



NEW GRADUATE PUBLIC HEALTH ORIENTATION SPRING 2026



PRAYER & DEVOTIONAL

Embarking on a new journey is a momentous and often transformative experience.– but God has unique and special plans for EACH of us.

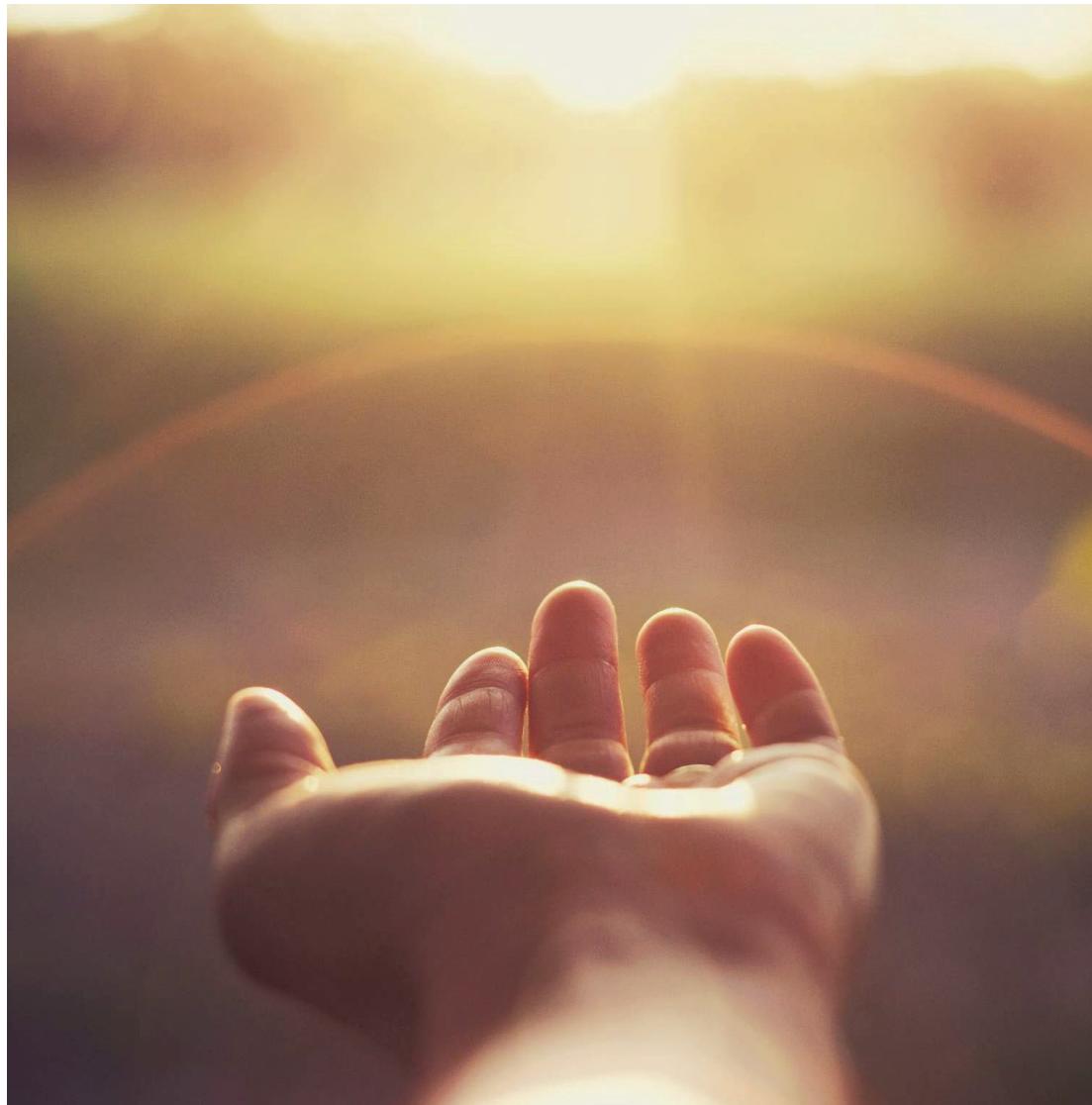
*“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”
Jeremiah 29:11*

