UNC Charlotte is North Carolina’s urban research university. Annual enrollment exceeds 28,000 with more than 5,000 graduate students. The Department of Public Health Sciences offers accredited degrees and certificate programs.

Applications must be completed by January 10 for full consideration for the following fall semester.

Consult these websites for application details and instructions:
- gradadmissions.uncc.edu
- graduateschool.uncc.edu

For graduate admissions questions call: 704-687-5503 (Phone)

Financial Aid Opportunities
UNC Charlotte offers information on a variety of funding opportunities available to graduate students, including graduate assistantships, tuition awards and other awards.

The Graduate School is committed to helping students learn about the many options available to finance their education.

Detailed information and current university policies and forms regarding financial aid for graduate students are available at the Graduate School website.

http://graduateschool.uncc.edu/funding-resources

Visit us online at publihealth.uncc.edu
Overview of the Program

Our PhD in Public Health Sciences at UNC Charlotte is designed to prepare graduates for scholarly and professional careers in academia, government and industry. The program is a post-master’s degree.

The concentration in Behavioral Sciences emphasizes health determinants related to the prevention and management of disease and disability among diverse and vulnerable populations. The program emphasizes addressing contemporary public health problems at the individual, community and population levels with a primary focus on addressing health outcomes through community engagement, taking into consideration broad social-ecological factors influencing health and health behavior.

The PhD in Public Health Sciences, with a concentration in Behavioral Sciences, prepares graduates to be independent scientists and scholars who can:

- Apply analytical skills to conducting research on social and behavioral factors in a variety of public health and community settings;
- Design, conduct, and analyze behavioral science research relating to public health using advanced quantitative and qualitative methods;
- Communicate effectively and persuasively, using necessary written skills, to obtain research and program funding and to be accepted for peer-reviewed publication;
- Effectively disseminate behavioral science knowledge to communities, professionals, and scientists using a variety of communication and methodological skills; and
- Enthusiastically participate in inter-disciplinary collaboration and engage in culturally competent and ethically sound research practices with diverse participants and colleagues.

The coursework emphasizes methodological rigor through the development, application and measurement of theory to understand the social and cultural factors that influence health behavior. Coursework is designed for full-time students, with courses delivered via an in-class format. Required coursework includes advanced graduate courses in qualitative and quantitative methods, statistics, professional seminars, and behavioral sciences concentration doctoral courses. Students are encouraged to take courses from departments across campus, such as health psychology and health services research.

The Faculty

Faculty members in the Department of Public Health Sciences at UNC Charlotte include nationally and internationally renowned scholars. Faculty members take seriously their role as mentor, guiding students into becoming well-rounded public health professionals. Mentoring and intellectual support occur throughout the doctoral program, with guidance tailored to advancing the student’s conceptualization of research problems and accomplishment of the dissertation research.

Faculty research foci include the following:

- Aging, Gerontology
- Chronic diseases, Quality of life
- Community health assessment
- Health promotion, Behavior change
- Life course perspective, Social determinants
- Minorities, Disadvantaged, Disparities
- Maternal and child health
- Mental and behavioral health, Youth violence
- Program evaluation
- Qualitative methods
- Use of large data sets

Admission Requirements

Applicants should have a strong academic background, relevant experience, interest in the social and behavioral sciences and their influence on health and health outcomes, and a master’s degree in public health or related field.

The Admissions Committee takes into consideration the applicant’s graduate GPA, GRE scores, applicant’s statement of purpose detailing why she/he wants to pursue a PhD in Public Health Sciences at UNC Charlotte, and three letters of recommendation.

Students with master’s degrees in related fields (psychology, sociology, gerontology, nursing, social work, allied health professions, and others) are encouraged to apply. Students who have not completed an accredited Master’s degree in public health may be required to take additional graduate level courses as determined by the Admissions Committee.

Each cohort of students will be admitted for Fall semester matriculation. Admission decisions are typically made in February.