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## Careers with masters in public health

Editorial Note: We earn a commission from partner links on Forbes Advisor. Commissions do not affect our editors' opinions or evaluations. You can earn a public health degree at all levels, from associate to doctoral. People with public health degrees work in diverse sectors, including government, healthcare, social services and nonprofits. Many of the highest-paying jobs with a public health degree, such as biostatistician and policy analyst, require a graduate education. If you wonder how the environment impacts health and wellness, or how you can help communities better care for their health, you might consider a career in public health. This field suits people who are driven to improve well-being in community, environmental and policy-oriented spaces. You can start your career by earning an in-person or online public health degree. But after that, what can you do with a public health degree? Explore our list of popular public health roles to determine a career path that fits your interests, skills and goals. What Is Public Health? Public health is a field of study and practice that promotes community well-being. Where many medical fields focus on the individual, public health takes a population-level approach to healthcare. Preventive programs, disease tracking and research, and healthy lifestyle promotions form the foundation of many public health initiatives. Public health programs often sit within branches of federal, state and local governments and nonprofit organizations. Popular roles in public health include first responders, nutritionists, health educators and policymakers. What Jobs Can You Get With a Public Health Degree? Health administrators, policy writers and patient advocates play crucial roles in public health spaces, as do those in clinical and community-centered positions. We sourced the below salary data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, O\*NET Online and Glassdoor in November 2024. Biostatistician Median Annual Salary: \$104,110 Minimum Required Education: Master's degree; bachelor's may be sufficient for some positions Job Overview: Biostatistics helps bridge the gap between vast health data and actionable solutions. A biostatistician examines public health and biological data, using statistical analysis tools to observe and track health trends. A biostatistician may help analyze data from a clinical trial or evaluate the efficacy of new medications. Community Health Worker Median Annual Salary: \$48,200 Minimum Required Education: High school diploma Job Overview: Community health workers advocate for fellow community members' health. They may provide translation services at medical appointments, inform policy development and educate underserved populations about vital health information. Community Outreach Coordinator Median Annual Salary: \$77,030 Minimum Required Education: Bachelor's degree Job Overview: Community outreach coordinators can work for government offices, nonprofits or healthcare organizations. A community outreach coordinator may host events on timely health issues or partner with schools and businesses to direct community members toward necessary resources. This relational role requires strong communication skills to connect people who need care with practical solutions. Environmental Health Scientist Median Annual Salary: \$78,980 Minimum Required Education: Bachelor's degree Job Overview: Who decides how to sanitize food for public consumption or responds in the event of an oil spill? An environmental health specialist helps identify potential threats to public health, ensures corporations follow environmental regulations, and monitors waste and sewage disposal. Environmental health specialists may also form community connections to help improve water quality and advocate for better waste treatment facilities. Epidemiologist Median Annual Salary: \$81,390 Minimum Required Education: Master's degree Job Overview: What is an epidemiologist? People may assume these professionals only study highly infectious, transferable diseases, but this position can cover various chronic conditions, illnesses and injuries. An epidemiologist may translate research studies to help inform public health policymakers, observe how certain diseases affect different populations and use data analysis to predict the spread of an emerging disease. Health Coach Median Annual Salary: Around \$60,000 Minimum Required Education: Associate degree Job Overview: A health coach can work with individuals or groups to help improve physical health. Most health coaches earn additional certifications and must become adept at applying behavior change models according to each client's health goals and ability level. Health coaches can work in community centers, private practices or healthcare settings like hospitals and clinics. Health Education Specialist Median Annual Salary: \$62,860 Minimum Required Education: Bachelor's degree Job Overview: Health education specialists inform communities about ways to better care for their health and avoid injury. Like community health workers, public health education specialists must form close ties with communities to spread vital health and safety information. They may also offer workshops and programs, connecting people to health resources such as insurance. Health Services Manager Median Annual Salary: \$110,680 Minimum Required Education: Bachelor's degree Job Overview: Health services managers wear many hats to ensure all department processes run smoothly. Daily responsibilities of a health services manager often include hiring new staff members, creating and managing departmental budgets, and strategizing for improvements to patient care. These professionals may work in hospitals, private clinics or similar healthcare settings. Medical Office Coordinator Median Annual Salary: \$40,640 Minimum Required Education: High school diploma Job Overview: A medical office coordinator maintains a functioning healthcare office and serves as a point of contact for patients when they arrive for appointments. Everyday responsibilities of a medical office coordinator include patient intake, maintaining providers' schedules, and coordinating with outside services such as insurance companies, labs and pharmaceutical representatives. Medical Transcriptionist Median Annual Salary: \$37,060 Minimum Required Education: Postsecondary nondegree award Job Overview: Healthcare professionals use medical transcriptionists to write or type dictated patient care plans, medical background information or diagnoses. Medical transcriptionists must be familiar with standard health-related and anatomical terms and able to ask and answer questions related to the transcribed content. Patient Services Coordinator Median Annual Salary: \$47,470 Minimum Required Education: High school diploma; bachelor's or master's preferred for some positions Job Overview: Patient services coordinators liaise between healthcare workers and