As you prepare for the days and months ahead

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” Proverbs 3: 5-6

You will be learning and growing with your professors and instructors but always remember where your TRUE instruction comes from

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.” Psalm 32:8





WELCOME GRADUATE PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENTS

Current Programs:

- Master of Science in Public Health in Epidemiology
- Master of Public Health
 - Epidemiology (Residential)
 - Community Health Promotion (Both Campuses)
 - Nutrition (Both Campuses)
 - Global Health (Both Campuses)
 - Public Health Policy (Omnichannel)
 - Environmental Health (Online)
- Doctorate of Public Health in Public Health Policy Leadership & Management (Residential)

ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

Dr. Heidi DiFrancesca – Dean

Dr. Brendan Haynie – Associate Dean, Online Programs

Dr. Oswald Attin – Associate Dean, Residential Programs

Dr. Benjamin Forrest – Administrative Chair, Online Programs

Dr. Brittany Kirkpatrick – Online Chair, Assistant Professor

Megan Bishop – Faculty Support Coordinator

Jane Bailey – Department Administrative Assistant

Samantha Leigh – Director of Practicum

Erin Chocklett – Gate Coordinator II

Cassidy Harris – Gate Coordinator I

MPH & MSPH PUBLIC HEALTH FACULTY

Dr. Oswald Attin –
Associate Dean,
Residential Programs,
Biostatistics

Dr. Linnaya Graf –
Department Chair
Community Health
Promotion

Dr. Paul West Okojie –
Program Director, MPH &
MSPH Epidemiology

Dr. Emmanuel Clottey –
Program Director, DrPH
Global Health &
Environmental

Dr. Gineska Castillo –
Program Director, Public
Health Graduate
Certificates
Environmental Health

Dr. Robyn Anderson –
Program Director,
Bachelors
Epidemiology

Dr. Jonathan Giles –
Public Health Policy &
Data

Dr. Anna Kebles –
Nutrition

Dr. Deanna Kinslow –
Community Health
Promotion

Dr. Tonya Price –
Nutrition & Public
Health Policy

LUO faculty and
Bachelor level faculty

DrPH Leadership Team

Dr. Linnaya Graf – Department Chair,
Professor

Dr. Emmanuel Clottey – DrPH Program
Director, Professor

Dr. Paul West Okojie – MPH & MSPH
Programs Director, Professor

Faculty and Staff

Variety of Specialty Faculty, Residential
and Omnichannel

Doctoral Support Staff

DRPH CONCENTRATIONS

Concentrations

Health Policy &
Leadership
Management

Fall 2025

Maternal and
Child Health

Coming
2026

Public Health
Practice

Coming
2027

GET TO KNOW YOUR STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Clubs are open to all Graduate Public Health Students based on varying criteria.

Graduate Student Assistants

- Jessica Arsin
- Eliana Arthurs
- Krista Coipel
- Great Okereke
- Prince Sarpong
- Rachel Simon Karu
- Michael Tetteh

Liberty University Public Health Student Association

- President/Point of Contact – Raymond Suonyir
- Vice President – Alexandra Mixan

Delta Omega, Epsilon Mu

- Co-President – Bright Agbotui
- Co-President – Christian Cooper

Eta Sigma Gamma

- President – Julia Komarnicki

A photograph showing a group of people from the waist up, all holding hands in a circular pattern. They are wearing various casual clothing like t-shirts and hoodies. The background is slightly blurred.

Department of Public Health- Mission

“EMBRACING A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW TO REACH THE UNDERSERVED THROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING AND PRACTICE SO OTHERS MAY EXPERIENCE THE EMBRACE OF GOD.”

