Welcome to the PhD Program at the College of Public Health!

Navigating your PhD experience can be challenging at times. This guide walks you through the basic steps from your first semester to graduation. We hope you take time to experience the academic events and life offered at the College of Public Health and the University of South Florida.

Admission information can be found on our Graduate Admissions page.

The PhD is granted in recognition of high attainment in a specific field of knowledge. It is a research degree and is not conferred solely upon the earning of credit, the completion of courses, or the acquiring of a number of terms of residency, but also the successful completion of scholarly work. The length of residency and the requirements below are minimums; programs/colleges may elect to establish more rigorous requirements.

The degree will be granted after the student has shown proficiency and distinctive achievement in a specified field, has demonstrated the ability to do original, independent investigation, and has presented these findings with a high degree of literary skill in a dissertation. A major professor will be appointed as soon as possible but no later than the time the student has completed 50% of the program. The advisor will advise on any specific subject matter deficiencies and assist in the choice of a major professor and area of research.

The University of South Florida is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of College and Schools (SACS). The College of Public Health degree programs are accredited by the Council on Education in Public Health (CEPH).

PhD Guidelines

These PhD Guidelines present the USF Office of Graduate Studies policies. The College of Public Health may impose stricter guidelines, policies and procedures as determined by each concentration. It is the responsibility of the student to review and follow the specific guidelines with their concentration chairs, major professor and committee members.

Additional USF policies, not found in these guidelines, may be found at www.grad.usf.edu/policies.php or at www.grad.usf.edu/catalog.php.

Steps to Success

- Getting Started
- Learning about Registration and where to find course information
- Knowing deadlines and where to find Program of Study, forms, and frequently asked questions
- Keeping your degree on track and in good standing:
  - Keep your degree status active (see continuous enrollment in Enrollment Requirements)
  - Know your degree time limitations
  - Maintain a 3.0 or better Grade Point Average (GPA) or you will be put on probation
- Registering for courses
- Advisors and Committees
- Qualifying Exam and Dissertation
- Learn about Student Organizations
- Use your COPH Competencies Database record to update your competencies each term--the competencies are due at graduation
- Meet with your advisor the term before you graduate and review your status
- Early during the semester you plan to graduate you should register for graduation
- Participate in the COPH graduation celebration, the USF Health graduation ceremony, and join our USF and COPH alumni communities
Getting Assistance

Doctoral Affairs is here to help. You can reach LaTonya Davis at 813-974-9564 or Chassity White at 813-974-5723. Via email, please contact cophdotoral@health.usf.edu. We are located at the College of Public Health in CPH 1151.

All PhD forms can be submitted to cophdotoral@health.usf.edu.

For Admissions, please go to our Prospective Students page to request an appointment with an advisor, or contact preadmissions@health.usf.edu.

Printing

Users may print any single page of the document using the “...” menu in the upper right corner and exporting the page to a PDF copy.

Disclaimer

This version of the MPH Guidebook is the official version of the USF College of Public Health Guidebook for the MPH degree effective for the current catalog. This is a subset of and supplement to the USF Graduate Catalog. If there are conflicts between the two documents the USF Graduate Catalog prevails. The College of Public Health reserves the right to change its rules, courses, and requirements from time to time and to make all such changes applicable to all students, whether new or continuing, when in its sole judgment such changes are deemed necessary.

To view the complete USF Graduate Catalog, go to www.grad.usf.edu/catalog.php; to view overarching USF regulations and policies go to regulationspolicies.usf.edu/

Please send feedback on the PhD Guidebook