patients in hospitals and clinics. They help maintain appointment calendars and scheduling, perform patient intakes, organize medical records and respond to patient requests. Customer service, technology and communication skills are essential to this role. Policy Analyst Median Annual Salary: \$132,350 Minimum Required Education: Master's degree Job Overview: Most public health policy analysts work within government organizations or nonprofits to help shape and determine public health priorities and outcomes. Health policy analysts might evaluate a current policy and note areas for improvement, draft new policies or listen to community members' health needs to inform the direction of future policies. Public Health Professor Median Annual Salary: \$105,650 Minimum Required Education: Doctoral degree; master's may be sufficient at some institutions Job Overview: After earning a graduate degree in public health, some learners stay in academia and become professors. Public health professors may teach general courses or specialize in a particular subfield, such as environmental health or epidemiology. Typical duties of a professor include presenting lectures, creating lesson plans and performing original research. Public Health Specialist Median Annual Salary: Around \$96,000 Minimum Required Education: Bachelor's degree Job Overview: Public health specialists focus on strategies for designing and implementing public health policies and programs versus direct community involvement. Some public health specialists focus on more narrow interventions, like reducing healthcare inequalities in specific marginalized populations. Others tackle broader public health and safety programs, such as reducing heart disease and smoking. Social or Community Service Manager Average Annual Salary: \$77,030 Minimum Required Education: Bachelor's degree Job Overview: Community service managers design and implement public health programs and connect people to health resources. These managers identify pressing community health needs, advocate for better health policies, and manage staff and office budgets. You can find community service managers working in residential care facilities, religious organizations and local government, among other environments. Types of Public Health Degrees Most public health careers require a higher education degree, though the exact degree type can vary by role. Below we explore some common public health degrees. Associate Degree in Public Health An associate degree in public health often serves as a stepping stone to a bachelor's degree. Most associate degree programs last about two years and are less costly than four-year programs. Some associate degree programs offer hands-on internship and fieldwork opportunities. Bachelor's Degree in Public Health Students who earn a bachelor's degree in public health may need to choose between a Bachelor of Science and a Bachelor of Arts. With a B.S., your courses may emphasize biology, chemistry and other science-based topics, while a B.A. prioritizes social science courses like community advocacy and health policy. Bachelor's degrees typically require about 120 credits and take four years to complete. Master of Public Health Many students who want to work in public health earn master's degrees so they can specialize in a specific subject, pursue research and improve their earning potential. Courses in a public health master's program encompass data and policy analysis; health research; and the intersections of biological, cultural and environmental health factors. Learners can also pursue dual-degree programs in public health and a complementary discipline such as business, public policy or healthcare administration. Master's in public health programs can take as little as 16 months or as long as three or four years to complete, depending on delivery format and whether a student enrolls part time or full time. This degree provides an excellent foundation for a Doctor of Public Health or Ph.D. in public health. Doctorate in Public Health Public health doctoral students often become professors or step into leadership roles. In most cases, you must earn a master's degree in a related field before applying to a doctorate in a public health program. Some public health doctoral programs also require professional experience in public health. Most doctoral programs last between four and nine years. The first half of the program often features leadership, management and advocacy courses. The latter half focuses on your dissertation and further research or participation in a public health residency. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About What You Can Do With a Public Health Degree Yes, you can build a fulfilling and potentially well-paying career in the public health sector. Many people who work in public health enjoy advocating for underserved communities and protecting the public against illnesses and diseases. Public health offers diverse career options, such as biostatistics, environmental health and epidemiology. You can choose between research-oriented roles and those grounded in policy, advocacy and community-centered work. Some of the highest-paid public health professionals are biostatisticians, health services managers and public health policy analysts. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, these professions all command median salaries exceeding \$100,000 a year. For biostatisticians and policy analysts, a graduate degree is commonly required or preferred. Health services managers can work with just a bachelor's degree, but many employers prefer to hire managers with master's degrees in related fields such as public health or healthcare administration. As a graduate student with a master's in public health, you can find many high-paying jobs and career opportunities within British borders. Some of the best public health jobs you can consider in the UK are: Public health officer Epidemiologist Environmental health specialist Global health specialist Healthcare consultant Research analyst The UK is a conducive hub for public health jobs and careers. According to NHS England's capacity review, the demand for public health professionals in the UK rose by 24% in 2021. What's even better is the attractive compensation packages you can receive as a public health professional. The public health industry is rich with opportunities that go beyond the traditional healthcare landscape. In this article, we'll show you the various job roles that await master's in public health (MPH) graduates while answering your most pressing questions on how to start a career in public health. What is the salary of a public health professional in the UK? Salaries for MSc public health graduates in the UK are competitive and influenced by factors such as experience and location. The average salary earned by MPH professionals can range between GBP 33,000 to 44,000. (Source: Glassdoor) You can earn higher salaries with increasing years of experience and expertise. If you choose to specialise in high-demand