Department Vision

“WE ENVISION A CADRE
OF FULLY PREPARED
CHRISTIAN HEALTH
PROFESSIONALS
DEDICATED TO
OVERCOMING HEALTH
DISPARITIES AND
IMPROVING THE WELL-
BEING OF PEOPLE FROM
EVERY, TONGUE, TRIBE
AND NATION, ESPECIALLY
THE POOR AND
DISADVANTAGED,
THROUGHOUT THE
WORLD.”



ACCREDITATION

- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
 - Liberty was last re-accredited in 2024!
 - MPH program was adopted without recommendation in 2011
 - MSPH program was adopted without recommendation in 2024
 - DrPH program was adopted without recommendation in 2024
- Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)
 - The program was initially accredited in 2017 and reaccredited until July 2032.



CEPH: Accredited Public Health Programs

Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)

- The Council on Education for Public Health is an independent agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to accredit public health programs.
- CEPH accreditation is considered the quality benchmark in evaluating public health academic programs.
- Ensures that public health graduate degrees offered by the department provide the highest caliber of education possible, preparing competent public health professionals to enter the field.

When Choosing Electives: Align your Degree & Goals

-- Choose electives wisely: Electives can and should be used strategically and chosen with an adviser.

***Not all programs have electives, and not all have the same number of electives! KNOW your DCP and meet with your advisor*



BENEFITS OF CEPH ACCREDITATION

Some employers---U.S. Public Health Service, require that MPH-level jobs be filled by graduates of CEPH-accredited schools or programs. Others- hire based on a preference for graduates of CEPH-accredited programs.

Graduates of CEPH-accredited MPH programs are eligible to sit for the Certified in Public Health exam administered by the National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE) without needing five years of public health work experience after earning their bachelor's degree.

Additional benefits for MSPH students obtaining a CEPH-accredited degree are increased marketability in government and research positions that would require CEPH certification.

RESIDENTIAL ADVISING PER CONCENTRATION

Degree Completion Plans provide the curriculum requirements.

Please meet with your Faculty Advisor before registering for classes and a Minimum of ONCE per semester.

They are there to help you with course selection, career advising, and general guidance.

3 residential courses are needed to remain fulltime

- 3-Required for all international students on a student visa
- 3- Required by most financial aid packages

Advisors

MPH -- Community Health Promotion: Dr. Kinslow | Environmental: Dr. Castillo (online)

Epidemiology: Dr. Anderson | Global Health: Dr. Clottey Nutrition: Dr. Price

Public Health Policy: Dr. Graf

MSPH – Epidemiology Dr. Okojie & Dr. Anderson

DrPH – Health Policy Leadership & Management: Dr. Clottey

Please note residential students must take residential courses. You must apply for an exemption for an online class. If an online or Professional Advisor suggests taking an online course, please clear that with your Program Director first.



For all degrees: Applied Practical Experience and Interprofessional Experience will be required for your Electronic Portfolio which you will complete in PHGT 513 (MPH & MSPH) or PHGT 703 (DrPH).



Interprofessional work is the collaborative efforts of professions outside public health disciplines.



Extracurricular activities are a must, not an extra

LUPHSA

Campus programs (ex. Live Healthy Liberty, Health Fairs)

Remedy Conference

Public Health Series



Co-curricular Activities

Professional memberships (ex. APHA, VAPHA, CCIH)

Presentations and attendance at professional meetings

Research Week

Public Health Conference

**PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IS A PART OF ALL
PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATE PROGRAMMING**

COMMUNICATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT IS ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS!!



