



"Berkeley's School of Public Health is giving me the opportunity to get the skills I want in a setting of diverse viewpoints and past experiences, both from the faculty and my fellow classmates. We have the opportunity to simultaneously learn and practice in different communities, challenging us to be creative leaders today. "

*Justin Rausa, MPH '12,
Health & Social Behavior*



UC Berkeley will always hold a special place in my heart. As someone who grew up in Firebaugh, CA - a small farming town in Central California - I was nervous about the transition to a place like UC Berkeley. But not only has the transition been smooth, it has been life-changing. The culture and diversity of people and interests at the School of Public Health has been as much of a learning experience as the actual academics. I have met colleagues, peers and most importantly friends that I will no doubt have for the rest of my life. Go Bears!"

*Patrick Ramirez, MPH '12,
Health Policy and Management*



"As a dual-degree graduate student in Public Health and City Planning, it is critical for me that I gain the necessary tools, strategies, skills, and perspectives to advance social change within low-income communities and communities of color. UCB SPH's support of my goal is reflected in its commitment to increase diversity through a school-wide Director of Diversity office, and the leadership, mentorship, and career networking opportunities and support services that are provided. In addition, I am particularly appreciative of the academic preparation UCB SPH provides through faculty who are committed to working for equity and social justice, and a curriculum that directly addresses and explores issues impacting communities of color."

*Erika Rincón Whitcomb, MPH, MCP '13,
Health and Social Behavior and City Planning*

Director of Diversity



Abby M. Rincón, MPH, an alumna from the UC Berkeley School of Public Health, works extensively to recruit and retain underrepresented students, students of color and those who are educationally and economically disadvantaged. Ms. Rincón works directly with prospective students to assist with the application process and serves as an advocate on behalf of students to ensure their academic success.

For More Information

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School of
Public Health

University of California
Berkeley

Diversity

A commitment to
Diversity, Human Rights,
and Social Justice

Fundamental to that commitment is a
diverse student body that reflects the
representation of our communities.



Meeting the Challenge

Fundamental demographic shifts created a new urgency for addressing inequalities in health status. The UC Berkeley School of Public Health is committed to being at the forefront in addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by our changing demographics.

Racial and ethnic minorities have poorer health outcomes than non-minorities as noted by the Institute of Medicine, 2002. Underserved communities continue to be affected by disproportionate suffering from illness and disability. Every discipline within public health from health and social behavior to health policy and management, environmental health sciences, epidemiology and public health nutrition can make a significant difference in reducing health inequities.



*Graduate Recruitment and Diversity Services (GRADS) Coordinators
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GRADS: Graduate Recruitment and Diversity Services

The GRADS program provides support for applicants from underrepresented populations, by providing advising to assist applicants in positioning themselves to gain admission to the School, and encourages the matriculation of these students. GRADS promotes access to public health graduate education to prospective students who have faced challenges due to cultural or family background, economic resources, age, or other circumstances.



Kelsie Scruggs, MPH '13, Environmental Health

"I chose UC Berkeley not only because of its reputation and esteemed faculty, but because of the friendly reception from current students, the support system available. CAL is rich in culture and is giving me the foundation I need to be a successful Health Professional."

The Opportunity

A strong commitment to multiculturalism, diversity, community health and practice are the cornerstones of a public health education at Berkeley. The UC Berkeley School of Public Health supports the University's mission to foster academic excellence through diversity. We are dedicated to ensuring that the School reaches out to underrepresented prospective students and those interested in working with vulnerable populations. The School of Public Health strives to incorporate and sustain diversity in every aspect of the School: the student body, curriculum, faculty, community partners, professional practice, and research.

By working together toward reaching our goals of diversity and multiculturalism, the UC Berkeley School of Public Health is committed to students, faculty, and a workforce of public health practitioners ready and able to tackle today's public health priorities.

Summer Preparatory Seminar

The week long program is intended to help create and establish a healthy cohort for underrepresented students as a sustaining and supportive mechanism for them while in graduate studies in public health. Students who participate are historically underrepresented in graduate school, educationally and financially disadvantaged, or first-generation college students.

Diversity Opportunities and Resources

Faculty Research

Numerous faculty are involved in leading research on multicultural issues in vulnerable populations, among these are Brenda Eskenazi, Sylvia Guendelman, Denise Herd, Seth Holmes, Meredith Minkler, Amani Nuru-Jeter, Mahasin Mujahid, Rachel Morello-Frosch, and Lonnie Snowden. The school works to ensure that evidence-based public health moves from publication to "public action" as quickly as possible.



*Amani Nuru-Jeter, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Associate Professor,
Divisions of Community Health &
Human Development; and
Epidemiology*

Multicultural Health Specialty Area

The Multicultural Health Specialty area was created to address the changing multicultural composition of the U.S. population by helping public health students gain additional knowledge and training related to health disparities and cultural competence. After completing selected coursework within public health and a variety of related disciplines, students will receive a Multicultural Health certificate upon graduation in addition to their degree.

Multicultural Health in Action

MHIA are various student-led projects that collaborates with Bay Area community partners that contribute to reducing health inequities and improving diversity and cultural competency. MHIA connects students to real life opportunities to work with community initiatives which provides experiences for students to enhance their practical skills and make a difference in local multicultural health issues.