sectors, such as the prevention of cancer, lifestyle diseases, and cardiovascular issues, the pay can be much higher. Explore MPH Course Online What is a master's in public health? An MPH degree is a graduate-level degree that trains students to work in public health. Public health is defined as the approach to bettering people's health through disease prevention and communal hygiene. What are the most important public health issues? The main priority of public health professionals is to ensure equality in healthcare. Here are some of the other lesser-known challenges that public health officers tackle: Preparation for epidemics Improving mental health Environmental sustainability and climate change Health and disease prevention research Building public trust in public health and maintenance efforts Designing and implementing prevention campaigns for infectious and chronic diseases. Here are the details of each of the public health jobs mentioned earlier: Public health officer: Ensures a healthier tomorrow A public health officer is a champion of community well-being. They collaborate with government bodies, NGOs, and healthcare institutions to design and execute health programmes. From advocating preventive measures to promoting health education, these professionals play a vital role in enhancing public health. Salary in the UK: GBP 36,000–46,000 per annum, is the average salary and can rise with your years of experience. (source: Glassdoor) Epidemiologist: Studies health patterns Epidemiologists are akin to health detectives. Their role involves investigating disease patterns and causes within populations. By scrutinising data, conducting research, and identifying risk factors, epidemiologists contribute significantly to disease control and prevention strategies. Salary in the UK: GBP 27,000–54,000 per annum (Source: Prospects) With added years of experience, an epidemiologist can draw a salary of GBP 80,000 –120,000 annually. Environmental health specialist: Safeguards wellness through the environment Environmental health specialists focus on safeguarding communities by assessing potential environmental health risks. They oversee air and water quality, manage waste disposal systems, and ensure food safety regulations are met. Their work contributes to maintaining a healthy and sustainable environment. Salary in the UK: GBP 20,000–60,000 per annum (Source: Prospects) Global health specialist: Bridges borders for better health Global health specialists address health challenges that transcend borders. Collaborating with international organisations and NGOs, they tackle global health issues, infectious diseases, and humanitarian crises. Their work aims to ensure health equity and well-being worldwide. Salary in the UK: GBP 38,000–58,000 per annum (Source: Talent) Healthcare consultant: Enhances healthcare ecosystems Healthcare consultants with an MPH are specialists who bring a unique perspective to healthcare organisations. They analyse healthcare delivery and access, identify inefficiencies, and propose strategies to improve patient care and operational efficiency. This role bridges the gap between public health principles and clinical practice. Salary in the UK: GBP 50,000–75,000 per annum (Source: Glassdoor) Research analyst: Shapes policies with data insights Research analysts in public health play a pivotal role in shaping policies and interventions. By collecting, analysing, and interpreting data, they uncover trends that guide decision-making. Their work aids in enhancing health outcomes and addressing public health challenges. Salary in the UK: GBP 42,000–62,000 per annum (Source: Glassdoor) How to step into the public health arena The journey towards a Public Health Career begins with pursuing an MPH degree. Networking is key—attend conferences and workshops and connect with professionals in the field. Gain practical experience through internships and volunteer work, and ensure your resume highlights your skills and accomplishments. Diverse sectors offering public health jobs The demand for public health professionals in the UK spans sectors like healthcare, government agencies, research institutions, and international bodies. Whether it's epidemiology, health promotion, policy analysis, or disaster response, an MPH opens doors to various impactful roles. NHS Health Careers denotes the three main areas of public health: Health protection - Prevention of epidemic outbreaks, developing plans for responses to emergencies, and ensuring food safety. Healthcare services - Ensuring that every person residing within the country has equal access to high-quality health services and medicines whenever they need it. Improving people's health - Creating and implementing campaigns to encourage healthier diets, daily physical exercise, and quitting smoking and drugs. Public health careers: An excellent career path in the UK Public health is a promising career path in the UK. The healthcare system's emphasis on prevention over cure makes public health experts invaluable. As health challenges evolve, skilled public health professionals play a crucial role in shaping a healthier future. A master's in public health offers a gateway to a multitude of impactful careers. From enhancing community health as a public health officer to unraveling disease patterns as an epidemiologist, the options are abundant and fulfilling. Why is public health important? Public health professionals are the first to meet a healthcare crisis on the front lines. During COVID-19, it was the unwavering determination of public health professionals and clinical specialists that saved the lives of many citizens across the world. Public healthcare professionals are now a valued asset even on a global scale. They help improve the overall health of the population through the implementation of governmental grants and schemes, as you may see in the role of a healthcare policy advisor. The overall health of a nation determines its overall productivity and wealth. Vaccines, handwashing policies, food safety regulations, and other public health efforts have saved, improved, and lengthened lives across the globe. Public health is a crucial and evolving field, and workers will always be needed. Overall, a master's degree in public health can help you gain much deeper insight into the realm of healthcare. With experienced faculty members and industry-oriented training in these courses, you can be propelled into a career of service to society within no time. The London School of Business and Finance UK (LSBF UK) offers a fully-fledged Master's in Public Health online which is validated and certified by UniNettuno (International Telematic University), a private university based in Rome. UniNettuno is renowned for its free online lectures and classes from distinguished professors hailing from important educational bodies. LSBF UK's Master's in Public Health online course is a great option for you if you would like to break into the world of healthcare. This could be a game-changer for your career.