A NEW GENERATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERSHIP
HOW PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES ARE RESOLVED OR LEFT UNRESOLVED WILL SHAPE MUCH OF THE 21ST CENTURY.

William Jefferson Clinton
42nd President of the United States
Mailman School Commencement, May 2010
Founder, William J. Clinton Foundation
Over the last several years, public health has grown in importance and visibility. Front-page headlines have made everyone more aware of our field while scientific breakthroughs, government innovations, and human longevity have inspired new ways to improve population health. Public health touches each of us, in every country, city, and home on earth multiple times a day. The air that we breathe, the streets we walk down, and the food we eat are products of public health insight, ideas first imagined, then implemented, to make the world a healthier, safer, and more just place.

There has never been a better time to become part of this intellectual enterprise. New challenges—from natural disasters and epidemics to pervasive inequality and poor access to care—are met with an expanding body of knowledge about the science of prevention, disease epidemiology, and social justice. As our world grows increasingly complex, public health expertise is critical in every sector. New science is creating opportunities in the U.S. and around the world to introduce groundbreaking ideas that prolong life, improve safety, reduce social disparities, and make whole populations healthier.
The precursor to today’s Mailman School, the DeLamar Institute of Public Health, was founded in 1922 as one of the first three schools of public health in the United States. The Institute’s original mandate “to provide for the study and teaching of the origin and cause of human disease and the prevention thereof” continues to motivate students and scientists at one of the most dynamic institutions in the world dedicated to improving human health.

**OUR STUDENTS**

| 2014–2015 | 
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Total Enrollment | 1,438 | Age Range | 18–67 |
| Masters Students | 86% | Average Age of Entry | 28 |
| Doctoral Students | 14% | Nations Represented | 55 |
| Have Prior Graduate Degrees | 16% | Ethnic/Racial Minorities | 42% |
| Have MDs | 5% | Females | 76% |
| 1+ Years of Work Experience | 42% | Alumni | 13,000+ |

Our location in New York City, relationships with key institutional stakeholders in urban health, and network of learning opportunities in 52 countries complement cutting-edge master’s and doctoral curricula. To become part of this diverse intellectual community, students come from all over the world, some after many years of professional experience, some directly after earning an undergraduate degree. While enrolled, they contribute to an ongoing conversation with influencers from all sectors, including members of the extended Columbia University Medical Center community, governmental leaders, philanthropists, and their peers. Students also make their voices heard in the broader world beyond Columbia, where they shape climate activism, reproductive health advocacy, anti-violence organizing, and other social justice movements. Whatever degree they receive, graduates are prepared for complicated challenges with broad interdisciplinary understanding of a changing field.

In 1998, the Columbia University School of Public Health was named for philanthropist Joseph L. Mailman to honor his historic commitment to educate the next generation of public health leaders. Today, through research and service, the Mailman School celebrates that legacy, advancing understanding of critical public health issues and their effect on human rights, the economy, and world security.
Columbia University is one of the world’s leading research institutions and the fifth oldest university in the United States. Its 17 distinctive schools educate individuals from all over the world in 28 degree and certificate programs at the undergraduate, master’s and doctoral level. The University’s main campus is a unique example of academic architecture, combining classroom, research, and residential facilities in a tranquil urban quadrangle in Morningside Heights. Columbia’s expansion into the nearby Manhattanville neighborhood, which will become a satellite research campus, was precipitated by explosive growth and interest in research and teaching in the sciences, arts, and business.

The Mailman School is located at Columbia University Medical Center in Washington Heights, a 20-acre campus that provides global leadership in scientific research, health and medical education, and patient care. The Medical Center is also home to Columbia’s College of Physicians & Surgeons, School of Nursing, School of Dental Medicine, and New-York Presbyterian Hospital, and offers Mailman School students an opportunity to become part of a community actively focused on all elements of human health, disease prevention, treatment, and care.
THROUGH YOUR EDUCATION AND GROWTH INTO A LEADER IN PUBLIC HEALTH, YOU ARE GOING TO AFFECT THE LIVES OF MILLIONS.

Linda P. Fried, MD, MPH
Dean, Mailman School of Public Health; DeLamar Professor of Public Health; Senior Vice President, Columbia University Medical Center; Professor of Epidemiology and Medicine
While public health scholarship is an increasingly interdisciplinary enterprise, the Mailman School’s six departments are the agents of that collaboration, each bringing its own approach to research, education, and service.

