



Graduate Certificate: Collaborative Community Leadership

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Why Pair this Certificate with the Master of Public Health (MPH)?



In *Essentials of Leadership in Public Health*, Rowitz (2017) observed:

“Leaders function at the personal, team, organization, community, global, and professional levels. Leaders will need to become action oriented and put their skills into practice in a community context.... Public health leadership includes a strong commitment to the community and the values for which it stands. A community perspective requires a systems thinking and complexity orientation. Community refers not only to the local community in which a person works but also to the larger global community that can affect the health of the public over time.” (p. 1-2)

The Collaborative Community Leadership graduate certificate program will prepare MPH graduates with the educational background necessary to meet this need. The certificate program is an invaluable complement to the MPH program and provides an added academic credential, enhancing competitiveness for preferred employment opportunities.

Certificate Program Outcomes

This certificate will complement Virginia Tech graduate students' academic education by preparing them with the following abilities:

- Apply knowledge of leadership principles in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary contexts,
- Engage in scholarly inquiry as a way to critically analyze leadership theory and practice,
- Promote collaborative leadership in real-world settings, and
- Practice social responsibility in today's diverse and multicultural environment.

Curriculum

The certificate program includes two required courses (LDRS 5454 & LDRS 5464), and six credits of certificate electives. Those certificate electives may include courses that are already part of the MPH program. The certificate program includes an expectation for action learning, documented in the form of a one-credit independent study project (LDRS 5974, which can be substituted with PHS 5934). In total, the certificate encompasses 13 credit hours and can be completed at no additional cost to full-time MPH students. (See proposed plan of study on next page.)

Required Certificate Courses

LDRS 5454: Leadership Foundations for Diverse Contexts (3 cr.)

This course is intended to assist students in identifying and defining leadership in formal and non-formal educational settings, communities, and organizations. Students will learn through reading, observing, applying, creating, and evaluating leadership in context. *[Online in Fall semesters, or in-person in Spring semesters]*

LDRS 5464: Leadership in a Global Society (3 cr.)

This course will guide learners in identifying and developing the personal and professional competencies required for effective leadership in an increasingly global, diverse and multicultural society. The class activities will involve critical reflection and experiential learning. Students will learn through reading, observing, applying, creating, and evaluating leadership in context. *[Online in Spring semesters, or in-person in Fall semesters]*

Recommended Certificate Electives for PHS Students

PHS 5004: Foundations of Public Health (1 cr.)

Foundational principles of public health, including history, core functions and essential services. Public health ethics and values. Career opportunities in the public health core disciplines. Biologic determinants of health. Global and One Health frameworks for health and health professionals. *[Online in Fall, Spring, or Summer I semesters]*

PHS 5054: Public Health Leadership and Interprofessionalism (2 cr.)

Fundamentals of public health leadership and management using a systems-thinking lens. Decision-making, change management, shared vision, and communication. Strategic planning and public health ethics. Negotiation role-playing. Models of team effectiveness. Team building applied to working on public health and interprofessional teams. Collaborative leadership, personal leadership styles, and self-reflection. Diversity and cultural competency in the public health setting as a leader. *[In-person in Fall semesters]*

PHS 5044: Public Health Policy and Administration (3 cr.)

Multiple dimensions of the health policy-making process including the roles of ethics and evidence. Analyzing health polices for their impact on public health and health equity. Examining the structure and function of health care models nationally and globally. Constitutional basis for public health. Applying principles of planning, organizing, directing, staffing, and budgeting to public health agencies. *[In-person or Online in Spring semesters]*

Independent Study Project

PHS 5934: Public Health Integrative Learning Experience (substituted for LDRS 5974, 1 cr.)

The independent study project is an opportunity to apply insights gained from the certificate program coursework. While acceptable projects take a variety of forms, all of them include a high-quality written deliverable, such as a professional report that could be shared with community stakeholders. Projects may overlap other activities, including the Public Health Practice Experience (PHPE 5935/5936).

Questions regarding alternate project ideas may be directed to the certificate program coordinator, Dr. Eric Kaufman (ekk@vt.edu or 540-231-6258).