

MPH PROGRAM
Community Health Education
ADMISSIONS INFORMATION PACKET
Applications for Fall 2019

Application Deadlines:

Early Admissions *for both campus and online formats*: **February 1, 2019**

Regular Admissions *for campus and online formats*: **May 1, 2019**

Late Admissions *for online format only*: **June 1, 2019***

*(*on a space available basis)*



SAN JOSÉ STATE
UNIVERSITY

**COLLEGE OF APPLIED
SCIENCES AND ARTS**

Accredited by:



Health Science and Recreation Department
One Washington Square
San Jose, CA 95192-0052

<http://www.sjsu.edu/hsr/academicprograms/mph/index.html>

A LETTER FROM THE MPH COORDINATOR

Dear Applicant:

Our MPH Program was founded in 1970 to prepare community health education practitioners and has been continuously accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) since 1974. CEPH is the independent agency officially recognized to accredit graduate programs in public health. As stated in its mission statement, CEPH assures quality in public health education and training to achieve excellence in practice, research and service, through collaboration with organizational and community partners.

San José State University offers an MPH degree with a specialization in community health education in two formats: on Campus (regular session) and Online (through the College of International and Extended Studies). Both campus and online students engage in the same rigorous course of study.

MPH Campus Format

To the greatest extent possible, our MPH campus format is designed for working people. Most of the classes meet in the afternoon or evenings, only once a week. Although three of six core courses must be completed during the first three semesters, students are otherwise free to plan out their MPH course of study in a way that meets their interests, resources, and priorities.

It is possible to complete the program in two years going full-time, taking 4 classes per semester, conducting full-time fieldwork during the first summer, and meeting the university's graduation requirement through a comprehensive exam. However, most students are more comfortable completing 42 total units over three years, and some even stretch it out to four or five!

MPH Online format

In recognition of the increasing global need for graduate public health education, our CEPH- accredited MPH program created an online 42-unit, 24-month Online Education option. The MPH online format uses state-of-the-art synchronous web conferencing that includes two-way audio, multi-point video, interactive whiteboard, application and desktop sharing, virtual breakout rooms, and session recording. Online students engage with their professors and peers as if they were in a traditional classroom, but in the convenience of their home or work office.

Online students meet once a year in San José for four to five days in August. Otherwise, all online courses, most of which are taught sequentially, are delivered online, where students meet once a week for a live class session via the Blackboard Collaborate learning platform. Course length varies from five to seven weeks.

Our graduates build interesting and fulfilling careers across a wide variety of roles and settings across public and private sectors. Many work as health educators in local, county, or state health departments. Others work in topic-specific programs, such as HIV prevention or health services, tobacco control, domestic violence, immunization, student health, violence prevention, cancer control, school-based health education, or environmental protection. Graduates also work within industry and other work settings in employee health promotion or worksite wellness programs, and others have forged new directions in journalism, medicine, and the arts. Each year, one or two of our students decide to go on for doctoral work at other universities. Recent graduates

have completed or are pursuing doctoral degrees at the University of North Carolina, Purdue University, Tulane, the University of Michigan, University of San Francisco, New York University, University of California at Berkeley, and the University of California at Davis. We are proud of our program and particularly proud of our students and alumni!

I hope that this brief introduction, along with the materials in this packet, help you in your review of graduate programs. If you would like to find out more about our MPH program or have a chance to ask specific questions of a faculty member, we invite you to attend one of our MPH Admissions Information Meetings held on campus and online from October through March. These group meetings are a great way to learn about the program from multiple perspectives and to get more of your questions answered. A calendar of meeting dates and times for 2018-2019 is included in this packet and is updated on our website.

Sincerely,

Monica D. Allen, DrPH, MPH
Assistant Professor of Public Health
MPH Program Coordinator

San Jose State University's MPH program was founded in 1970 to prepare community health education practitioners to serve the diverse and dynamic communities of Northern California.

Our essential mission is:

To provide professional education that prepares both students and the public health workforce with knowledge, conceptual frameworks, health education and public health competencies, in order to develop programs, build community capacity, advocate policy for health equity, and contribute to evidence-based public health practice (*revised Winter 2017*).

MPH Program Goals

The MPH program seeks to attain its mission through carefully planned efforts to address six broad goals. The goals are mutually reinforcing and crosscut the major functions of instruction, research, service, and leadership.

1. Stimulating and practical graduate education in the foundations of public health and the specialized skills of community health education (*Instruction*)
2. A program environment that honors diversity, civility, honesty, collaboration, engagement, respect, and ethical practice (*Instruction, Leadership, Service*).
3. Learning that integrates theory, practice, evidence, and lived experience over time, from different sources, and in new ecological contexts (*Instruction*).
4. Contributions that advance the body of knowledge and resources in community health education and public health through ethical and community-based faculty and student scholarship (*Research*).
5. Leadership and active participation that contribute to the growth and development of the health education and public health professions (*Instruction/Leadership*).
6. Continuous engagement of the talents, enthusiasm, resources, and imagination of our program's faculty and students in collaboration with community partners in projects and service activities that contribute to eliminating health disparities, and promoting social justice and health equity (*Service, Leadership*).

