

**GRADUATE PUBLIC HEALTH  
STUDENT ORIENTATION  
SPRING 2025**

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

ARTHUR S. DEMOSS HALL



## 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.

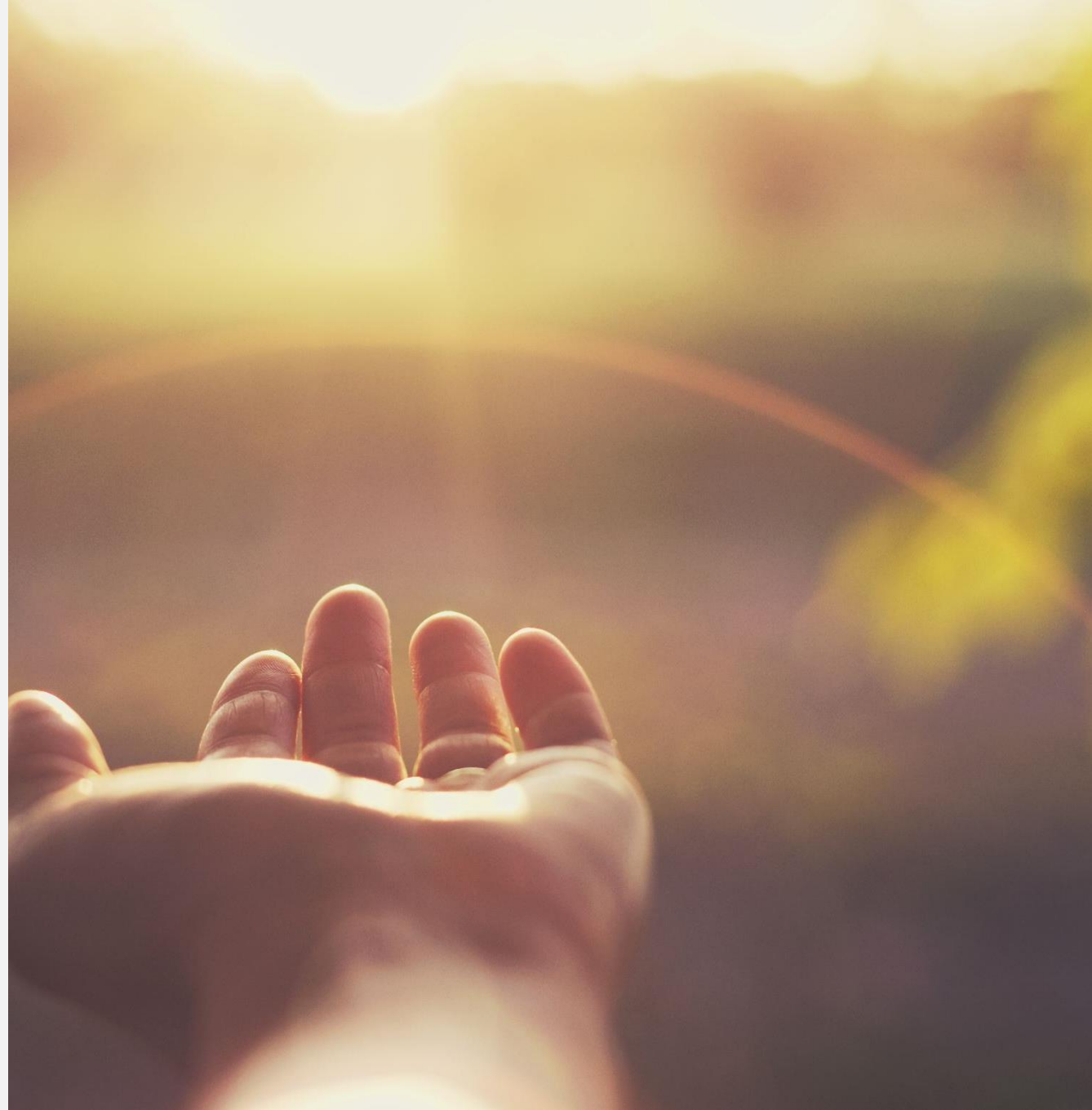
*“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11*

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 (Omnichannel)
- 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)

# ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

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Dr. Heidi DiFrancesca – Dean

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Dr. Brendan Haynie – Associate Dean

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Dr. Benjamin Forrest – Administrative  
Chair, Online Programs

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Megan Bishop – Faculty Support  
Coordinator

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Jane Bailey – Department Administrative  
Assistant

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Samantha Leigh – Director of Practicum

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Erin Chocklett– Gate Coordinator II

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Cassidy Harris – Gate Coordinator I

