Content Areas
The Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response certificate program prepares students to play leadership roles by offering the following content areas:

- Biological, chemical, radiation, and explosive agents
- Surveillance and epidemiology
- Risk communications
- Psychosocial effects of emergencies
- Disaster management
- Public health law
- Environmental health and safety
- Program planning for preparedness and disasters

Careers
Since September 11, 2001, career opportunities in preparedness and response have grown dramatically. Today, the public health workforce consists of:

- Bioterrorism Preparedness Program Coordinators
- Emergency Management Analysts
- Domestic Preparedness Coordinators
- Community Disaster Education Coordinators
- Emergency Preparedness Health Planners

Bridging the Preparedness Gap
Housed in the Center for Public Health Practice in the GSPH, the University of Pittsburgh Center for Public Health Preparedness is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in cooperation with the Association of Schools of Public Health. The center is one of 22 CDC's academic centers for public health preparedness. Visit: www.cphp.pitt.edu/upcphp.

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Public Health Preparedness and Disaster Response Certificate
Participate • Collaborate • Lead
Answering the Call

The University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH) offers an innovative certificate called Public Health Preparedness and Disaster Response.

The GSPH and the University of Pittsburgh Center for Public Health Preparedness created this interdisciplinary certificate program to provide a practical academic foundation to strengthen the public health workforce and infrastructure.

9/11 Public Health Infrastructure

In October 2001, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) surveyed what local health departments’ preparedness capacity was during the events of September 11.

- 20% had comprehensive bioterrorism and emergency response plans
- 75% were “only fairly” or “somewhat” prepared
- 62% were “somewhat” or “not at all” prepared

Curriculum

**Required**

- Issues in Bioterrorism (2 credits)
- Emergency Management and Disaster Response (2 credits)
- Environmental Health and Occupational Health Preparedness (2 credits)
- Evaluation of Emergency Response (2 credits)
- Risk Communications (2 credits)

**Electives (Sample)**

- Infectious Disease Epidemiology (2 credits)
- Vaccines in Current Use (1 credit)
- Survey of Radiation Health (2 credits)
- Introduction to Risk Sciences (1 credit)
- Introduction to Environmental and Occupational Health (3 credits)

Credit Requirements

Students must complete 15 credits (10 required credits and five elective credits, of which two must be taken at the GSPH) within five years and hold a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Transfer of Credits

Students may transfer credits earned from required courses taken before enrollment into the certificate program with approval from the program director. Non-degree students may transfer credits from the certificate program to a degree program.

Application Requirements

Students matriculated in any graduate program in the University may apply directly to the program. Other applicants must apply to the GSPH. Admission is based on three criteria: Graduate Record Examination scores, job experience, and career plans.

Admissions Deadline

Applicants can apply and be accepted for the fall or winter term.

Apply Online

Requirements for admission to GSPH and application forms are available online. Visit: www.publichealth.pitt.edu

We’re Creating a Healthier World

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