

# DrPH HPAL Frequently Asked Questions

## ***What is the mission of the DrPH HPAL degree?***

The goal of the Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) program is to educate leaders who can transform the health system into one that provides high quality care; reduces per capita costs of health care; improves population health; and addresses health needs of the rural, poor, underserved multicultural populations to reduce health disparities. The DrPH is a terminal degree for individuals who intend to pursue leadership careers in applied, practice-based, public health research.

## ***Why a DrPH HPAL at Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University?***

### **Our Strengths**

- Practice-based education
- Competency-based learning
- Evidence-based teaching

### **Our Program Approach**

- Tailored curriculum
- Interdisciplinary studies
- Individualized attention to students

### **Our Faculty**

- Multidisciplinary
- Student-oriented
- Recognized leaders in public health research and practice

### **Our Students**

- Diverse backgrounds
- Dedicated to serving their communities
- Committed to public health

## ***What are the program requirements for the DrPH HPAL degree?***

### **Program Requirements**

- Graduate coursework in Public Health
- Interdisciplinary Core Courses
- Concentration Core Courses
- Electives
- Specialty Areas
- Dissertation and Field Experience
- 50 hours with MPH; 74 hours without MPH

Complete program requirements are in the current graduate catalog  
<https://registrar.ecu.edu/about-catalog/>

***Who should apply to the Doctoral Program in Health Policy Administration & Leadership***

The program is designed for mid- to senior-level public health and healthcare professionals with the potential and ambition to become senior leaders and who are committed to protecting and improving public health. Applicants should have a minimum of 2 years' experience in public health practice at the professional level (post-Master's degree).

***What kind of jobs will the DrPH HPAL program prepare students for?***

Graduates of this program will be prepared for positions with preparation for executive administrative leadership, research and teaching in academic settings. HPAL provides a variety of career opportunities including:

- Public Health Sector
- Government (local, state, federal)
- Military
- Non-profit/For-profit Sector
- Hospital and Long -Term Care
- Health research organizations
- Health insurance companies
- Academic Institutions
- Pharmaceutical industry

***Is a Master of Public health (MPH) a prerequisite for admission into the program?***

Not necessarily. A graduate degree in public health is not required. However, students who do not have the MPH must complete the 24 credit hours of MPH core courses. The MPH core classes assures the mastery of foundational public health competencies as required by our accrediting body (CEPH). The foundational competencies are needed before acquiring doctoral level competencies in public health.

***Must I have experience working in public health to be eligible?***

Yes. The DrPH is a professional, practice-based degree. You must have worked at least two years in a field of public health practice, to be eligible.

***How often do you admit students?***

Students are admitted with their cohort beginning in the Fall semester only.

***Where are the classes taught?***

Classes are taught at ECU, both face-to-face and on-line.

***Can I complete the program Online?***

Yes, all classes are offered online; however, we do ask that you come to campus for certain milestone events as described below. This is contingent on CDC recommendations due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The dissertation coursework is comprised of 9 or more credit hours; students are eligible to begin dissertation after successful passage of comprehensive exams and completion of the Applied Field Experience.

In addition, you may be required to complete other face-to-face activities in your geographical location for course assignments such as observations, internships, or field work. The Applied Field Practicum is site based and is comprised of 400 hours. Please refer to the field practicum requirements in the student handbook located on the department of public health website <https://public-health.ecu.edu/drph>

***Will I be required to come to campus?***

Students are asked to come to campus for orientation, formation/first meeting of dissertation committee and dissertation defense. This is contingent on CDC recommendations due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

***It's been 10 years since I last took the GRE. Is that okay?***

Your GRE scores must have been recorded within the past five years.

***Is there a GRE waiver available?***

Yes. See our website for our policy on the GRE waiver <https://public-health.ecu.edu/drph/>

***How long does the program typically take to complete?***

The length of time to graduation depends on whether you are a part-time or full-time student. Part time students take 2 doctoral classes in the Fall and Spring Semester and 1 in the Summer. Full-time students take 3 to 4 doctoral classes in the Fall and Spring Semester and 1 in the Summer.

***Is a dissertation required in the DrPH program?***

Yes. Students should begin planning their dissertation under the direction of a faculty mentor in the first year of their studies.

***I completed a field practicum in my public health undergraduate and/or master's degree program. Can I waive the field practicum requirement?***

No, the purpose of the DrPH applied field practicum is to apply your newly acquired doctoral level public health competencies into a practice setting.

***Is funding available to cover tuition and fees?***

Competitive assistantships are available in the amount of \$20,000 including tuition and health insurance Fees are not included. Students will work 25 hrs/week with a faculty member on research for a 12 month period.

***Is health insurance available to doctoral students?***

Yes, health insurance can be purchased through ECU for students who are registered for at least 3 credits of campus based courses. It is not available to students who register for only online courses. Information on student health insurance can be found on the ECU Student Health Service Website: <https://studenthealth.ecu.edu/ship/>

***How can I apply for financial aid?***

Please use this link to connect to financial aid:

<https://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/financial/>

Students can also apply for scholarships through the Office of University Scholarships online application. This application will “match” you to opportunities. <https://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/universityscholarships/scholarships.cfm>

***What is the cost of tuition?***

Tuition and fee schedules can be found here: <https://financialservices.ecu.edu/tuition-fees/>

***Where can I find more information on the DrPH HPAL degree?***

Use these links to find out more information on the program as well as viewing the DrPH HPAL student handbook:

<https://public-health.ecu.edu/> - Department of Public Health

<https://public-health.ecu.edu/drph/> - DrPH

<https://gradschool.ecu.edu/> - Graduate School