**Graduate Student
Handbook:** [Please read it!](#)
MPH Handbook
MSPH Handbook
DrPH Handbook



**Email – must use your
Liberty email address**
Questions?
PHhelper@liberty.edu

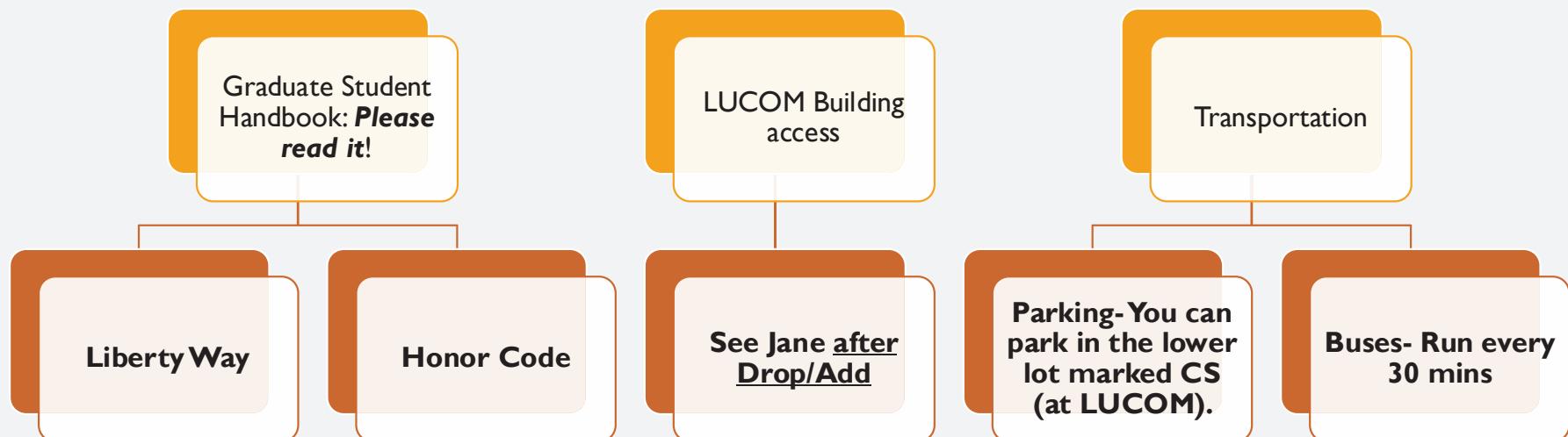


Telephone
Department Phone– 434-582-2333
Dr. Graf, Chair – 434-592-5985
**Dr. Clottee, DrPH Director –
434-592-7058**
**Dr. Okojie, MPH/MSPH Director –
434-582-4677**



**Review your Syllabus and Ask for
Office hours for Faculty**
**Review Emails Daily for
announcements from Faculty**

RESIDENTIAL LOGISTICS



CHAMPION SAFE (APP)



The Office of Security & Public Safety invites all students, faculty, staff, and visitors to download Liberty's new **Champion Safe** app.

Champion Safe is the primary safety app of Liberty University and includes multiple features to help keep our community safe, such as:

- Crisis Alerts
- Mobile Blue Light
- In-app Tip Reporting
- Location Service Features
- Emergency Plans and Contacts
- Emergency Notifications and Timely Warnings

Put your safety into the palm of your hand and download Champion Safe today on the App Store and Google Play.

