

## Master's Program in Public Health

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### ■ Master of Public Health

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#### Program Educational Objectives

This course shall aim at acquiring knowledge and skills to enhance specialization of public health centering on the five core areas: epidemiology, biostatistics, health policy and management, environmental health and social and behavioral sciences. In addition, students shall be actively encouraged to take classes of relevant areas and aim at improvement of interdiscipline. In order to foster human resources that play an active role globally, all the General Foundation Subjects / compulsory subjects shall be established in English by creating environment where students can learn together with international students.

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<b>Graduate Profile</b>	The following persons shall be developed: policy-makers of health and medical treatment, administrative practitioners of health/medicine, epidemiology specialists, biostatistics specialists, practitioners of local medical care, specialists of medical safety and management, specialists of health education and health promotion, and other practitioners that acquire specialized techniques of public health.
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Diploma Policy

The degree of Master of Public Health is commenced to those who have fulfilled the requirements for the completion of the Master's programs, as set out in the Graduate School Regulations of the University of Tsukuba and related university regulations, and who are deemed to have the following competences.

	Competences	Evaluation perspectives
<b>Knowledge and Skills</b>	1. Knowledge application competence: Ability to contribute to society with advanced knowledge	① Can you apply knowledge gained through research and other activities in society? ② Can you identify new problems, even in other fields of expertise, based on broad knowledge?
	2. Management competence: Ability to appropriately address challenges from broad standpoints	① Can you take on major tasks with systematic planning? ② Can you understand and solve problems from multiple perspectives?
	3. Communication competence: Ability to accurately and clearly communicate expert knowledge	① Are you capable of efficient communication for research purposes? ② Can you discuss research or research-specific knowledge with experts from your own field and from other fields?
	4. Teamwork competence: Ability to work with a team and actively contribute to the achievement of goals	① Do you have experience cooperatively and actively working on challenges as part of a team? ② Have you helped promote projects and activities other than your own research?
	5. Internationality competence: Willingness to contribute to international society	① Are you aware of making contributions to international society and getting involved in international activities? ② Have you obtained the linguistic skills necessary for international information collection and action?
	6. Core area 1 of public health sciences: epidemiology: an ability for application of epidemiology skills to apply basic knowledge relating to epidemiology as the core area of public health and an ability to apply such knowledge in public health activities.	Students shall learn if capable of solving health problems of human population or the method to verify research design, research ethics, data collection and interpretation and acquire an ability to practically apply it.

	Competences	Evaluation perspectives
<b>Knowledge and Skills</b>	7. Core area 2 of public health sciences: an ability for application of biostatistics skills to apply basic knowledge relating to biostatistics as the core area of public health and an ability to apply such knowledge in public health activities.	Students shall learn the basic of biostatistics and acquire an ability relating to practical application of biostatistics from planning, selecting analysis method to putting into practice/interpretation of data.
	8. Core area 3 of public health sciences: an ability for application of health policy and management skills to apply basic knowledge relating to health policy and management as the core area of public health and an ability to apply such knowledge in public health activities.	Students shall analyze the issues relating to health/medical care such as disease prevention/medical care/nursing care etc. by making use of policy sciences and economics and procedures of health policy and management and acquire an ability to connect such learning with policy proposal.
	9. Core area 4 of public health sciences: an ability for application of social and behavioral sciences skills to apply basic knowledge relating to social and behavioral sciences as the core area of public health and an ability to apply such knowledge in public health activities.	Students shall learn the procedures of social science and behavioral science and acquire the skills to apply such learning to research relating to salutogenesis and intervention activities in society.
	10. Core area 5 of public health sciences: an ability for application of environmental health sciences skills to apply basic knowledge relating to environmental health sciences as the core area of public health and an ability to apply such knowledge in public health activities.	Students shall learn the impact on human health by environment and acquire knowledge/skills to plan/carry out environmental health measures in an international framework.