# PUBLIC HEALTH FACULTY

Dr. Oswald Attin –  
Department Chair,  
Public and Community  
Health,  
Biostatistics

Dr. Linnaya Graf –  
Program Director, MPH  
& MSPH,  
Community Health  
Promotion

Dr. Gineska Castillo –  
Program Director, MPH  
Online,  
Environmental  
Health/Online

Dr. Robyn Anderson –  
Program Director,  
Bachelors  
Epidemiology

Dr. Anna Kebles,  
Nutrition

Dr. Jeff Lennon,  
Global Health

Dr. Emmanuel Clottey  
Global Health &  
Environmental

Dr. Jonathan Giles  
Public Health Policy &  
Data

LUO faculty and  
Bachelor level faculty

# GET TO KNOW YOUR STUDENT LEADERSHIP

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

## Graduate Student Assistants

- Jessica Arsin
- Sophia DiDomenico
- Chinonso Eziechi
- Raymond Suonyir
- Bright Agbotui
- Lauren Coco

## Liberty University Public Health Student Association

- President/Point of Contact – Katelyn McCleary
- Vice President – Nicole Durham

## Delta Omega, Epsilon Mu

- President – Miebaka Roberts
- Vice President – Professor Giordana Morales

## Eta Sigma Gamma

- President – Lauren Coco
- Vice President – Clara Brola



# 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
- Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)
  - Oct 6, 2017- Dec 31, 2024
  - Self-study 2023-2024, Site visit November 7-8<sup>th</sup> 2024
  - Anticipated updated CEPH decision- April 2025



# 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.

### ***Choosing Electives: Align your Degree & Goals***

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



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

**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.

## Advisors

- **Epidemiology:** Dr. Anderson   **Community Health Promotion:** Dr. Graf   (**Environmental:** Dr Castillo)
- **Global Health:** Dr Clottey   **Nutrition:** Dr. Kebles   **Public Health Policy:** Dr Giles   **MSPH:** Dr Attin



For all degrees: Applied Practical Experience and Interprofessional Experience will be required for your Electronic Portfolio which you will complete in PHGT 513.



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**



**Email – *must* use your  
Liberty email address**

**Questions?  
[PHhelper@liberty.edu](mailto:PHhelper@liberty.edu)**



**Telephone**

**Department Phone– 434-582-2333  
Dr. Graf, Director – 434-592-5985  
Dr. Attin, Chair – 434-592-6908**



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

# RESIDENTIAL LOGISTICS

Graduate Student Handbook: ***Please read it!***

LUCOM Building access

Transportation

Liberty Way

Honor Code

See Jane after Drop/Add

Parking- You can park in the lower lot marked CS (at LUCOM). If you have an RS sticker, please confirm with **Kevin Bolden**

Buses- Run every 30 mins

## 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**





## GET INVOLVED (RESIDENTIAL AND ONLINE STUDENTS)

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

# Join LUPHSA!

Come Join us for the  
next Spring Meeting  
to hear from  
Cali Anderson-  
Nelson  
Head Epidemiologist  
at VDH,



Spring Meetings  
630pm-730pm in  
DEMOSS 1286  
January 28<sup>th</sup>  
February 11<sup>th</sup>  
March 25<sup>th</sup>  
April 26<sup>th</sup> (GALA)

**Liberty University Public Health Student Association**

# Eta Sigma Gamma

## Contact:

Lauren Coco (President) : lecoco@liberty.edu

Clara Brola (Vice-President): ckrancourt@liberty.edu

Darlene Martin (Faculty Sponsor): dmmartin@liberty.edu



## Opportunities



- Professional development
- Trainings/certifications
- Collaboration with other students
- Community service



## Open to:

- MPH students who have completed at least 2 semesters in the undergraduate or graduate program (including ALL MSPH and MPH students)
- Cost for the year (member): \$75
  - Provisional member: \$10, only for members who do not have 2 semesters completed.

Join us at our Spring meeting  
February 4<sup>th</sup>, from 530-630pm  
In JFLBRY 171 for a Gambling  
Seminar presented by Horizon  
Behavioral Health.