Office of Security & Public Safety

LIBERTY

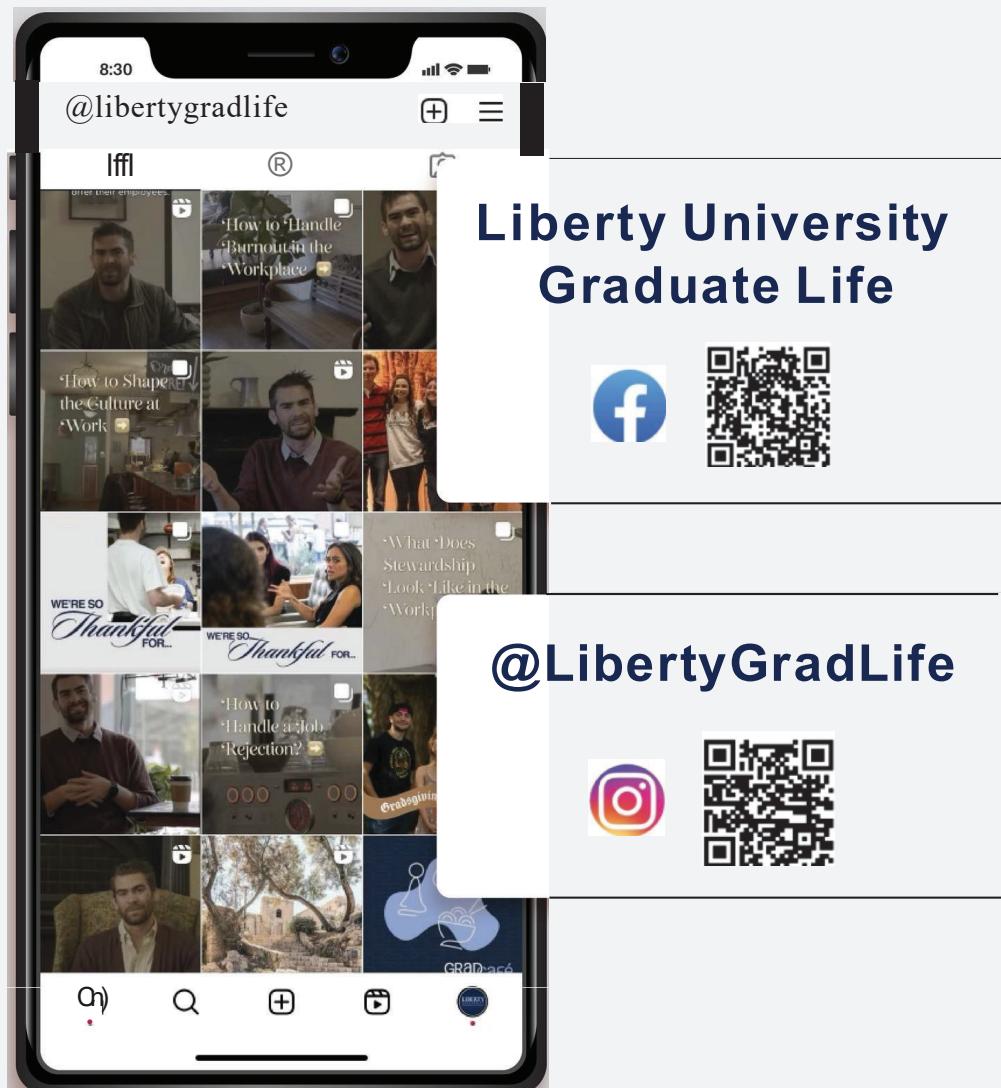
UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE LIFE

Supporting graduate student success through personal and professional development, collaboration with other students and faculty interaction.

- Student Lounge
 - The Commuter Lounge (Green Hall, room 1875) host graduate, online, and commuter students in a beautiful and comfortable space – perfect for grabbing a cup of coffee, studying, or just hanging out!
 - Monthly hangouts that include fun activities, food, and getting to know your graduate peers!





Liberty University Graduate Life



@LibertyGradLife



LIBERTY UNIVERSITY GRADUATE LIFE

To stay up to date on events
follow our socials or visit:

<https://www.liberty.edu/students/student-life/graduate/>

For more information and resources
available!



GET INVOLVED (RESIDENTIAL AND ONLINE STUDENTS)

- Clubs
- Service Opportunities
- Health Fairs
- Public Health Series
- Poverty Simulation
- Public Health Conference
- Department Events

JOIN US!