MPH Core Competencies

In recognition of the increasing cultural diversity of the state of California and regions beyond, our MPH Program is committed to training culturally competent health educators whose backgrounds and skills reflect our changing demography. Specifically, the MPH Program trains health education practitioners who are able to:

1. Analyze and research emerging trends, priorities, and assets to predict future individual and community health needs and opportunities based on historical foundations, societal changes, and current evidence, and to communicate their implications for public health and health promotion policy and practice;

2. Apply concepts and theories of behavior, education, systems, complexity, communication, and ecological frameworks to design, plan, implement, evaluate, and disseminate health education and health promotion interventions and policy in accordance with public health objectives, community needs, and organizational and community goals;
3. Provide technical assistance and act as a health education resource across a broad range of settings to promote community health through community building and organizing with identified stakeholders, including community members, consumers, health practitioners and health care providers, policy and decision-makers;
4. Apply administration principles and skills to manage human, fiscal, capital, and social resources when administering health education strategies, interventions, and programs.
5. Apply quantitative and qualitative data analysis principles and skills to community health education and promotion;
6. Apply the principles and skills of effective inclusive and multicultural communication when working with individuals, groups, organizations, and communities from diverse cultures and backgrounds;
7. Advance public health practice and the health education profession by drawing upon historical and contemporary contributions of the field and applying principles of social justice.
8. Adhere to standards for ethical practice and research based on their personal values and mission statements, institutional mandates, and the Code of Ethics for the Health Education Profession, in order to apply them to fields of public health and community health education.

DIVERSITY IN THE SJSU PROGRAM

MPH Program Diversity Statement

Our diversity honors experiences, visions, choices, and realities. It is open to varied cultures, classes, ages, genders, orientations, and abilities. It acknowledges differences and the sharing of the experiences, challenges, and contributions of those differences.

Our diversity is built on tenets of respect, support, inclusion, and representation. It embraces and honors community, ethnicity, spirituality, sexuality, gender, and culture.

Our diversity provides a philosophical outlook that searches to find the points of interconnectedness among us, and accepts that not all points of view connect.

Our diverse community resolves to create spaces for all voices and stories to be equally shared, heard, and embraced.

The MPH Faculty has long had a commitment to this kind of diversity. We hope that it is evident in the courses we teach, the environments we co-create with our student partners, in the MPH community we assemble each year, and in the projects, we select on campus and in our community work. We very much look forward to continuing to search for those “points of interconnectedness” among us.

The Matthew Staley & Wendy Hussey Scholarship for Outstanding Achievement in Promoting LGBT Equality and/or HIV Prevention

Thanks to a generous gift from Matthew Staley, an MPH alumnus of the SJSU MPH Program, a \$1000 scholarship award has been established to honor an MPH student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in promoting LGBT Equality and/or HIV Prevention. Matthew Staley, a SJSU MPH Class of 2000 Graduate, dedicated many years of his personal and professional life to HIV Prevention at the local, state, and national level before being forced into early retirement due to complications from the disease he worked with others to prevent. Wendy Hussey, a SJSU MPH Class of 2001 Graduate, was instrumental in helping to establish the now annual Diversity Event on the SJSU campus, one of many lifelong achievements in promoting LGBT equality.

Application and supporting documents are due at the time of application for admission into the MPH program. Awards will be announced at the time of acceptance of the MPH program distance and campus cohorts.

<http://www.sjsu.edu/hsr/academicprograms/mph/LGBTandHIVScholarship/Staley%20Hussey%20LGBT%20and%20HIV%20Prevention%20Scholarship%202019.pdf>

The SJSU MPH Program at a Glance

Our program was established in 1970 by Dr. Sam Radelfinger. San Jose State University's MPH Program in Community Health Education is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), the independent agency officially recognized to accredit graduate programs in public health. Our MPH Program has been continuously accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health since 1974. CEPH is the private, nonprofit organization, with the American Public Health Association and the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health as its two corporate members, which accredits all Schools and Programs of Public Health. CEPH's mission "assures quality in public health education and training to achieve excellence in practice, research and service, through collaboration with organizational and community partners." The Council's objectives are:

1. to promote quality in public health education through a continuing process of self-evaluation by the schools and programs that seek accreditation;
2. to assure the public that institutions offering graduate instruction in public health have been evaluated and judged to meet standards essential for the conduct of such educational programs; and
3. to encourage - through periodic review, consultation, research, publications, and other means - improvements in the quality of education for public health.