**BIOSTATISTICS**, with the capacity to measure, monitor, and analyze complex data, is a force in population sciences, from genetics to precision medicine, from brain science to clinical trials. Biostatisticians extract meaning from big data, leading us to quantifiable evidence used by all public health disciplines.

**EPIDEMIOLOGY** is the cornerstone science of public health, defining the causes, distribution, and prevention of disease and disability. When populations experience the effects of ill health, epidemiologists find solutions.

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES** examines our environment to explain how it contributes to health, whether measuring the effect of toxic substances on brain development, reducing levels of arsenic found in drinking water, or understanding how climate change and air pollution affect health.

**HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT** evaluates health systems to build knowledge of how nations and local organizations can deliver more health at lower cost. Researchers train professionals to become leaders everywhere—from government to nonprofits, from hospitals to the insurance industry.

**POPULATION AND FAMILY HEALTH** considers topics like humanitarian assistance, forced migration, and reproductive health, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children, refugees, and expectant mothers. Its system-wide interventions often yield stirring improvements to health across entire populations.

**SOCIOMEDICAL SCIENCES** applies social theories to analyze public health problems. When health is impaired due to social forces such as racism, homelessness, or homophobia, the field contributes the analysis that can further social justice and alleviate these discrepancies.
MASTER’S DEGREES

Master’s education at the Mailman School is continually being re-invented to ensure that graduates are prepared for a changing public health environment. We do this by educating students to be leaders in domestic and global public health research and practice, by supporting great teaching, and by conducting surveys of our students about integrating new ideas into our curriculum every year.

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH)

When the School redesigned its MPH curriculum in 2013, it set the standard for an interdisciplinary understanding of public health, equipping graduates with insight that transcends their specialty and preparing them to meet current and emerging public health challenges. The course of study begins with our Core Curriculum, an intensive semester of exposure to overarching questions in the political, socioeconomic, biological, and environmental influences on public health. Case studies and leadership skill development raise issues of professional practice in focused group discussions and team-driven collaborations. In-depth study begins in students’ chosen field, with coursework and laboratory experiences drawn from current faculty research. Students also select from more than 20 certificates to add an additional area of expertise to their portfolio, an endeavor that culminates in professional opportunities, further study, or independent research and service.

MASTER OF HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION (MHA)

Integrating coursework in organizational leadership and management, health policy, and public health and health systems, this degree provides the management skills of a business school education but in a context that highlights the unique nature of the healthcare system. With emphases on developing competencies across a number of areas including analytical thinking, collaboration, communication, financial analysis, organizational awareness, resource management and allocation, and strategic thinking, the curriculum prepares graduates for management positions in hospitals, clinics, non-profit organizations, local, state and national government, and other health-related organizations, as well as for jobs in consulting, bio-pharma, finance, and insurance companies.

MASTER OF SCIENCE (MS)

Focused on research, the MS degree is offered by the departments of Biostatistics, Environmental Health Sciences, Epidemiology, and Sociomedical Sciences. While the primary focus of the MS curriculum is specialized knowledge, the Mailman School’s interdisciplinary education ensures that students also gain a broad public health perspective that facilitates successful careers. Typical applicants are people with science backgrounds and/or experience in health, medicine, or science-related fields interested in research careers or in further study towards the doctorate.

Visit the website to find out more.
DOCTORAL DEGREES

The Mailman School’s doctoral degree programs provide students with access to renowned researchers and thought leaders across the spectrum of public health. Through their course of study, doctoral students obtain the tools needed to create knowledge in the field and advance the practice of public health. Both PhD and DrPH programs train candidates to create new knowledge and research, apply them to important public health issues, and identify and implement potential solutions. They differ in their relative emphasis on the scholarship of application versus the scholarship of discovery.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD)
With an emphasis on creating new knowledge, the PhD programs are focused intensively on research for scholars with additional research and university teaching as their career goals.

DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH (DrPH)
DrPH training focuses on the application of science to public health leadership, practice, and program development.