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENT ASSOCIATION (LUPHSA)

A Liberty University student club dedicated to promoting health, wellness, and disease prevention within the community; providing guidance on career and academic opportunities in public health; and fostering Christ-centered relationships among students and faculty to support the growth and sustainability of students and the Liberty University Public Health program.

- Monthly Meetings
- Volunteering Opportunities
- Fellowship Opportunities
- And More!!

Scan Below to Join



Spring Meeting Dates:

February 10th

March 3rd

April 14th

**Tuesdays at 5:30-6:30 pm*

+ other events!

Raymond Suonyir (President): rsuonyir@liberty.edu

Alexandra Mixan (Vice-President): amixan1@liberty.edu

Eta sigma gamma (ESG) is the perfect opportunity for you to put knowledge from your degree into practice!

ESG focuses on providing students with professional opportunities in teaching, service and research.

If you have at least a 2.7 GPA, this club is for you!



Meetings are Tuesdays at 5:30pm in the Center for Natural Science 352

February 3
March 3
April 7
April 28

Contact:

Julia Komarnicki (President): jkomarnicki@liberty.edu
Darlene Martin (Faculty Sponsor): dmmartin@liberty.edu

ESG has two membership levels for you to choose from:

- One year national/chapter membership \$75 (with yearly renewal of \$25 each year national dues and \$25 chapter dues).
- OR 3 year national / 1 year chapter membership \$125 (plus \$25 chapter dues each following year you are at LU).

- ✓ Being an ESG member provides you with access to apply for travel and project grants.
- ✓ ESG national recognizes the hard work of ESG chapters and individuals through scholarships and awards.
- ✓ ESG offers opportunities to learn from leaders in the field and other chapters.
- ✓ Graduate with your ESG honor cord with active participation in the club.

Scan Below to Apply:



Co-Presidents:

Bright Agbotui - bagbotui@liberty.edu
&

Christian Cooper - cfcooper1@liberty.edu



Delta Omega

Honorary Society in Public Health

JOIN DELTA OMEGA

DELTA OMEGA SOCIETY, EPSILON MU CHAPTER OF THE LIBERTY UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The purpose of Delta Omega is to promote the excellence of Liberty University Graduate students in the field of Public health who exhibit the commitment of the society by the, "...dedication of an individual to increasing the quality of the field [of public health], as well as to the protection and advancement of the health of all people."

Students qualify for nomination after a full year of academic classes and after meeting all core commitments, excellence in academic achievement, service beyond self, and development of the individual and profession, spiritual & character statements, and devotedness to the practice of the public health profession. Students will be able to self-nominate.

Applications release once each term – for 30 days in the Fall and for two weeks in the Spring. Watch for Applications after you have been in the program for two terms/1 year!

****Please scan the QR code for the application!**

Or contact bagbotui@liberty.edu for additional information.

**CONNECT WITH
US ON
SOCIALS!**





GATE SYSTEM

- Throughout your time in the program you will have gates that you will accomplish as milestone markings
- Each program has a different path of what their gates will consist of
- Please refer to your handouts to get a more descriptive breakdown that is specific to your degree program

**IF YOU NEED TO SEE A GATE COORDINATOR, SEND AN EMAIL TO PHGATES@LIBERTY.EDU TO SET UP A FORMAL ADVISING MEETING*

Master of Public Health

GATE COURSES TO GRADUATION



GATE 1 - PHGT 510 & HLTH 501

Students pass gate 1 when they complete PHGT 510 and HLTH 501 (with a letter grade B- or higher)

1

GATE 3 - PHGT 513

Students can enroll in gate 3 once all core courses are complete, and a portfolio is created to satisfy CEPH requirements.

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GATE 2 - PHGT 512 & 12 CREDITS

Students pass gate 2 when they complete 12 credit hours and PHGT 512 (public health essay)

GATE 4 - PHGT 514

Students pass gate 4 when they complete the competency exam with a 70% (350/500) or higher.

