

Interdisciplinary MPH

Prospective Students

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **How many applications do you receive on average per year?** Of a highly selective applicant pool that meets the eligibility criteria of a completed prior graduate degree for this accelerated one-year program the Interdisciplinary MPH program receives about 60 applications per cycle.
- **How many applicants are offered admission per year?** Our student cohorts typically consist of 25 students per year.
- **How do I contact a professor to determine if s/he will agree to advise me?** After students accept their invitation to be admitted into the program and enroll, they can reach out to UCB faculty and request a meeting to discuss this. The Interdisciplinary Program faculty will assist you when searching for an adviser. Most students start this process once they are on campus and have narrowed down their focus for the MPH research project and selected their courses.
- **What aspects of the application are weighed more heavily than others?** We look at an application in its entirety to determine a person's strengths and relative fit to our program and within the incoming cohort; areas of research and work interest, work experience related to public health and beyond, future public health career plans, academic history, as well as a clear focus for skills to acquire at UCB are important considerations. Letters of recommendation are also carefully reviewed. For foreign applicants, English language skills are an important consideration.
- **Am I eligible to apply if I do not have a graduate degree?** Only those who are enrolled in a graduate program at the time of application or hold a graduate degree by the start of the interdisciplinary MPH program are eligible to apply.
- **If I received a degree from an institution outside of the U.S or English-speaking Canada, do I need to submit a World Evaluation Service (WES) evaluation?** All degrees completed outside of the U.S or English-speaking Canada must be submitted to WES for evaluation. Instructions on how to submit a WES evaluation are available through the SOPHAS application portal.
- **If I am an applicant from a country where English is not the official language, do I need to take an English proficiency test?** All applicants from countries in which the official language is not English are required to submit official evidence of English language proficiency. The Interdisciplinary MPH accepts TOEFL and IELTS tests.

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However, applicants who, at the time of application, have already completed at least one year of full-time academic course work with grades of B or better at a U.S. university may submit an official transcript from the U.S. university to fulfill this requirement.

- **Do I need to submit my official graduate transcripts through SOPHAS?** Even though SOPHAS only requires applicants to submit their undergraduate transcripts, the Interdisciplinary MPH also requires applicants to submit their graduate transcripts through SOPHAS.
- **If I am also applying to the UCSF/UC Berkeley Dental Public Health program, do I need to submit two different applications?** Yes, prospective students must apply separately and concurrently to the one-year Interdisciplinary Master's in Public Health program at UC Berkeley and a subsequent one-year Dental Public Health certificate program at UCSF. Details regarding the UCSF application process can be found [here](#).
- **Can I apply for spring admission?** The academic year begins in the fall; spring admission is not permitted.
- **Can I work during the program?** The full course load required is 42 semester units for the year, which is approximately 5-6 classes per semester: a very high course load compared to students in the 2-year MPH program who have to complete 48 units over 2 years. While some of our clinical fellows can fit in a few monthly shifts on selected days, like weekends or over holiday periods, we do not recommend any kind of regular part-time job or full-time job.
- **Do you have a part-time program for persons who want to continue to work full-time?** No, the Interdisciplinary MPH program is a full-time 11-month program. For applicants searching for a part-time program, we recommend that you check out our [online MPH program](#).