PART-TIME DEGREE PROGRAMS
• MHA
• MS (Epidemiology)

EXECUTIVE DEGREE PROGRAMS
• MPH
• MHA
• MS (Epidemiology)

DUAL DEGREE OPTIONS
The School offers many dual-degree programs with other institutions at Columbia University.
• MBA (School of Business)
• MIA, MPA (School of International and Public Affairs)
• JD (School of Law)
• MSSW (School of Social Work)
• MD (College of Physicians & Surgeons)
• DDS (College of Dental Medicine)
• MS (School of Nursing)
• MSOT (Programs in Occupational Therapy)
• MSUP (Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation)

Visit the website to find out more.
LOCAL TO GLOBAL

Exposure to the changing landscape of public health transcends national borders, regions, communities, and cultures. Students compelled by the global dimension of public health, those with an interest in national health or the particular dynamics of emerging urban populations, can find research, educational, and professional resources at the Mailman School, connected to institutions and individual agents of change around the world.

GLOBAL

Our faculty have a history of contribution to global population health, from understanding, preventing, and treating infectious diseases like HIV and malaria, to ensuring adequate maternal and adolescent nutrition, to defending the rights of migrant populations. Faculty transition seamlessly from the field to the classroom, working alongside global decisionmakers and NGOs like the WHO, The Global Fund, and Medecins Sans Frontieres. Mailman students who elect global practica spend months in the field, conducting research with in-country NGOs or Mailman School affiliates like the Program on Forced Migration and Health or ICAP, which improves the health of families and communities struggling against HIV and other infectious diseases.

NATIONAL

The current rate of change for U.S. healthcare policy is unprecedented. Mailman School faculty are leading sources of analysis on the implications of the Affordable Care Act on individual care, the insurance industry, and hospitals and clinics working to keep pace with the speed of change. Our faculty are also on location in rural locations addressing the presence of toxins in drinking water, studying industrial pollution and its effect on children’s development, and the social climate that can keep many groups, including minorities, LGBT populations, and women, from accessing quality care.

URBAN

More and more of the world’s population lives in cities. Our faculty, research centers, and curricula are connected to signature New York City institutions at Columbia and beyond, including Harlem Hospital, the New York City Housing Authority, the New York City Departments of Education, Environmental Protection, Health and Mental Hygiene, and Parks. Students select practica that connect them to real-world urban health problems and work with supervisors on public health solutions, often volunteering time and talent in communities of greatest need.
A WEAK HEALTH SYSTEM ANYWHERE, MAKES US VULNERABLE EVERYWHERE.

Craig Spencer, MD, MPH ‘15
International Emergency Medicine Fellow, ‘13
Doctors Without Borders physician who recovered from Ebola following a six-week volunteer assignment in Guinea
Career opportunities in public health and healthcare are expanding. Public health degree holders contribute to some of the most rapidly growing fields in the U.S. and globally. Mailman School graduates launch meaningful careers in major nonprofit organizations and NGOs, research institutes, consulting firms, educational institutions, and government agencies. The School’s Office of Career Services supports students and alumni with career resources, interview and job search techniques, networking skills, and career fairs and employer presentations that welcome more than 160 employers to campus each year.

OUR ALUMNI ARE EMPLOYED ACROSS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS
2014–2015

- 17% Hospital/Healthcare
- 13% Government
- 12% Consulting
- 21% University
- 5% Research Organization
- 4% Managed Care/Insurance
- 9% Non-Profit (Domestic)
- 5% Pharmaceutical/Biotechnology
- 11% Non-Profit (International NGO)
- 3% Other
INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?

The Office of Admissions supports applicants throughout the process, from helping identify the right program of study to offering guidance on submitting a successful application. If you want to learn more about the Mailman School, meet with faculty and current students, visit classes, or hear details about financial aid, please contact us.

The Mailman School reviews applications holistically in order to admit the most diverse and talented class. In addition to undergraduate and graduate transcripts, test scores, and letters of recommendation, we consider applicants’ work and research experience as well as their potential to become public health leaders.

It’s a great idea to begin the application process early. We recommend starting one year before the semester in which you wish to enroll to allow sufficient time to gather recommendations, transcripts, and other materials. Please also review the minimum work experience requirements to ensure you qualify for a specific program. For more information on the required application components and a few tips on applying, go to mailman.columbia.edu/explore.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 15