

## **Master of Health Science in Health Policy Program Learning Objectives**

Specific learning objectives are met through a combination of formal coursework, a field placement experience, and an integrating paper. Upon completion of the MHS program in Health Policy, graduates will have the skills and knowledge to meet the program learning objectives:

*Demonstrate knowledge of the health status of Americans, the major public health challenges they face, and the programs designed to address these problems*

- Exhibit familiarity with major public health problems in the United States;
- Describe the health status and demographic profile of the US population, including the incidence and prevalence of disease, as well as mortality rates and life expectancy in the US;
- Describe the financing and organization of healthcare services in the United States;
- Describe and critique the role and structure of public health agencies in addressing public health problems; the role of political actors in the formation and implementation of health policy; and the impact of law and regulation on the health of the public.

*Demonstrate effective health policy development, analysis and evaluation skills*

- Analyze and critique the government's role in health policy and understand how political processes have shaped that role;
- Analyze and evaluate the process of public policy-making and how it affects the design, implementation and performance of health policies;
- Identify the political constraints and opportunities within health policy organizations and understand how they can achieve their objectives strategically;
- Collect, analyze, and synthesize information about health policy problems and issues;
- Develop alternative policy options and assess their economic, political, administrative, legal and social implications;
- Identify public health laws, regulations, and policies related to specific programs and assess their impact;
- Establish evaluation criteria to monitor and evaluate policies and programs.

*Skillfully apply the appropriate quantitative tools to evidence-based health policy analysis and program evaluation*

- Determine the appropriate use of data and quantitative methods for problem identification and resolution;
- Evaluate the integrity and comparability of data and identify gaps in data sources
- Recognize basic research designs used in public health;
- Analyze the quality of published research findings and determine their applicability to a particular health policy issue.

*Communicate effectively in both oral and written form*

- Present demographic, statistical, programmatic, and scientific information

- accurately and effectively to a wide variety of audiences;
- Write professional quality analyses of health policy issues with the appropriate and skillful use of evidence and citations;
- Collect, organize and summarize information from individuals, organizations, government agencies and communities.

*Demonstrate career planning skills for the health policy arena*

- Recognize the major players in the health policy arena, including public agencies and private organizations that conduct health policy research and analysis;
- Plan and develop a job search in the health policy arena;
- Demonstrate effective job-related writing skills, including resumes and follow-up letters;
- Conduct effective job-related verbal communication skills, including informational interviews, telephone and in-person job interviews and salary negotiations;
- Develop networks among the major and minor players in the health policy arena.