Next Generation Scholars Program

Identifying the best and brightest future public health leaders.
What is the Next Generation Scholars Program?

The Boston University School of Public Health Next Generation Scholars program is a program that offers alumni the opportunity to help shape the future of the School of Public Health by nominating students with the greatest potential to be successful in our educational programs. Next Generation Scholars are offered the opportunity to become part of a cohort of select students, for enhanced networking, access to selected co-curricular opportunities, and scholarship support.

Why BUSPH, Why Now?

It is an exciting time to enter public health, and a graduate degree from BUSPH—ranked among the top 10 public health schools in the country—is a highly regarded credential. BUSPH is an innovator in public health education with a new and flexible curriculum designed to prepare students for a range of career opportunities. Students gain a strong, integrated, problem-based foundation in the values, history, methods, and functions of public health, and build skills and expertise in a selected area of specialization.

What are the Advantages for Next Generation Scholars?

Next Generation Scholars will have access to scholarships for up to 25 percent of their graduate tuition.

Once they matriculate, Next Generation Scholars receive additional networking opportunities with the Dean and the School’s faculty. For example, one of the Dean’s Seminars on contemporary issues in public health will be dedicated to Next Generation Scholars. Scholars will be recognized at the event and invited to join Dean Galea and the guest speakers to celebrate their accomplishments.

The BUSPH family of Scholars

At BUSPH, community is everything. Next Generation Scholars are graduate students who are recommended by SPH alumni—our best resource for identifying students with the greatest potential to make a difference in public health. Select Scholars are undergraduates who are offered early acceptance to a graduate program based on their outstanding performance and potential as public health professionals. Community Scholars are public health professionals that complete a master of public health degree while continue to work in the field and Global Scholars are international scholars selected from partner schools in our global network worldwide who are engaged in graduate training at BUSPH.
Why Earn a Master’s Degree?

A master’s degree increases job opportunities, earning potential and job security. Increasingly, professions are requiring master’s degrees and selected master’s degrees are among the best graduate degrees for jobs in 2016 (Fortune, March 21, 2016). Over 92 percent of BUSPH graduates are employed or enrolled in a doctoral program within 6 months and our graduates think critically and collaborate to develop effective solutions to real world problems locally, nationally, and globally; particularly those affecting the disadvantaged, vulnerable and underserved.

Master’s Degrees at BUSPH—Master of Public Health

Our Master of Public Health (MPH) degree program, is a 48-credit program that provides:

- A strong foundation in the values, history, methods, and functions of public health through an Integrated Core Curriculum which provides the foundational knowledge and skills required for public health professionals in the 21st century;

- Rigorous and sequenced training in focused specialty areas through Interdisciplinary Certificates in exciting areas targeted to the needs of the field (see below). The specialization is the distinguishing feature of the BU MPH and designed to be adaptable to changes in the field and the needs of the workforce;

- Professional Development and Practical Experience including an enhanced Practicum to ensure that all graduates have the required practical experience for successful employment, an Integrative Learning Experience where students demonstrate their abilities to integrate, synthesize, and apply the knowledge and skills from their specialty areas as well as from other areas of public health that are relevant to their professional goals, and a comprehensive, co-curricular Career Development Program to ensure that all graduates have the necessary competencies, techniques and professional confidence to effectively market themselves during the job search process and beyond.

MPH Interdisciplinary Certificates

Functional Areas:
- Community Assessment, Program Design, Implementation, and Evaluation
- Design and Conduct of Public Health Research
- Environmental Hazard Assessment
- Epidemiology and Biostatistics
- Health Policy and Law
- Health Promotion and Communication
- Healthcare Management (CAHME accredited)
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Program Management
Context Areas:
- Chronic and Non-Communicable Diseases
- Global Health
- Infectious Disease
- Maternal and Child Health
- Mental Health and Substance Use
- Pharmaceuticals
- Sex, Sexuality, and Gender
- Social Justice, Human Rights, and Health Equality

Length of the Program

Students enrolled in the MPH can complete it in several formats – the most popular is 16 months (full-time) but the program can also be completed in 2 Years (full/part-time) or on a part-time basis over several years depending on personal circumstances and professional goals. Next Generation Scholars may be eligible to complete the MPH in one year in an accelerated format by completing core courses in the summer.

Master’s Degrees at BUSPH—Master of Science (MS)

Master of Science (MS) degrees are 32 credits and include:

- MS in Applied Biostatistics. There is a growing demand for biostatisticians with expertise in design and analysis of clinical trials and observational studies, statistical modeling skills for big data including genetic, genomic and health outcomes data, facility with multiple statistical computing programs, strong oral and written communication skills, and the ability to work effectively both independently and in interdisciplinary teams. The MS in Applied Biostatistics provides intensive, affordable graduate training in applied biostatistics to meet the growing needs of employers for professionally trained biostatisticians.

- MS in Environmental Health Data Analytics. Environmental exposures are among the leading contributors to health problems globally. But, how do we know what to do about these exposures? How do we prioritize clean up or protective legislation? How do we make decisions when the science is uncertain? To prepare students to answer these challenging questions, this program provides a strong foundation in both environmental health sciences and analytical approaches used to inform environmental policy decisions. Students work on real problems to design meaningful solutions in the exciting field of environmental health.

- MS in Epidemiology. Epidemiologists are at the core of investigations to understand causes of disease and how to prevent them from occurring. Identifying how personal behaviors, neighborhoods, genetics, social and cultural factors affect health is complicated. Students will learn to design studies, collect, analyze and interpret data to affect meaningful change in health.
• MS in Health Systems and Services Research prepares students to affect positive change across the growing and ever-changing healthcare sector. Students learn both quantitative and qualitative research methods to investigate healthcare quality, outcomes and economics. Students learn valuable skills in project management, budgeting and communication to maximize success in dealing with complex problems in clinical and management settings.

• MS in Public Health Nutrition. Public health nutrition challenges such as obesity, diabetes, and food insecurity are largely preventable yet continue to pose significant threats to the health of populations across the life-course. Highly industrialized food systems (the number one use of energy and water in the US) are a major contributor to these challenges as well as to the growing problem of greenhouse gas emissions. Students will develop research skills to address public health challenges and promote nutrition and well-being, particularly among vulnerable and underserved populations who are both impacted by food production practices and lack access to healthy food choices.

Length of the Program

Students who enroll in one of the MS degrees can complete the program in 12 months full-time or over two years part-time depending on personal circumstances and professional goals. The same rigorous program is offered in a flexible environment to help students balance commitments outside of the classroom.

How do Alumni Nominate a Next Generation Scholar?

To nominate an applicant as a Next Generation Scholar, alumni complete a simple on-line form available at: bu.edu/sph/nextgen. When the applicant completes their SOPHAS application to the Boston University School of Public Health, the BUSPH Admissions Office links the nomination form to the application and notifies the applicant that they have been nominated by a distinguished member of the SPH alumni community.