The MPH program is housed in the Department of Health Science and Recreation, which is part of the College of Health and Human Sciences. Other departments within CHaHS include Aerospace; Hospitality, Tourism and Event Management; Justice Studies; Kinesiology; Nutrition, Food Science and Packaging; and Occupational Therapy. Schools within our college include Journalism & Mass Communications, Library & Information Sciences, The Valley Foundation School of Nursing, and Social Work.

The Faculty

The MPH program benefits from the faculty's active community-based orientation. All MPH faculty members have ongoing research and/or service projects – many of which involve MPH students in one way or another. The MPH faculty is active in the leadership of the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE), American Public Health Association, the Association of Accredited Public Health Programs (AAPHP), the National Board of Public Health Examiners, and other professional organizations.

MPH faculty members also play key roles in college and university administration. For example, in recent academic years; Dr. Edward Mamary is past-chair and member of a university General Education Advisory Panel (GEAP), Dr. Anne Demers is past-chair and member of San José State's Veterans Advisory Committee, past-chair of the College Curriculum Committee, and past member of the All University Teacher Education Committee. This degree of university involvement and leadership serve to connect the MPH program to central university and college structures and perspectives. It also provides a discernable health education process orientation to the university, which has been noted and appreciated by higher level officials. We are also fortunate to have experienced public health professionals, as part-time faculty members, who teach specific courses in the MPH program.

THE MPH PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

Dr. Yoshitaka Iwasaki, Chair, Department of Health Science and Recreation



Dr. Yoshitaka (Yoshi) Iwasaki is Professor and Chair of the Department of Health Science and Recreation in the College of Health and Human Sciences at San Jose State University (SJSU) in California, USA with over 20 years of experience in community-engaged research and education, knowledge mobilization, and capacity-building. His Ph.D. in Recreation and Leisure Studies was completed at the University of Waterloo, Faculty of Applied Health Sciences in Ontario, Canada in 1998. His previous employment includes serving as Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, College of Health Professions and Social Work at Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from 2006 to 2011; in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation Studies at the University of Manitoba from 1998 to 2006; and most recently, in the Faculty of Extension at the University of Alberta from 2011 to 2018. In 2008, he was elected as Fellow/Inductee into the Academy of Leisure Sciences, and recently, was awarded the inaugural McKinnon Walker Trust Global Fellowship at the University of Wollongong in Australia in 2017. His areas of specialization include: (a) culture, diversity, and community-university engagement; (b) active living and quality of life (e.g., meaning-making, mental health, and leisure); and (c) participatory action research (PAR) to address social justice issues (e.g., human rights, poverty, empowerment, youth engagement, mental health, social change).

Dr. Iwasaki envisions that SJSU's Department of Health Science and Recreation has the potential to become a pioneer/leader in academic units that integrate public health and recreation, as guided by the principles of: (a) respect, (b) communication, (c) collaboration, (d) engagement, (e) transparency, (f) inclusion, (g) co-learning, (h) power sharing/shared governance, (i) accountability, (j) innovation/creativity, (k) advocacy, and (l) community. He strongly believes that our students are the reason we are here, therefore, the purpose of our department is to respectfully meet the needs of our talented students through student engagement and through offering quality education in order to facilitate the success of each and every student in our programs academically, professionally, and personally. Another related purpose of our department is to meet the needs of our communities especially within the domains of public health and recreation. In particular, we are accountable and responsible for building our communities through respectfully working with and engaging our students and alumni, our faculty and staff, and our community and professional partners together.

Dr. Monica Allen, MPH Program Coordinator



Dr. Monica Allen completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Health Sciences and Master of Public Health in Health Promotion and Education at Loma Linda University. She also received a California State Secondary School Teaching Credential in Health Science at the Loma Linda University School of Education. In 2005, she was awarded the Chancellor's Fellowship to study for a Doctor of Public Health Degree at the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health. In addition to the degree, she completed the requirements for the Multicultural Specialty Certification. Monica has experience in a variety of health agencies, interning as an HIV/AIDS educator for the Riverside County Department of Public Health, serving as the Prenatal Access Coordinator for the Orange County Health Services Agency, and a tobacco educator for the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health. She was the Director of Physician Relations for Chapman Medical Center in Orange, California, working on Managed Care contracts for the hospital's Independent Physician's Association. Monica spent more than 5 years as the Health Education Manager for the Inland Empire Health Plan, where she developed, implemented and evaluated programs in Asthma, Diabetes, Injury Prevention, Smoking Cessation, and Weight Loss for the Plan's 200,000 members. She also served as the plan's Cultural and Linguistic Services manager, providing training to the plan's contracted providers, developing and monitoring the program's policies and procedure, and overseeing the translation of all the plan's member materials. Monica joined the American Cancer Society (ACS) in 2002 as the National Planner, her primary role being to assist in the development, distribution and implementation of the California State Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan. She also served as Director of Planning and Evaluation in the California Division, evaluating cancer prevention and programs and services, coordinating activities of the State Cancer Plan, and serving as lead staff for the Division's Clinical Trials recruitment projects. Dr. Allen's research interests include interventions designed to reduce health disparities, health promotion in diverse communities, faith community and public health partnerships, and health policy.

