

## **REQUIRED INFORMATION\* FOR MPH STUDENTS TO ENSURE PASSAGE THROUGH THE GATE SYSTEM**

A Gate System for the MPH program began in 2015, and to improve success a minor change to the timing of the Competency Exam within the Gates became effective 10/1/2016. All students will be informed of the Gates and Competency Exam each semester. The Portfolio and Competency Exam are hosted on the MPH Student concourse. Students will be added to the concourse by the Practicum Coordinator (or designee) upon successful completion of HLTH 501. Enrollment in HLTH 511 will generate addition of a student to the Competency Exam group and invitation to complete the background check and portfolio.

Below is the updated Gate System process, and MPH residential course availability by semester. While all MPH courses are available online each term, the availability of residential courses varies by semester. Please familiarize yourself with both of these items, and plan your program requirements accordingly. If you are a residential student you must take residential courses. Registering for online courses creates low enrollment, and those courses with low enrollment may be dropped by the Registrar's Office. This situation impacts course availability for classmates planning to take residential courses. All core courses are typically taught in the residential format both semesters, but there are variances in concentration and elective courses. In addition, elective courses are sometimes offered residentially in an intensive format according to the level of interest. These will be announced as they arise.

### **Gate 1: Admission to Graduate School**

- Once students have been accepted for admission, they have completed Gate 1.
- Students will be advised to complete HLTH 501 as the first course in preparation to complete the program.
  - a. GPA < 3.0\*
    - i. Admit cautionary, students must take HLTH 500 in the first semester
    - ii. Recommend online students take HLTH 500 as only course in 1st term, then take 501 plus intro course in 2nd term. If they have to take a second course in the first term, take the intro to concentration (620, 630, and 640) with HLTH 500.
    - iii. Residential students may enroll for 9 credits in semester – take concentration intro and either 507 or 509
  - b. GPA above 3.0 may take HLTH 501
- A total 12 credits of graduate work may be completed prior to Gate 2.

### **Gate 2: Apply for Degree Candidacy/Eligibility**

- The faculty understands that many students enter graduate studies at Liberty University to explore career options and change programs after taking a few courses on any given degree completion plan.

\*indicates essential information for advising

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- Gate 2 serves to verify the student has the desire and competencies to complete the MPH degree. Verification of desire will be established by completing a short essay on the meaning of Public Health and how it fits the student career goals. Meeting this gate establishes the student as belonging to the MPH program. The students completing this step will provide the basis for calculating enrollment and completion statistics.
- Gate 2 should be completed once the student has taken 12 credit hours including completion of HLTH 501 with a grade of C or better.\*
- Students will not be permitted to progress through the program without successfully completing HLTH 501.

### **Gate 3: Completion of Electronic Portfolio**

- Students may begin creating a portfolio upon successful completion of HLTH 501 (biostatistics) with a grade of C or better.\*
- Take HLTH 511 last (although only HLTH 501 is a pre-requisite the other courses should be completed before or with HLTH 511).\*
- The electronic portfolio serves as repository for documents to demonstrate student achievements as they develop. These assignments provide an assessment of student progress and are evidence of program effectiveness. Addition of appropriate documents is a student responsibility. Samples of assignments will be drawn from portfolios to assess student performance. The portfolio will include:
  - An essay on public health and how the MPH will be used to meet student career goals. (See the MPH Student concourse in your non-term courses in Blackboard for details).
  - Key assignments from each course (see Portfolio link in menu for details).
  - A current resume or CV. Students are encouraged to contact the Career Center for assistance in resume or CV development.
  - A paragraph describing any volunteer service, co-curricular activities, or extra-curricular activities considered as applied practical experiences (APE) or inter-professional experiences (IPE).
  - Background Check. This element is completed during HLTH 511\* as a requirement for enrollment in HLTH 698. A receipt should be posted to the portfolio to indicate completion.

### **Gate 4: Culminating Experience/Competency Exam\***

- Students entering the program prior to fall 2018 will take the exam through the MPH Student concourse. Students beginning in fall 2018 and afterwards will register for the zero-credit HLTH 600 course.\*
- The competency exam provides evidence of a student's readiness for a practicum and graduation. A passing score of 70% is a requirement to register for HLTH 698. The exam can be retaken 3 times during HLTH 600 to achieve a passing score.\*

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- Assignments stored within the electronic portfolio and the study guide on the MPH student concourse will help the student prepare for the exam.
- Students may request an opportunity to take the exam or register for HLTH 600 upon completion of all core curriculum cores (HLTH 501, 503, 505, 507, 509, and 511).
- The exam will be taken in the semester prior to enrollment in the HLTH 698.
- A completed portfolio will be documented in HLTH 600, serve as a culminating experience, and provide documentation for future career development.

**Gate 5: Practicum\***

- Students should refer to the MPH Practicum Guide for details about selecting and completing a practicum.
- Students must complete all core and cognate courses, and HLTH 600 (Competency Exam and Electronic Portfolio) prior to enrolling in a Practicum.
- Students are responsible for locating an appropriate Practicum to match their degree concentration and career goals.
- Securing the practicum site must be coordinated and approved by the Practicum Coordinator at least 2 weeks prior to the term during which the student intends to enroll in HLTH 698.

**Gate 6: Apply for Graduation\***

- Students are permitted to walk in the commencement ceremony prior to completion of the Practicum; however, students should apply for graduation upon enrollment in the Practicum to ensure degree conferral at the end of the course.
- Go to the Registrar webpage for details.

**Typical Residential Course Offerings\***

	<u>Fall Semester<sup>^</sup></u>		<u>Spring Semester<sup>^</sup></u>
HLTH 500#	HLTH 622	HLTH 500#	HLTH 633
HLTH 501	HLTH 625	HLTH 501	HLTH 634
HLTH 503	HLTH 630#	HLTH 503	HLTH 640#
HLTH 505	HLTH 632	HLTH 505	HLTH 642
HLTH 507	HLTH 635	HLTH 507	HLTH 644
HLTH 509	HLTH 640#	HLTH 509	HLTH 651
HLTH 511	HLTH 643	HLTH 511	HLTH 698
HLTH 551	HLTH 645	HLTH 554	
HLTH 552	HLTH 650	HLTH 620#	
HLTH 553	HLTH 698	HLTH 623	
HLTH 620#		HLTH 624	
		HLTH 630#	

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