or videoconference via Zoom. Students in online MPH degree programs can complete their required Applied Practice Experience (Internship) in their local area; assistance is provided in locating appropriate internship opportunities. School of Public Health alumni across the country and abroad assist graduates with networking to find employment after graduation.

Certificate Programs

Our certificate programs offer a cost-effective way to build a strong foundation in public health. Each certificate is available completely online, though students are welcome to take on-campus courses if they prefer. Courses taken in pursuit of a certificate can be applied toward an MPH degree for students who continue their training at the UAB School of Public Health. These certificates may also be used as a part of UAB's new interdisciplinary master's degree program.

PUBLIC HEALTH CERTIFICATE

This 17-hour certificate is ideal for individuals interested in exploring public health or expanding their foundational knowledge and applied skills. Built around the Evidence-Based Public Health framework, students learn skills in community assessment, quantitative methods, program and policy development and evaluation, as well as public health management and leadership. Students also select one elective course to customize their training. Graduates of this certificate program are also eligible to sit for the Certified in Public Health (CPH) exam.

GLOBAL HEALTH STUDIES CERTIFICATE

This 15-hour certificate builds knowledge in the ways that processes such as globalization, climate change, and global migration converge on local communities to impact population health and health care delivery. Core courses provide students with the foundations needed to assess global health issues in different settings and cultures. Elective courses offer the opportunity for application, often through participation in projects with international partners and global health scholars, to cultivate the capacity to deal with complex global health problems. Learn how to identify critical issues, ask the right questions, and create solutions that are effective.

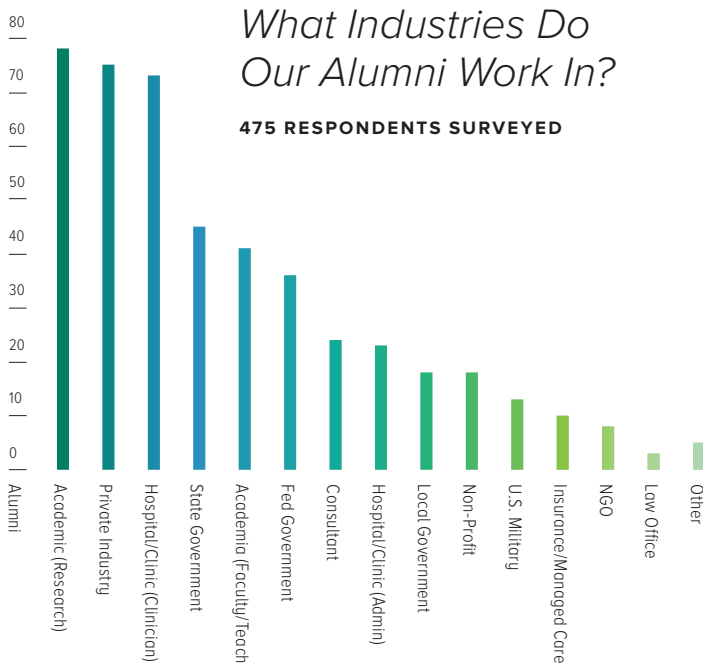
APPLIED BST AND EPIDEMIOLOGY CERTIFICATE

This 15-hour certificate provides applied knowledge and skills in common statistical analyses and epidemiologic methods, skills in high demand in research and academia, in clinical and laboratory settings, in health care organizations, in non-profits and NGOs. This certificate is ideal for working professionals who want to sharpen their analytic skills as well as for MPH students looking to deepen their quantitative methods training.

Careers in public health

Career options for students trained in public health are exceptionally strong and will continue to grow in the future. More than ten years ago, the Association of Schools of Public Health noted that “the worsening [public health] worker shortages will reach crisis proportions in the coming years.”

Based on an analysis of the number of trained public health workers relative to the growth of the U.S. population, the report estimated that the US would be *short 250,000 public health workers by the year 2020*. But it's not just that public health positions are going unfilled as workers retire – the field of public health itself is rapidly changing and expanding, leading to new opportunities for students trained at accredited schools of public health like UAB.



Actual Alumni Job Titles by Discipline

Biostatistics

- Biostatistician, UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center
- Biostatistician, Eli Lilly and Company
- Research Analyst, HealthCore Inc.