MPH PUBLIC HEALTH FACULTY (Tenured, Tenure-track, or Full-time)

Dr. Anne Demers

Dr. Marcelle Dougan

Dr. Vicky Gomez

Dr. Jennifer Hartle

Dr. Michael Harvey

Dr. Edward Mamary

Dr. Miranda Worthen

Students

Each year we admit a new cohort in each of the MPH campus and online formats. Each cohort consists of approximately 25 students. Our students represent new or re-orienting professionals with public health values and aspirations. To be eligible for admission, applicants ideally have a minimum of two years of work experience in health education or a related field, and a compelling reason for wanting to study community health education. They must also demonstrate, through their backgrounds, previous training, or life experiences, extraordinary potential to contribute to the diverse and multi-talented public health workforce so needed in the 21st century.

Our students have ranged in age from 21 to 60+. They have experience in community-based organizations, health education and health promotion, health care, education, worksites, private industry, health policy, health departments, social services, government, and biotechnology industries. We have had students who speak Vietnamese, Swedish, Tagalog, Spanish, Arabic, Hmong, Cantonese, Mandarin, Punjabi, Russian, Ukrainian, Farsi, French - and English - and many have lived or worked outside of the United States. They are extraordinary in their serious orientation to graduate study, their commitments to the communities they represent and care for, and their desire to contribute to public health.

THE MPH COURSE OF STUDY

The Curriculum

The MPH program is based on the curricular elements identified by CEPH for graduate programs in public health. We offer a MPH degree with a specialization in community health education. The 42-
m i n i m u m unit curriculum is organized around a health education core (16 units), public health core (22 units), and fieldwork (4 units).

MPH COURSES

Health Education Core Courses

- HS 200 Contemporary Practice: Public Health, Health Promotion, and Community Health Education (2 units)
- HS 201: Groups and Training: Theory and Practice (2 units)
- HS 271: Theoretical Foundations of Public Health (3 units)
- HS 272: Health Promotion Planning and Evaluation (3 units)
- HS 293: Leadership for Health Professionals (3 units)
- HS 269: Applied Data Analysis (3 units)

Public Health Core Course

- HS 261: Epidemiology (3 units)
- HS 262: Health Services Organization (2 units)
- HS 263: Principles and Skills of Health Administration (2 units)
- HS 265: Environmental Health (3 units)
- HS 267: Computational Public Health Statistics (3 units)
- HS 276 Community Organization and Health Promotion (3 units)
- HS 277 Multicultural Communication for Health Professionals (3 units)
- HS 295 Research Design and Methodology (3 units)

Fieldwork

- HS 291 Series: Fieldwork Seminar and Fieldwork Practicum and Professional Development (4 units).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MPH PROGRAM

Is the San José State University MPH program accredited?

Yes. The MPH program was established in 1970 and first accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) in 1974. CEPH is the only organization that is approved by the federal government to accredit Graduate Public Health Programs and Schools of Public Health. Our graduate program has been fully accredited continuously since 1974.

Here is a listing of the CEPH accredited MPH programs and schools: <http://www.ceph.org/>

Why is a CEPH accredited MPH degree important?

Earning an MPH degree from a CEPH accredited academic institution is very important. Many federal, state, county, and local governments and agencies require that job applicants possess an MPH from a CEPH accredited institution.

What is the emphasis of San José State University's MPH program?

The emphasis of our MPH program is Community Health Education. Our students take the same core public health courses (such as epidemiology, biostatistics, administration, and environmental health) as all public health students in the U.S., except that the majority of our students' coursework, and the focus of the program, is the philosophy and methods of community health education and health promotion. Our curriculum emphasizes the theories and skills necessary to promote public health with individuals, groups, organizations, and communities through educational programs and prevention initiatives, community organizing, capacity building, and policy advocacy. Students seeking MPH degrees with specialization such as epidemiology or health care administration should consider other programs or schools.

What is the primary difference between the SJSU MPH Campus and Online formats?

SJSU has one accredited MPH program, offered in two formats. The online format uses a cohort model where students progress through the course of study with the same students for 2 years. The campus format offers students the flexibility of completing the program full-time in 2 years or part time in 3 to 7 years. The primary difference between the two is one of curriculum delivery – online format versus traditional on-campus format. In addition, the online format is entirely self-supporting. All online format expenses are paid from student tuition, whereas the regular campus program is primarily supported through state funds and student tuition and fees. The online format is offered through the SJSU College of International and Extended Studies (IES) division and courses are offered through Special Session. However, the University awards only one MPH degree; your diploma will NOT indicate which format of the MPH program you attended.

