Prospective Students

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **How many applications do you receive on average per year?** Of a highly selective applicant pool that meets the eligibility criteria of a completed prior graduate degree for this accelerated one-year program the Interdisciplinary MPH program receives about 60 applications per cycle.

- **How many applicants are offered admission per year?** Our student cohorts typically consist of 25 students per year.

- **How do I contact a professor to determine if s/he will agree to advise me?** After students accept their invitation to be admitted into the program and enroll, they can reach out to UCB faculty and request a meeting to discuss this. The Interdisciplinary Program faculty will assist you when searching for an adviser. Most students start this process once they are on campus and have narrowed down their focus for the MPH research project and selected their courses.

- **What aspects of the application are weighed more heavily than others?** We look at an application in its entirety to determine a person’s strengths and relative fit to our program and within the incoming cohort; areas of research and work interest, work experience related to public health and beyond, future public health career plans, academic history, as well as a clear focus for skills to acquire at UCB are important considerations. Letters of recommendation are also carefully reviewed. For foreign applicants, English language skills are an important consideration.

- **Am I eligible to apply if I do not have a graduate degree?** Only those who are enrolled in a graduate program at the time of application or hold a graduate degree by the start of the interdisciplinary MPH program are eligible to apply.

- **What are the average GRE scores of accepted candidates?** The average entering student has a verbal score above the 84th percentile and a quantitative score above the 79th percentile.

- **If I am a current medical student, do I need to take the GRE?** Students currently enrolled in medical school can submit their MCAT scores in lieu of the GRE.

- **If I hold a doctorate-level degree (MD, PhD, etc...), do I need to take the GRE?** Applicants who have completed a MD, PhD or equivalent doctoral-level degree at the time of application from an accredited institution are not required to submit GRE scores.
My GRE scores from two years ago were better than this year’s scores. Can I use those scores instead? All scores from the past five years will show on your GRE report; we will count the scores from the exam which had the highest average scores.

If I received a degree from an institution outside of the U.S or English-speaking Canada, do I need to submit a World Evaluation Service (WES) evaluation? All degrees completed outside of the U.S or English-speaking Canada must be submitted to WES for evaluation. Instructions on how to submit a WES evaluation are available through the SOPHAS application portal.

If I am an applicant from a country where English is not the official language, do I need to take an English proficiency test? All applicants from countries in which the official language is not English are required to submit official evidence of English language proficiency. The Interdisciplinary MPH accepts TOEFL and IELTS tests. However, applicants who, at the time of application, have already completed at least one year of full-time academic course work with grades of B or better at a U.S. university may submit an official transcript from the U.S. university to fulfill this requirement.

Do I need to submit my official graduate transcripts through SOPHAS? Even though SOPHAS only requires applicants to submit their undergraduate transcripts, the Interdisciplinary MPH also requires applicants to submit their graduate transcripts through SOPHAS.

If I am also applying to the UCSF/UC Berkeley Dental Public Health program, do I need to submit two different applications? Yes, prospective students must apply separately and concurrently to the one-year Interdisciplinary Master's in Public Health program at UC Berkeley and a subsequent one-year Dental Public Health certificate program at UCSF. Details regarding the UCSF application process can be found here.

Can I apply for spring admission? The academic year begins in the fall; spring admission is not permitted.

How soon after I submit my application can I expect to hear an official response? The Admissions Committee will begin reviewing Priority Deadline applications in mid-January; decisions are generally made by the beginning of March. In the event that the admission slots are not full, the Admissions Committee will review Secondary Deadline applications in mid-March. Admissions decisions for the second round are made by the end of March.
I have been waitlisted for admission; when will I know if I am officially admitted? Waitlisted candidates will receive information about their final status on or before June 1. We regret the inconvenience and ask for your patience during this process.

I have been offered admission–how can I arrange to visit campus and Berkeley in order to make a decision? The Interdisciplinary MPH program typically hosts a Spring Visit Day in mid-March for those candidates who have been offered admission. There are also department and campus events held to inform prospective students of what they can expect as a graduate student at UC Berkeley.

When does the program start? Students are required to attend a summer session prior to the fall semester. The summer session runs from early July to mid-August (usually the week around July 4th until the second week of August). During this time, students are required to take the Summer Interdisciplinary MPH Seminar (PH292) to start planning their MPH research project. We also highly recommend that students take Biostatistics (PH142) and Epidemiology (PH250A) during the summer session to decrease the remaining required coursework to a manageable load during the fall and spring semester.

Can I work during the program? The full course load required is 42 semester units for the year, which is approximately 5-6 classes per semester: a very high course load compared to students in the 2-year MPH program who have to complete 48 units over 2 years. While some of our clinical fellows can fit in a few monthly shifts on selected days, like weekends or over holiday periods, we do not recommend any kind of regular part-time job or full-time job.

Do you have a part-time program for persons who want to continue to work full-time? No, the Interdisciplinary MPH program is a full-time 11-month program. For applicants searching for a part-time program, we recommend that you check out our online MPH program.