

## PROGRAM DETAILS

### *Overview*

The Heilbrunn Department of Population and Family Health launched a new DrPH in Leadership in Global Health and Humanitarian Systems in Fall 2012. This innovative program combines formal on-site classes, field-based research and remote learning to produce graduates with the skills, knowledge and drive to take on leadership roles in the field of global health and humanitarian response. The program structure equips participants with strong research and measurement capacities and support their practical application to 'on-the-ground' realities of humanitarian aid and global health practice. Drawing extensively on the expertise and field engagement of professors from the Program on Forced Migration & Health and other department faculty working in the field of global health and humanitarian systems, the curriculum places a particular focus on themes of policy and evaluation.

Students complete a minimum total of thirty-three credits plus written comprehensive exams, a practicum project and a dissertation. The DrPH is structured to be fulfilled over a period of three years, with four consecutive semesters of coursework followed by one year of dissertation writing. Students are expected to be in residency at Columbia for Semesters 1 and 2 of their first year of study. Students may work remotely during their second and third years, enabling deep engagement with field practice and the topic of their dissertation. Collaborative doctoral seminars utilize new media to link students from a range of global locations. Program details elaborated in the following sections are subject to continued revision.

### *Program Objectives*

The DrPH in Leadership in Global Health and Humanitarian Systems seeks to:

- provide public health education, training and research skills relevant to the specific contexts of developing countries and humanitarian crises;
- focus on application by combining a practice-based focus with education in measurement and evaluation;
- emphasize critical, innovative thinking rooted in best practices and rigorous research;
- develop skills and knowledge through a combination of coursework, a practical component at students' work sites, and an integrative, applied research dissertation;
- strengthen cross-national relationships amongst faculty and a diverse student body; and
- prepare students to advocate for sustainable public health goals within governments, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions.

### *Applicant Profile*

The DrPH in Leadership in Global Health and Humanitarian Systems is intended for leaders and future leaders in public health who want a flexible career combining high-level leadership, management and research. It is aimed at public health professionals who are invested in applied science and wish to utilize a systems approach to research, program management and policy development in practice-based settings in developing and crisis-affected contexts. Although open to those earlier in their careers with relevant field experience, the design of the program particularly reflects the needs of mid-career global health and humanitarian professionals. The degree provides such candidates with the advanced skills in evaluation, organizational management and technical expertise necessary for career development while allowing them to maintain careers and leadership positions within their current organizations and/or home countries.

Entrants to the DrPH program will normally hold an MPH, MSW, MD or similar advanced degree that has introduced them to basic concepts of statistics, healthcare management, social sciences and population-based sciences, as well as having several years of professional experience working globally in health and protection in humanitarian and/or developing country settings. It is expected that most students in the DrPH program will continue to work during their term of study, with the exception of their first two semesters, during which students will fulfill the DrPH residency requirement as full-time students residing in New York.

## **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

### *Admissions Requirements*

Students applying to the program must normally meet the following minimum admissions criteria:

- Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.5 in prior graduate study, or equivalent, at institution of graduate study
- A combined score of 1000 or score of 50th percentile or greater in the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or equivalent (GMAT, MCAT, LSAT, or DAT). Applicants with professional doctoral degrees (MD, DDS, JD) from U.S. or Canadian schools are exempted this requirement. A written request for a waiver of test scores will be reviewed but is only appropriate if your transcripts provide clear evidence of strong quantitative and analytical writing ability.
- Several years of post-graduate experience in global health, development, humanitarian work or a related area, in a substantial management or leadership role
- A prior master's or doctoral degree (not necessarily in public health)
- Demonstrated leadership potential
- Motivation to obtain senior-level positions and to improve the public's health
- Evidence of excellent writing skills
- For international students: TOEFL or IELTS score and a Financial Certificate (U.S. Immigration requirement for entry into the United States)

Normally, students are expected to have demonstrated competency in the core public health areas specified by Association of Schools of Public Health for MPH graduates prior to beginning their DrPH studies. If students did not undertake relevant courses during prior study, they are required pre-admission. Alternatively, these courses may be taken during the DrPH program, however such credits are not counted toward the doctorate. Students may fulfill similar coursework at outside institutions and submit proof of coursework for admission, or fulfill coursework at Columbia. Candidates are also expected to demonstrate a track record of employment that indicates their capacity to access relevant work contexts to fulfill the work-based and dissertation requirements of the program.

### ***Requirements for Award of the Degree***

For award of the DrPH, students are required to satisfactorily complete all course requirements, including completion a minimum of thirty-three credits, attaining passing grades in written comprehensive examinations and successfully completing a practicum project requirement and dissertation.

### ***Program Schedule and Timeline***

The DrPH is structured to be fulfilled over a period of three years, with four consecutive semesters of coursework followed by one year of dissertation writing. Students are expected to be in residency at Columbia during Year One (Semesters One and Two). During residency, students take a minimum of twelve credits per semester (minimum total of 24 credits). More typically, students will take fifteen credits per semester in residency.

The latter years of the program are designed to provide flexibility for mid-career professionals. For example, students may work remotely during Year Two (Semesters Three and Four) and Year Three (dissertation writing and defense), returning to their employers, or students may continue in residence at Columbia, working part-time and/or on faculty research projects. Over Semesters Three and Four, students are expected to take a minimum course load of nine credits, with a minimum of three credits per semester. In consultation with advisors, students may be permitted to take more than the required nine credits during these two semesters, and select additional coursework from available courses.