Who teaches in the SJSU MPH Program?

The CEPH accrediting body requires that a significant proportion of the courses both in campus and online, be taught by the regular full-time MPH program faculty -- all dedicated career professors. Our part-time faculty is derived from very experienced public health professionals and professors from outside of SJSU. Some of these instructors are located in other academic institutions and some in professional public health settings. All of the instructors, including the regular MPH faculty, bring both strong academic preparation and community-based experience to their instruction.

How does the SJSU Online MPH format differ from other online MPH programs?

First of all, very few accredited public health schools or graduate public health programs offer an MPH degree specializing in community health education almost entirely online. Most offer a combination of both online and classroom instruction, and in some cases, require students to come to campus at least once if not twice each semester. The SJSU MPH program requires one five-day campus visit per year. Many online programs are asynchronous – students do not have interactive lectures with their professors. Our program is synchronous – students interact with one another and their professor online once a week. The best way to find out about these differences is to learn as much as you can about each institution, whether or not they are CEPH accredited, and then decide which learning environment and approach would be best for you.

How many units are required?

The formal course of study requires 42 semester units which includes a fieldwork practicum.

How long does it take to complete the MPH program?

The campus format takes, on average, between two to five years to complete. The online format takes two years and courses are taken sequentially, not simultaneously, in five to seven-week periods per course.

Can I get academic credit for work experience?

No, you cannot get academic credit for work experience.

Can I get academic credit for courses I have already taken?

The policy for academic credit transfer is different for the two formats. A description of each is below.

Campus Format. Up to nine units of previous coursework may be approved for transfer credit as long as they were not counted towards a previous degree. These units must come from San José State University, SJSU Open University, another academic institution, or a combination of both. Credit is only available for equivalent courses, as demonstrated by the course syllabus content, course learning objectives, textbooks used, and assignments. For example, let's say you attended a graduate public health program in Boston and completed a 3-unit graduate course in environmental health but moved to the Bay Area for employment reasons. Since you were not able to complete

your MPH degree in Boston, and with appropriate review of the course's syllabus, content, and assignments, your Boston course would very likely transfer to the SJSU MPH program since environmental health is also required at SJSU. Approval of previous units is done on an individual basis by MPH Faculty Advisors after admission and requires review and approval by the Graduate Studies Division. **HOWEVER**, since we do not have electives in the MPH program, you must still enroll in other courses for which you receive academic credit and pay the tuition fee. Your previous academic work will substitute for the required MPH course work.

Online Format. Due to the cohort model of the Online format, no units may be transferred in, even from the MPH Campus format. All courses must be taken the Online format of the SJSU MPH program.

Can I enroll in MPH courses prior to being admitted?

No. Only students who have been accepted to the MPH program can take the MPH courses.

What are the academic expectations of the MPH Program?

In one word: Commitment!

There is a heavy reading and writing load, as is typical of most public health graduate programs. Generally, students will read approximately 800 pages per course and have several writing assignments. Students can expect to spend at least 10 to 20 hours per week for each class. In effect, students must have excellent time-management skills and be able to balance their professional, personal, and academic commitments.

Potential applicants to the online format must recognize that this format is a very serious, fast-paced academic experience that is taught by career professors and public health practitioners. For most courses, there is a one-week break between each course. There is a two-week break during late December and early January and a two-week break in late July. Most classes, but not all, will have a once-a-week live class session, using the Blackboard Collaborate learning platform. Students are expected to have good computer skills and easy and consistent access to the internet.

Is a thesis or project required?

A thesis or project is an option for campus students, but not for online students. Most campus and all online students fulfill the university's Graduation Culminating Experience Requirement through a comprehensive exam.

Why is there a late admissions date for the online format and not the campus format?

The online format is held in special session, allowing us to extend admission offers later than we can for campus, when applicants must be accepted sooner. However, applicants are encouraged to apply for early or regular admissions – **a late admission is on a space available basis only.**

What is the cost?

For campus students, Fall semester 2018 registration fees can be found at http://www.sjsu.edu/bursar/fees_due_dates/tuition_fees/fall/index.html.

For online students, the current minimum cost is \$24,150 for the 42 unit program, at a rate of \$575 per unit, but the expected cost may rise slightly for Fall 2019. The rate will be fixed for the cohort admitted in Fall 2019, throughout their 42 unit program, regardless of any increases after Fall 2019. The instructional fees do not include the cost of books and travel to SJSU (3 trips). The tuition is the same regardless of in-state, out-of-state, or international residency. The tuition is considerably lower than other CEPH accredited MPH Programs. Other CEPH accredited MPH Programs offered on-line range from approximately \$36,000 to \$74,000. The cost for an SJSU MPH online degree is substantially lower!

