

**Portland State University
School of Community Health**

**Master of Arts/Master of Science: Health Studies
Application Instructions**

Degree Program and Prerequisites

1. The School of Community Health offers a **Master of Arts/Master of Science (M.A./M.S.) degree program in Health Studies** for students who have earned a baccalaureate degree. There are two concentrations in the M.A./M.S. degree program: **1) Mindbody Health** (currently not accepting applications), and **2) Physical Activity/Exercise**.
2. Prerequisites for students completing the Physical Activity/Exercise concentration include upper division course work in (e.g., Human Anatomy and Physiology) and introductory statistics. Coursework in chemistry and biochemistry is helpful, but not required.
3. The M.A./M.S. degree requires 47 credits overall; this includes 29 credits of common required courses and at least 18 credits from the concentration area. A thesis is required.
4. A minimum of 32 graduate credits must be earned in courses on the PSU campus. Residence begins the term the student is officially admitted into the graduate program. Courses are considered current and may be counted toward the degree for 7 years.
5. Students may apply up to 9 credits of graduate work (from PSU prior to admission or from other institutions) toward the 47 credits, provided the courses meet the objectives of the intended degree program. Acceptable transfer credits must be graded B- or higher and be received from an accredited institution.

Admission Procedures for Domestic Graduate Students

To expedite the graduate admissions process, PSU requires each applicant to submit two (2) complete (but different) application packets: one packet to the Admissions Office and the other packet to the School of Community Health. Incomplete packets will delay processing of the application. Students may call the PSU Touch-tone Admission Status Reporting System to determine the status of their admission applications. Questions about the admissions process should be directed to the School of Community Health.

1. Admissions Office Application Packet
 - a. The university application form;
 - b. The application fee;
 - c. One official transcript from each college or university attended (except PSU), including junior colleges and community colleges;
 - d. The measles immunization form.
2. School of Community Health Application Packet (addressed to Graduate Coordinator of the School of Community Health)
 - a. The departmental application form (see above);
 - b. One official transcript from each college or university attended (except PSU), including junior colleges and community colleges;
 - c. Three letters of recommendation; [note: Recommendation letters should be obtained from individuals in a position to address the applicant's potential for graduate work in health studies (e.g., academic performance, communication skills, ability to engage in independent study and research, etc.). Applicants are advised to request that the letter writer addresses these issues. It is also advisable to solicit at least one letter from a previous professor or academic advisor.]

- d. A 500 word essay that includes information about your background, relevant professional preparation, and your objectives/goals for pursuing graduate work;
- e. Official GRE scores (GRE and TOEFL required of International students). The PSU Institution Code is 4610 and the Public Health Department Code is 0616.

The School of Community Health requires a cumulative GPA of 3.00. Students with a GPA above 2.75 but below 3.00 may still be considered, provided all other conditions have been met.

The School of Community Health will evaluate the applicant's file and make a recommendation to the Admissions Office. If the recommendation is for admittance, a letter will be sent to the applicant and a copy to the Admissions Office, indicating a **recommendation for admission** pending evaluation by the Admissions Office. The Admissions Office will then compute the GPA and officially determine whether the applicant meets all University requirements. If the applicant meets all University requirements the Admissions office will send a letter to the applicant indicating the **official admission**.

Admission Procedures for International Students:

Complete the PSU application form for International Students, which requires similar information to that required of domestic applicants. In addition, a minimum TOEFL score of 600 (taken within the last year) and evidence of adequate financial resources are required. School requirements for domestic and international applicants are the same. Follow procedures outlined above for submitting your application to the department; processing of your application will begin only when all necessary documents are available for review.