### ***Funding***

Candidates are responsible for all costs associated with the program, including tuition, other fees and relevant travel and accommodation costs. Tuition and fees are detailed [here](#). For some students, [financial aid](#) may be available.



*P8640 Methods in Program Evaluation, 3 credits*  
*P8654 Malaria Program Planning, 1.5 credits*  
*P8670 Training for Public Health Programs, 1.5 credits*  
*P8675 Health Systems Approach to Maternal Mortality, 1.5 credits*  
*P8683 Psychosocial and Mental Health Issues in Forced Migration, 1.5 credits*  
*P8685 Migration and Health: Global and Local Perspectives, 1.5 credits*  
*P8693 Public Health GIS, 3 credits (EHS)*  
*P8787 Advanced Intervention Design, 4 credits*  
*P9320 Water and Infectious Diseases, 3 credits (EHS)*  
 P9630 Applying Ethical & Human Rights principles to PH Research, 1-2 credits

If supported by their advisor, students may seek to cross-register for classes at other schools at Columbia. The number of credits taken at other schools will not normally exceed 6 credit points in total.

### **Second Year**

The second year provides structured opportunities to relate learning to work and other field-related contexts, while allowing students to develop a particular focus for their studies. Students register for the DrPH integration and research seminars:

- *P9650: Global Health & Humanitarian Systems Leadership, 1.5 Credits (fall)*
- *P9652: Advanced Field Research Methods in Global Health, 3 credits (fall)*
- *P9651: Research Design & Management in Global Health, 1.5 Credits (spring)*

The above classes are designed for remote access by students from a range of global locations. Additionally, students may access other classes on a remote basis.

### **Core MPH Courses (Required for non-MPH graduates only)**

*Biostatistics*  
*Environmental Health Sciences*  
*Epidemiology*  
*Global Health*  
*Health Policy Management*

### **Tutorials**

Students may use tutorials to fulfill up to six credits of their required coursework. This will occur based on agreement between students, their advisors and the faculty member supporting the specified tutorial. Such tutorials may be in residence or abroad, and will normally involve a structured program of communication, supervised reading and/or practical fieldwork and a writing assignment.

## PRACTICUM, COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS AND DISSERTATION

### *Practicum*

Students must fulfill a practicum requirement between the end of the first year and the end of the second year of study. The scheduling and length of the practicum is flexible depending on the student's professional experience and obligations. The field practicum element is expected to occur at the student's worksite, at one of the numerous field-sites with which departmental faculty are engaged, or with an agency, organization or government body in the student's region of work.

Practica are expected to provide the opportunity to deploy skills and knowledge acquired through the DrPH program. The practicum and any resulting deliverables will be approved by the student's advisor and the DrPH Academic Director.

### *Comprehensive Exams*

Written comprehensive examinations will be administered at the end of the second year of the program. Passing these examinations is a requirement for advancement to the dissertation phase of the DrPH. Examination will assess integration of key concepts from the overall program curriculum, as well as more specialized knowledge within the thematic focus chosen by students.

### *Dissertation*

The topic and scope of the dissertation will be proposed by the student, who will engage in proposal defense prior to approval of the proposal. The practicum is expected, but not required, to inform the selection of a dissertation. As with the practicum requirement, the student's dissertation is expected to highlight the application of knowledge and skills acquired to policy, programmatic work and/or systems evaluation. It is also expected to represent the culmination of the development of a focused area of expertise by a student, demonstrating potential for practical application within the student's professional context.

## ADVISORS AND PROGRAM FACULTY

### *Advisors*

All students work with a faculty member to guide their coursework in a focused direction of their choosing, and maximize learning during the program. Students meet with an advisor upon entering the program, and at the beginning of each semester (taking advantage of faculty field-visits or using video-conferencing or equivalent technology where appropriate when not in residence in New York) to discuss educational and professional plans. Advisors will also assist students in identifying appropriate dissertation committee members, and provide guidance on the dissertation proposal, implementation and defense.

***Program Faculty***

The program explicitly builds on the extensive expertise and field engagement of professors from the Program on Forced Migration & Health and other Heilbrunn department faculty working in the field of global health and humanitarian systems. The following is an indicative list of faculty with expertise relevant to the program, and potentially available to serve as advisors and/or members of dissertation committees. The list is not exhaustive, and it is anticipated to expand during the course of program development.

**Alastair Ager**, PhD. Professor of Clinical Population and Family Health

**Neil Boothby**, EdD. Allan Rosenfield Professor of Clinical Forced Migration and Health

**Helen de Pinho**, MBBCH, FCCH, MBA. Assistant Professor of Clinical Population and Family Health

**Jamie Eliades**, MD, MPH. Assistant Professor of Population and Family Health

**Lynn P. Freedman**, JD, MPH. Professor of Clinical Population and Family Health

**Stephane HELLERINGER**, PhD. Assistant Professor of Population and Family Health

**Therese McGinn**, DrPH. Associate Professor of Clinical Population and Family Health

**Rachel Moresky**, MD, MPH. Assistant Clinical Professor of Population and Family Health

**James F. Phillips**, PhD. Professor of Clinical Population and Family Health

**Les Roberts**, PhD. Associate Clinical Professor of Population and Family Health

**John S. Santelli**, MD, MPH. Professor of Clinical Population and Family Health

**Lindsay Stark**, DrPH. Assistant Professor of Clinical Population and Family Health

**Michael Wessells**, PhD. Professor of Clinical Population and Family Health

***Program Details Revised 10 October 2014***

Assistant Director, Academic Programs: Courtney Hooper, [clh2155@columbia.edu](mailto:clh2155@columbia.edu) 212-304-5703