How can I find out more about the field of Health Education and Public Health?

Talk with health educators and public health professionals in your community. You can also visit public health and health education websites for more information. SJSU faculty, alumni, and students are active participants in many of the organizations listed below:

AAPHP	Association of Accredited Public Health Programs	http://www.mphprograms.org/
APHA	American Public Health Association	www.apha.org
ASHA	American School Health Association	www.ashaweb.org
CNHEO	Coalition of National Health Education Organizations	http://www.cnheo.org/
CPHA-N	California Public Health Association – North	www.cphan.org/
IUHPE	International Union for Health Promotion and Education	www.iuhpe.org
NCHEC	National Commission for Health Education Credentialing	www.nchec.org
SOPHE	Society for Public Health Education	www.sophe.org/
NBPHE	National Board of Public Health Examiners	https://www.nbphe.org
NC-SOPHE	Northern California Society of Public Health Education	www.ncsophe.org

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT MPH ADMISSIONS

Is it possible to apply to both the campus and online formats of the SJSU MPH program?

No. Applicants may only apply to one format.

Is it possible to start the MPH program in the Spring Semester?

No. Students are admitted for the Fall semester only.

Why should I apply for early admissions?

Any applicant may apply for early admissions. If you are not accepted during the early admissions period, your application is automatically considered for regular admissions. Many applicants who don't meet early admissions criteria are subsequently offered admissions – it all depends on the number of applications we receive in a given admissions cycle. The admissions committee does not penalize or deduct points for not having been accepted during the early admissions period.

What are the program admission criteria?

The basic academic prerequisite is a baccalaureate degree, with an overall minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 in the last 60 semester or quarter-equivalent units. Strong writing skills and evidence of quantitative ability (through previous grades, and/or GRE scores) are also very important. Beyond a strong academic preparation, we look for people with multicultural experiences and those with a clear commitment to public health as demonstrated through their work or volunteer experiences and described in their application statement of purpose. Two years of post-baccalaureate health related work experience is preferred.

What should I say in my Statement of Purpose?

The statement of purpose is the centerpiece of your application to the MPH program. It should clearly convey to the MPH Admissions Committee your reasons for wanting to study community health education and acquire an MPH degree at this point in your life. There is no required format for the 1-2 page statement. However, you will want to summarize the path you have taken so far, your goals and vision, and the commitments you bring to public health. Your statement should clearly explain why you have decided to pursue graduate training in community health education and why you would like to study at SJSU. Be specific, use examples, and craft this document carefully.

What should I include in my resume?

Include everything that will help us understand the work you have been doing, your academic preparation, and your orientation to public health. You may include both paid and volunteer work experience, but please be sure to indicate time periods, including month and year you began and ended your work/volunteer experience, and whether the work was full-time or part-time. Be thorough and comprehensive, as this will help the admissions committee to assess your qualifications.

Who should write my letters of recommendation and is there a standard form?

People who know your professional, academic, and/or volunteer experience work and potential should write your letters of recommendation. There is no standard form, but the people who write the letters must use their organization's letterhead and clearly indicate how and when they have observed your abilities. It is best to submit at least one letter from a professor and one or two from former or current employers. If it has been many years since you were in college, you can submit two letters from former or current employers. Two letters are required, but you are welcome to submit up to four letters, if you wish. The letters must be uploaded directly to the MPH Program Application link that is sent to all references that you list in your application. If you are relying on your volunteer work as a primary example of your community health experience, you **must** get a letter from your supervisor on letterhead.

Is experience as a health educator required for admission?

The MPH curriculum assumes that students have had at least a few years of work experience in health education, community-based programs, or other public health and health care settings. Work or volunteer experience in the health field is very important, as our courses build on students' professional experiences. However, our experience has shown that people come to the field of public health from many different career paths. The most important thing is that you explain in your application how your experience and academic preparation have led you to pursue an MPH degree and why you want a degree from San José State University.

Do I have to take the GRE?

GREs are required of all applicants unless they have earned a master's or doctoral degree from an accredited U.S. or Canadian institution. If you took the GRE, but did not complete a graduate degree, you must retake the GRE if your scores are older than five years. SJSU's ETS institution code for GRE is 4687 – indicate Public Health for department.

How important are the GREs?

GRE scores are one of the indicators of an applicant's readiness and skills for graduate level work. The Admissions Committee considers GRE scores along with earned grades (particularly in social science, health, and math courses), work experience, and the statement of purpose. Although there is no GRE score cut-off point, very low GRE scores will influence our admissions decisions, especially the verbal and writing scores, since excellent writing skills are a critical part of earning an MPH degree.