GATE 6 - GRADUATION

Students must apply for graduation! Degree will be conferred after students complete all classes with a passing grade.



GATE 5 - HLTH 698

Student pass gate 5 by completing Practicum (HLTH 698). Minimum of 120 Field Hours

Master in Science of Public Health

GATE COURSES TO GRADUATION



GATE 1 - PHGT 510 & HLTH 501

Students pass gate 1 when they complete PHGT 510 and HLTH 501 (with a letter grade B- or higher)

GATE 2 - PHGT 512 & 12 CREDITS

Students pass gate 2 when they complete 12 credit hours and PHGT 512 (public health essay)

GATE 4 - PHGT 514

Students pass gate 4 when they complete the competency exam with a 70% (350/500) or higher.

GATE 6 - GRADUATION

Students must apply for graduation! Degree will be conferred after students complete all classes with a passing grade.

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GATE 3 - PHGT 513

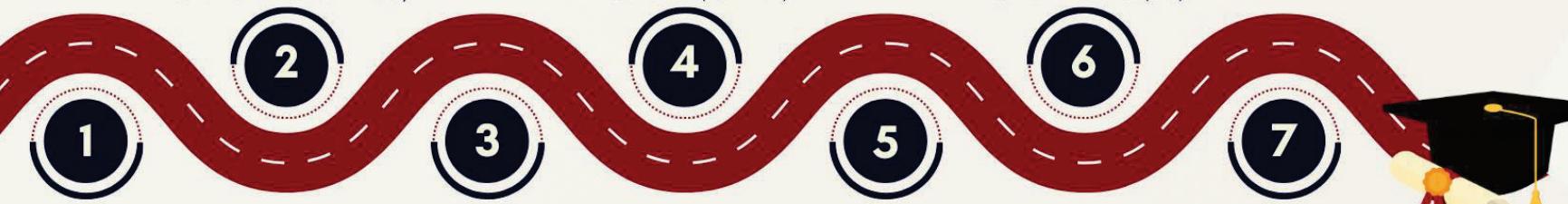
Students can enroll in gate 3 once all core courses are complete, and a portfolio is created to satisfy CEPH requirements.

GATE 5 - PUBH 689 AND EPDM 690

Students pass gate 5 by completing Applied Practical Experience (PUBH 689) - Minimum of 60 hours & Epidemiology Thesis (EPDM 690) - A critical and scientific written thesis of applied knowledge and skills acquired

Doctorate of Public Health

GATE COURSES TO GRADUATION



GATE 1 - PHGT 701

Students pass gate 1 when they complete
PHGT 701 & Doctoral Reflection

**Students that come from a non-CEPH
accredited school, or non-public health
field will also need to complete PCHR 700*

GATE 2 - PHGT 702 & 12 CREDITS

Students pass gate 2 when they
complete 12 credit hours and PHGT 702:
Public Health Dissertation Essay

GATE 4 - PHGT 704 & PCHR 987

Students pass gate 4 when they complete
DrPH Competency Exam (PHGT 704) and
Dissertation I (PCHR 987).

GATE 6 - PCHR 989 & PCHR 990

Students pass gate 6 by successfully
completing Dissertation III (PCHR 989) and
Dissertation Defense (990).

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GATE 3 - PHGT 703

Students can enroll in gate 3
once all core courses are
complete, and a portfolio is
created to satisfy CEPH
requirements.

GATE 5 - PCHR 998 & PCHR 988

Students pass gate 5 by successfully completing
Practicum (PCHR 998) and
Dissertation II (PCHR 988).

GATE 7 - GRADUATION

Students must apply for graduation!
Degree will be conferred after students
complete all classes with a passing grade.

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY STUDENT HEALTH CENTER & WELLNESS INITIATIVES

The Department of Student Health Center seeks to provide quality medical health services and educational programming that promotes healthy living in the university community.