# DELTA OMEGA

**DELTA OMEGA SOCIETY, EPSILON MU  
CHAPTER OF THE LIBERTY UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AND  
COMMUNITY 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!*

**GET  
CONNECTED  
WITH US...**

# Connect With Us!

**Instagram:** [@liberty\\_pch](#)

**Facebook:** Liberty University Department of Public and Community Health

**Twitter:** [@Liberty\\_PCH](#)

**LinkedIn:** Liberty University Department of Public and Community Health

**Spotify:** LU Department of Public & Community Health

**PodBean:** LU Department of Public and Community Health

**LUPHSA Instagram:** [@luphsa1971](#)



**GATE SYSTEM- APPLIES  
TO ALL PROGRAMS**

**GATE I: ADMISSION  
TO GRADUATE  
SCHOOL,  
COMPLETION OF  
HLTH 501, AND  
COMPLETION OF  
PHGT 510**

Once students have been accepted for admission and enroll in HLTH 501, they have entered Gate I.

Students are required to complete HLTH 501 as the first course in preparation to complete the program.

Students will also enroll in and complete the first Gate course, PHGT 510 Public Health Orientation Course.

Students complete Gate I once they pass PHGT 510 and HLTH 501 with a grade of C or better.

You will be contacted by the Gate Coordinator to be added to the Graduate Public Health Portal after passing HLTH 501.

## **GATE 2: COMPLETION OF A SEMESTER AND PHGT 512**

Gate 2 is completed after the student has fulfilled Gate 1, taken 12 credit hours, and finalized the PHGT 512 Public Health Essay Course.

Upon entering Gate 2, students will enroll in PHGT 512 Public Health Essay Course. Each student is asked to write a paper explaining what public health is and how it fits into their career goals (1000 words minimum).



## GATE 3: COMPLETION OF PHGT 513

- Students enter Gate 3 upon successfully completing Gate 2 (PHGT 512) by enrolling in PHGT 513, Public Health Portfolio.
  - Establishes a reservoir of key assessments from core classes
  - A student resume/CV
  - Documentation of applied practical experiences and interprofessional experiences
  - Background Check (must be integrated with InPlace)
- Without a successfully completed portfolio, students will not be allowed to register for MPH-HLTH 698 (practicum) or MSPH-PUBH 689 (applied practical experience)

## GATE 4: COMPLETION OF PHGT 514 PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICUM AND COMPETENCY EXAM

- PHGT 513: Public Health Portfolio includes the Competency Exam study guide to help students prepare for the exam, which will be completed in PHGT 514.
- PHGT 514 includes the Competency Exam, resources for the MPH Practicum class 698, or MSPH Applied Practical Experience PUBH 689, and the application process for the Practicum.
- *A passing score of 70% is a requirement to register for Practicum.* The exam may be taken a **maximum** of 3 times.



**GATE 5: COMPLETION  
OF MPH PRACTICUM**

**OR**

**MSPH APPLIED  
PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE**

Students must complete all core and concentration courses and PHGT514 (competency exam) before enrolling in the MPH-practicum or MSPH-applied practical experience.

Students are responsible for locating an appropriate practicum to match their degree concentration.

MPH students-120 hours (minimum) over 16 weeks (full semester).  
MSPH students- 60 hours (minimum) over 16 weeks (full semester).

Must be a predefined project that assists an organization in addressing an unmet need while supporting growth in public health practice skills within the student's concentration

Complete all required documents in InPlace (submit a completed MPH-Practicum or MSPH- Applied Practice Agreement)

Contact the Director of Practicum at [PHpracticum@liberty.edu](mailto:PHpracticum@liberty.edu) for help with preceptor site approval and registration for MPH-HLTH 698 or MSPH-PUBH 689

# GATE 6: APPLY FOR GRADUATION

- MPH students Apply for graduation upon enrollment in HLTH 698 (Practicum) to ensure degree conferral at the end of the course.
- MSPH students apply for graduation while completing both PUBH 689 (Applied Practice Experience) and PUBH 690 (Thesis).
- Refer to the University Registrar's webpage for details.
- You may contact Commencement directly for any questions specific to graduation.

Note: Students may walk in the graduation ceremony with up to 6 outstanding credits. Additionally, there will be an opportunity to apply for department awards if you meet the necessary requirements.



***GRACE***

BLESS US OH LORD  
AND THESE THY GIFTS  
WHICH WE ARE ABOUT  
TO RECEIVE  
FROM THY BOUNTY  
THROUGH  
CHRIST  
OUR LORD  
AMEN

# DEPARTMENT EVENTS: LOOKING AHEAD

## Spring

- Public Health Series – February 17, 2025, CNS 128, 10:30-11:30
- Dean's Lecture Series- Feb TBD
- Public Health Conference – March 28, 2025, LMCC
- Remedy Conference – April 11-12, 2025
- Research Week – April 14-17, 2025
- Nutrition Fair– April 22, 2025, 10:00-3:00
- Reading Day – April 30, 2025
- Graduation – May 8-10, 2025



## NEED ADDITIONAL HELP?

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