I earned my degree outside the U.S.; must I take the TOEFL or IELTS exam?

Students with fewer than three years of full-time study where English is the primary language of instruction are required to demonstrate their English proficiency via the IELTS or TOEFL exam. The IELTS (International English Language Testing System) with a minimum score of 7.0 is required for all students who graduated from a higher education institution outside of the U.S., where the primary language of instruction was not English. The TOEFL can substitute for the IELTS. The minimum score required is 213 (computer based), 80 (internet based), or 550 (paper based). The SJSU Graduate Division will accept **ONLY** the exam given by the Education Testing Service. TOEFL exams given by other colleges, language training programs, etc. will not be accepted. All test scores must be less than 2 years old.

The English-language proficiency exam requirement is waived only if the student has 1) received a BS or MS degree from an accredited U.S. institution, or 2) Completed 3 years full-time school in a U.S. institution.

The most current admissions information for International applicants can be found at the SJSU GAPE site:

<http://www.sjsu.edu/graduateadmissions/want-to-apply/international-steps-to-admission/index.html>

Who makes admissions decisions?

The MPH Admissions Committee is made up of at least two MPH Program Faculty members. This committee reviews all applications and identifies applicants who meet the program's admissions requirements. However, offers of admission to the university can only be made by SJSU's Graduate Division. The MPH Program cannot accept any student who has been denied admission by the Graduate Division due to low grades or, for international students, a low TOEFL score.

How can I find out the status of my application?

It is your responsibility to make sure that you submit complete applications to the university *and* to the MPH Program on time. The MPH program will make every effort to notify you by email about the status of your application documents.

When can I expect to hear the decision?

Complete applications received prior to February 1st are eligible for Early Admission Decisions. Admissions decisions will be made on a space available basis in late February for early admissions decisions and then from May through June, 2019 for regular admissions. **Please do not call or email the Health Science and Recreation Office for decision information.**

What are the most common reasons people are not admitted to the program?

These are the four most common reasons for non-admittance: 1) low grades, 2) insufficient relevant work experience, 3) poorly written statement of purpose, and 4) lack of space due to limited enrollment capacity. Overall GPA in previous college coursework must be a minimum 3.0 for admission to the MPH program. As we review each applicant, we look at the overall GPA as well as earned grades for courses in the social sciences, health, and math/statistics. A pattern of low grades (anything below a B) in any of those course areas could negatively affect an MPH application. Work and/or volunteer experience is also very important and perhaps the most common reason that interested applicants are not eligible for admission. Most MPH students have had significant work experience (or sustained volunteer work) in community-based programs, health education, or the health field in general. In addition, to the above, the program is limited to accepting approximately 25 students per cohort.

If admitted, how do I get oriented?

Soon after you receive your email letter of acceptance, you will receive information about either the campus or online orientations held at SJSU. Online students will also receive information about online training activities related to our university's online learning platforms.

MPH ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Application Deadlines

New students are admitted to the MPH program only once a year to begin during the fall semester.

Early Admissions *for both campus and online formats*: **February 1, 2019**

Regular Admissions *for campus and online formats*: **May 1, 2019**

Late Admissions *for online format only*: **June 1, 2019***

(*on a space available basis)

Application Guidelines

You must apply to one format only. Applicants may not apply to both the campus and online formats. **Please note: Applicants admitted into either format may not ‘transfer’ to the other format after they are accepted.**

Admissions Process

Please note that you submit two separate (parallel) applications – one to the university and the other to the MPH program. Read and follow the instructions below completely. Failure to submit all required materials to the appropriate office by the designated deadline will automatically disqualify the application. Be sure to send information to the appropriate office - information sent to an incorrect address will not be forwarded.

Step #1: UNIVERSITY APPLICATION: Complete your university graduate admission application by going online: <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply>. **Please be sure to complete the appropriate application – our campus format is listed separately from the online format (listed under “special session”).** SJSU’s ETS institution code for both GRE and TOEFL is **4687** – indicate Public Health for department.

Payment of the CSU Application Fee of \$55 will be accepted by credit card or PayPal only. The payment must be made in order to submit your [Cal State Apply](#) university application.

Submit all required university application materials to the San Jose State University Graduate Admissions and Program Evaluations office. This is the office that handles all graduate admissions. Applicants must be admitted to the University’s Graduate Division, and you must be accepted in order to begin the MPH program. Be sure to check that you have included all the required materials. Information about graduate admissions can be found at <http://www.sjsu.edu/graduateadmissions/>

After submitting your Cal State Apply application online, you will receive an **application confirmation number**. You will need your **application confirmation number** in order to access your San Jose State University Graduate Admissions and Program Evaluations (GAPE) application information.

