



## Public Health Certificate in Performance Improvement – Public Health track (PubH Cert – PI)

This unique certificate will prepare you with knowledge to improve processes in public health departments with goals of improving performance, quality and services for communities. Quality improvement has been identified as key to creating more efficient and effective public health systems.

There is a great need for public health professionals to learn, understand, and lead quality improvement methods and techniques to everyday processes for improving performance, quality and services to communities.

Public health departments across the nation are striving to enhance their services on safe water supplies, clear air, food protection, health education and protection from emerging diseases.

With the movement toward public health accredited, there will be a need to evaluate and improve systems, increase accountability and increase credibility. The PubH Cert – PI will educate students to understand and lead quality improvement methods to real-life situations at both the system and organization level.

This is an on-line highly interactive program that teaches a carefully assembled curriculum of quality and performance improvement concepts and techniques. A unique feature of the PubH Cert- PI is that students will undergo an intensive inter-professional experience by leading a quality improvement team within their own organization. In addition, through the use of technology, students will work together in small groups. The goal is to diffuse best practices and performance improvements to create more efficient and effective public health systems.

### **Program participants will:**

- collaborate with others through teamwork
- engage in respectful communication with others
- reflect on concepts learned
- apply knowledge and skills to real situations

The Public Health Certificate in Performance Improvement (PubH Cert – PI) will provide participants with hands-on knowledge about how to improve processes in their respective organizations. The practicum is designed to give learners an opportunity to lead in the practical application of quality and performance improvement methods and techniques learned in the certificate program. The learner will convene and lead a team or serve as the principal staff person for a quality improvement project in their public health setting.

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#### **For more information:**

<http://www.sph.umn.edu>

#### **Major contact**

Kate Hanson at 612 626 7953,  
[hanso041@umn.edu](mailto:hanso041@umn.edu)

#### **School of Public Health, Student Services Center, application information and materials**

Web site: [www.sph.umn.edu/  
students/application](http://www.sph.umn.edu/students/application)

E-mail: [php@umn.edu](mailto:php@umn.edu)

Phone: (612) 626-3500

Toll Free: (800) 774-8636

Fax: (612) 624-4498

Students will learn how to:

- evaluate a process, and determine if it needs improvement
- understand and apply quality Improvement methods and techniques in their individual work settings
- create control charts in Excel and by using SPC software
- conduct a state-of-the-art improvement project
- demonstrate ability to implement concepts of change
- exercise leadership in the design, execution, and evaluation of performance improvement programs, and projects
- serve as informed “Process Improvement Advisor” in their respective organizations
- understand and apply interplay between human factors and process design
- demonstrate how to develop, participate and lead a Quality Improvement Team

The program will draw on the unique faculty expertise in quality improvement at the University of Minnesota, as well as public health quality improvement experts from across the nation.

The Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008/09 Edition confirms that healthcare workers with an understanding of quality improvement principles will have an advantage in the future job market.

Courses completed in the Certificate program can become part of a MPH degree and current MPH students may augment their degree with the Certificate.

## Curriculum

12 credits are required for the PubH Certificate in Performance Improvement – Public Health track. All courses will be available on-line and students may elect to complete some courses in a traditional classroom setting. The curriculum is designed for students to complete one course/term for two years, including the second summer.

## Certificate Requirements:

Learners may start either semester.

### Sample schedule

#### Year One, fall term

- Continuous Performance Improvement Methods (3 credits)

#### Year One, spring term

- Leading Performance Improvement in Public Health (2 credits)

#### Year Two, fall term

- Advanced Performance Improvement Methods in Public Health (2 credits)

#### Year two, spring term

*Students choose one of the following electives:*

- Statistics for Health Management Decision-Making (3 credits)
- Health Leadership and Effecting Change (2 credits)
- Program Evaluation in Health & Mental Health Settings (2 credits)
- Evidence-based Practice (2 credits, primarily on-line)

#### Year Two, summer

- Public Health Process Improvement Project Practicum (2 credits, Prereq: completion of all required coursework)

## Qualifications for Admissions:

- Baccalaureate degree or higher.
- Cumulative GPA of 3.0 is preferred.
- Strong writing skills.
- A minimum of three years of relevant professional work experience.
- One letter of recommendation from your organization confirming the opportunity for you to staff or lead a quality and performance improvement team.
- All applications are reviewed holistically.

Applications for the PubH Cert - Performance Improvement, Public Health track are accepted Oct. 15 to start Spring term, March 15 to start summer term, and July 15 to start fall term or until the class is full.

## Application Requirements

Submit to the University of Minnesota School of Public Health:

- 1) Application and \$75.00 application fee
- 2) Statement of Purpose & Objectives describing your reason for applying, career goals and how the Certificate will help achieve your goals.
- 3) One Letter of Recommendation from your organization indicating their support of your performance improvement project.
- 4) Official transcripts of record from each college/university attended.
- 5) Resume or C.V.
- 6) TOEFL or IELTS test scores (international applicants only - see application information for specifics)