Environmental Health Sciences

- Senior Industrial Hygienist, 3M Corporation
- Environmental Scientist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Manager of Safety and Health, Alabama Power Company

Epidemiology

- Epidemiologist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Director HIV/AIDS Surveillance, Alabama Department of Public Health
- Lead Clinical Research Associate, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Health Behavior

- Community Planning Program Specialist, Florida Department of Health
- Director of Health Education, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services
- Underage Drinking Prevention Coordinator, DREAMS, Inc.

Health Policy and Organization

- Health Policy Analyst, U.S. General Accounting Office
- CEO, Alacare Home Health & Hospice
- Vice President, Field Operations, Arthritis Foundation National Office

SOPH Student Engagement



Diversity and Inclusion

As faculty, staff, and students in the UAB School of Public Health, we are committed to fostering a community and culture that embrace diversity, equity, and inclusion.

We come from diverse backgrounds with unique experiences that shape who we are and who we will become. We recognize that this diversity is our greatest strength as a School – it's what empowers us to make a difference in communities locally, nationally, and globally.

Student Governance

All students in the School of Public Health are represented through the Public Health Student Association (PHSA). PHSA provides numerous opportunities for students to participate in service to the School, the community, and the profession. PHSA also provides numerous social and networking opportunities for students. Elections for officers are held in the Fall of each academic year, and general meetings are held throughout each semester.

Student Interest Groups

- Global Health Interest Group (GHIG)
- Maternal & Child Health Student Association (MCHSA)
- Alabama Student Rural Health Association (ASRHA)
- Mental Health Ambassadors

Diversity & Inclusion Undergraduate Statistics

26% *first generation students*

66% *underrepresented race/ethnicity*

Diversity & Inclusion Graduate Statistics

6% *first generation students*

46% *underrepresented race/ethnicity*

SOPH SHARED VALUES

Diversity and Inclusion Celebrating what makes us unique and what makes us one school; **Ethical Behavior and Integrity**

Doing what is right for the right reasons; **Collegiality** Practicing mindfulness and accountability in the work-place and modeling professional collaborations for our students; **Academic Freedom** Pursuing excellence in our scholarly interests through innovation in teaching, research, and service; **Stewardship** Earning the public's trust in how we engage communities and manage our resources.

Holistic Admissions

At the UAB School of Public Health, we aren't looking for good test takers, but for individuals with a passion for serving their communities.

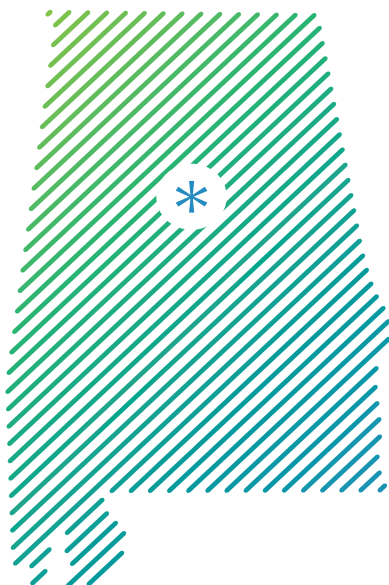
Holistic admissions is a comprehensive process that carefully examines all components of your application. While we look at your previous coursework, GPA, and test scores (note that the GRE is recommended but not required for admission to the MPH program), our main focus is on YOU – do you have the dedication to make a difference? A resume/CV that demonstrates a long-standing commitment to engagement and service is vital, as are strong letters of recommendation that describe your character and capabilities. But the most critical component is the Statement of Purpose, which should clearly demonstrate how you intend to make an impact in the field of public health. We already know that most students pursue a degree in Public Health because they want to help people – tell us what that looks like for YOU!



SO YOU DECIDED TO PURSUE A DEGREE IN PUBLIC HEALTH. WHAT'S NEXT? uab.edu/soph/home/apply



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#1 in the nation for community outreach efforts around health and well-being

#1 YOUNG UNITED STATES UNIVERSITY / **#12** YOUNG UNIVERSITY, WORLDWIDE

Recognized as a 2022 Diversity Champion by *INSIGHT into Diversity* Magazine.

100+
countries represented
by our students, faculty,
and staff

Among public universities that receive research funding from NIH, **UAB ranks 11th.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [UAB.EDU/SOPH](https://uab.edu/soph)

MARCH 2023