LJ

Student Health Form

- A part of the admissions process, students must complete the Student Health Form.
- The Student Health Form is comprised of 3 sections:
 - Immunizations
 - Medical History
 - TB Questionnaire
- Failure to complete all 3 sections of the Student Health Form before the deadline will result in a \$50 late fine.
- **Deadline for Spring 2026: January 23, 2026**

Student Health Form

LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY | Welcome to **ASIST**
Automated Student Information Services Tool

[Admissions](#) [General Information](#) [Student](#) [Financial Aid](#) [Faculty Services](#)

Search

[RETURN TO MENU](#) [SITE MAP](#) [HELP](#) [EXIT](#)

Student

Registration

Check your registration status, class schedule and add or drop classes

Student Records

View your holds, grades, transcripts, apply to graduate, or check your degree completion plan audit

Student Account

View your account summary and tax information or make a web payment

Housing

View your housing assignment options.

Financial Check-In

All Students must complete Financial Check-In. This is the means of confirming financial arrangements, schedules and housing if available.

Student Health Form

View and complete your Student Health Form requirements.

Applicant Status

Display applicants admission status, check list & financial aid.

RELEASE: 8.8.3

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LJ

Student Health Fee

- Liberty University has partnered with nationally recognized CVFP-Medical Group to provide students with:
 - Quality medical, health promotion, and preventive care services.
- \$170 Student Health Fee/Semester
 - Unlimited visits, EKGs, lab draws, basic X-Rays
 - Visit <https://www.lustudenthealth.com/> for more information about services not included in Student Health Fee.



Wellness Initiatives

- Live Healthy Liberty
- Health Expo
- Health Education/Promotion Programming
- Internship Opportunities
- Virtual Health Education Campaigns
- Travel Flu Clinic (Fall semester only)



Contact Us

- Student Health Center Phone: (434) 338-7773
 - Webpage: <https://www.lustudenthealth.com/>
- Student Counseling Services Phone: (434) 582-2651



2026 Curaçao Mission Trip

June 15-26



PROMOTORNAN DI SALÚ = COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER (CHW) TRAINING WORKSHOP

JUNE 15, 2026 – JUNE 19, 2026 (confirmed)

HEALTH FAIR (IGLESIA HOUSE OF WORSHIP, CURAÇAO)

JUNE 20, 2026 (confirmed)

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (BLS) AND STOP THE BLEED (STB) TRAINING FOR SCHOOL TEACHERS (AND STAFF) IN CURAÇAO

JUNE 22, 2026 – JUNE 26, 2026 (TENTATIVE)

Contact Dr. Kenneth Christopher (kchristopher1@liberty.edu) if interested!

SPRING 2026 DEPARTMENT EVENTS:

- PH Series – *February 16, 2026 @ JFLBRY 001, Jerry Fallwell Library Terrace Conference Room, 10:30-11:30am*
- Spring Break – *March 16-20, 2026*
- Public Health Conference – *March 27, 2026 @ Liberty Mountain Conference Center,*
- Easter Holiday – *April 6, 2026*
- Research Week – *April 20-23, 2026*
 - ***Posters are to be sent to the faculty advisor no later than March 13, 2026.*
- Nutrition Fair - *TBD*
- Final Exams – *May 7-12, 2026*
- SHS Undergraduate Graduation – *May 14, 2026, 6:00pm*
- SHS Graduate Graduation – *May 15, 2026, 11:00am*

Stay in tune with our Instagram and Facebook for more updates and reminders!

NEED ADDITIONAL HELP?

- For additional help from our department, please email us at PHhelper@liberty.edu
 - For information on the Gates please email PHgates@liberty.edu
 - For information on the Practicum please email PHpracticum@liberty.edu

GRACE

BLESS US OH LORD
AND THESE THY GIFTS
WHICH WE ARE ABOUT
TO RECEIVE
FROM THY BOUNTY
T H R O U G H
CHRIST
OUR LORD
A M E N