Step #2: **ONLINE MPH PROGRAM APPLICATION:**

The SJSU MPH admissions application process is completely electronic. Please note that you must use a computer (not a mobile device) to complete this application. You will be required to upload your statement of purpose and resume during this application process. Submit your MPH Program Application Data Form by clicking the following URL (if it fails to direct you to the site, then copy the URL into your browser):

https://sjsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0uYDvaNptT1aRpP

Note: You have not applied to the MPH Program if you do not complete the online MPH Program Application Data Form

NOTE: All application materials become the property of SJSU – no materials will be returned to the applicant. **Re-applicants must submit all new material.**

Letters of Recommendation: At least two letters of recommendation are required for your application to be considered complete. In your application data form, please provide the names and contact information of the people who will provide your letters of recommendation and we will e-mail them a link to upload their letters. The people who write the letters must use their organization's letterhead.

Admissions Decisions

MPH admissions decisions are based on several factors, including academic preparation, work experience, evidence of commitment to public health, potential for contribution to the field, and the overall quality of the application. If applying to the online format, we are also looking for applicants who recognize the personal commitment and discipline that an online education approach to learning will require for successful completion of the MPH degree. This learning method is appropriate for those who have good time management skills and can properly blend their personal and professional lives with the fast-paced demands of online learning. Please be assured that all of the materials in your admission folder will be thoughtfully reviewed by our MPH Admissions Committee.

Our goal is to admit a cohort of approximately 30 highly dedicated individuals, ready for graduate work, and committed to the principles and approaches of social justice, community health, advocacy, and health promotion. We particularly value diversity, practical community or health education experience, strong academic skills, and upper division course work in the health, social, and behavioral sciences.

Registration: If you are offered admission to the University, and the MPH Program, you will receive an electronic letter of admission from SJSU and an emailed letter from the MPH Program. You will be able to use the same MYSJSU website to see when you will receive your registration appointment date for course registration. Course registration and paying of student account bills are all done online. Please note that students have 14-days to pay for their courses after completing the online registration. The Registrar will drop you from your courses if payments are late.

Additional Guidelines for International Applicants

The SJSU MPH Program welcomes applications from international students, as we recognize that health professionals in other countries need access to graduate public health degrees in order to address the increasingly complex public issues that they encounter. Below are some important facts to keep in mind as you consider the SJSU MPH Program. They are based on some of the questions received from potential international applicants.

- Visit <http://www.sjsu.edu/graduateadmissions/want-to-apply/international-steps-to-admission/index.html> for updated information regarding international applicants.
- International Students and Online Learning: Under U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) rules (Revised effective 1/1/03; 67 FR 76256), F-1 visa students cannot be accepted to the SJSU MPH online program because all MPH courses are delivered online and F-1 students cannot enroll in more than one online class (or three credits) per academic semester/quarter.
- The SJSU MPH Program does not offer graduate assistantships or scholarships, regardless of residency.
- International students should plan on spending approximately 7 days in San José in mid-August 2019, 2020, and 2021. There are no other days required in the USA.
- **The GRE is required of all applicants who have not earned a previous accredited graduate degree from a U.S. or Canadian university.** The USMLE test cannot substitute for the GRE.

MPH Admission Information Meetings

Interested in a career in community health education? Want to learn more about SJSU's MPH program? Curious about how to prepare the best application and which format (campus or online) is best for you? Then join us for one of the SJSU MPH Admission Information Meetings.

Several informal information meetings are held between September and March – all meetings will discuss both campus and online formats. They are open to anyone considering a graduate program in public health and community health education. You will get a chance to meet or speak with an MPH faculty member. No need to pre-register, but an RSVP would be appreciated.

On-campus meetings: All sessions are held in Spartan Complex (SPX) 210.

Wednesday, November 14th, 6:00pm-7:30pm (On Campus) - Dr Monica Allen/Kevin Roe

Wednesday, December 12th, 6:00pm-7:30pm (On Campus) - Dr Monica Allen/Kevin Roe

Click on the link below (or copy the URL to your web browser) for directions and a map of the campus: <http://www.sjsu.edu/map/>

Online meetings: All sessions are held using Zoom; audio participation by phone is also possible. The dates and times for online sessions are below; all sessions are held during Pacific Standard Time (PST).

Wednesday, October 17th, 6:00pm-7:30pm (Online) -Dr. Robert Rinck

Saturday, November 3rd, 10:30-Noon (Online) -Dr. Michael Harvey

Monday, November 19th, 6:00pm-7:30pm (Online) -Dr. Robert Rinck

Monday, December 17th, 6:00pm-7:30pm (Online) -Dr. Robert Rinck

To obtain a link to an online session please review this link:
<http://www.sjsu.edu/hsr/academicprograms/mph/index.html>

The online link will be posted the day prior to the actual session.

Thank you for your interest in the MPH Program at San Jose State University!!