<p><b>Guidelines for Assessing Learning Outcomes</b></p>	<p>The evaluation of learning outcomes is based on the “Achievement Evaluation Table” and objectively confirms and evaluates the acquisition status of competences based on the diploma policy for each stage below. The stages and methods of achievement evaluation are shown below.</p> <p>1st stage (end of fall semester of 1st year): The academic affairs committee and supervisor will conduct the 1st stage achievement review based on the rubric and share it with the chief examiner and co-examiners who are conducting the mid-term evaluation.</p> <p>Final stage (end of fall semester of 2nd year): The academic affairs committee and supervisor will conduct the second stage achievement review based on the rubric and will share this with the chief examiner and co-examiners who are reviewing the thesis. Afterwards, all members of the steering committee will conduct a final achievement review.</p> <p>The knowledge and abilities (competence) set out in the diploma policy will be presented as specific outcome goals at the time of admission, along with evaluation criteria and corresponding main studies. Self-evaluation is conducted when students advance to the next grade, and their achievement is promoted. Upon completion, students will be evaluated comprehensively, taking into account the percentage of achievement of each competence based on their subject completion status, performance at presentations, academic presentations, paper submissions, TA/TF experience, and extracurricular public health activities.</p>
<p><b>Evaluation Criteria for Degree Theses/ Dissertations</b></p>	<p>The master's degree (public health sciences) shall be awarded to the person whose master's thesis is approved as valid regarding the following evaluation items and judged as a pass in final examination after satisfying the requirements prescribed in school regulations of University of Tsukuba. The evaluation item shall include meaning of research tasks, grasping and understanding of previous research, validity of research method, conclusion and validity of logics to lead such conclusion, appropriateness of features/structure, appropriate quotation of literature/materials. Research of master's thesis shall be supervised by multiple faculty members as “Dissertation in Public Health Sciences”. For the students who pass midterm individual evaluation which shall be conducted from the latter half of the first year to the first half of the second year, the final examination shall be performed. Through consideration of results of such examination by the thesis examination committee and steering committee of Master's Program in Public Health Sciences and Graduate School Steering Committee, the degree conferment shall be decided.</p>

## Curriculum Policy

The curriculum of Master's Program in Public Health shall consist of basic subjects and specialized subjects, which is organized in order that students can learn specialized knowledge of public health sciences while comprehensively leaning by selecting from established subjects. In line with the curriculum of international standard required for acquisition of Master of Public Health (MPH) degree, the compulsory subjects shall be designated focusing on core learning areas. By establishing all the compulsory subjects and most of the selective compulsory subjects in English, the environment shall be organized in order that not only international students but also Japanese can acquire the degree by the curriculum in English. Additionally, by making use of the systems of TA (Teaching Assistant) and TF (Teaching Fellow) of University of Tsukuba, students can acquire educational ability to become educators in educational research institutions such as universities etc. in the future.

<p><b>Curriculum Design Framework</b></p>	<p>The fundamental knowledge regarding the core study of public health sciences including epidemiology, biostatistics, health policy and management, environmental health and social and behavioral sciences shall be mainly evaluated by written examination. An ability relating to collection and analysis of information in public health sciences area shall be evaluated regarding students' ability to carry out it mainly through epidemiology and biostatistics analysis practicum, written examination and students term papers. The degree of achievement of the subjects taken in one's own area of expertise and relevant areas shall be judged in accordance with objectives to be achieved and evaluation standard and the feedback shall be provided for students. For master's thesis, in addition to evaluation by midterm individual evaluation by the members of the thesis examination committee, students' ability for presentation/questions and answers in research progress presentation by the members of academic affairs committee, by providing feedback for students as advice to improve their research, it shall be guaranteed that the level of the thesis becomes appropriate for the degree in the final examination.</p>
<p><b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b></p>	<p>The standard study schedule is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In the first year, students shall take subjects to meet completion requirements other than Dissertation in Public Health Special Exercise (master's thesis research).</li> <li>2. In the second year, students shall take the Major Subjects focusing on specialized subjects.</li> <li>3. In the latter half of the first year, the members of master's thesis examination committee shall be selected excluding research supervisor (one chief examiner and two sub chief examiners) and midterm individual evaluation shall be performed according to each student's progress status of research.</li> <li>4. In the beginning of the latter term in the second year, presentation of research outcomes shall be held, where the research outcomes shall be presented so far.</li> <li>5. At the end of the second year, the final examination shall be performed. The final examination shall consist of research presentation examination performed by the members of academic affairs committee at an open conference and individual examination performed by the members of master's thesis examination committee.</li> </ol>

### Admission Policy

<b>Desired Student Profile</b>	For this program, the persons who have motivation to actively solve problems of public health with an ability to logically analyze having creative and flexible idea shall be enrolled. The students shall be required not only to learn according to the curriculum, but also to have attitude to explore and independently solve various problems in their area of expertise from comprehensive perspective through research for master's thesis and internship.
<b>Student Selection Process</b>	By written examination and oral examination, the entrants shall be selected. The questions in written examinations shall be prepared to enable both English ability and basic knowledge relating to public health sciences of the students to be evaluated. The oral examination shall be performed in Japanese or in English.

### Learning Support Framework

<b>Academic Support</b>	During the midterm evaluation of master's thesis research, faculty members other than the supervisor provide advice on research plans. A student counseling committee is appointed within the degree program, and a student support team is formed to handle student mental health issues.
<b>Opportunities for Peer Interaction</b>	Opportunities for students to interact with each other are provided during freshman orientation, second-year student guidance, research progress presentations, and presentation on master's thesis. In compulsory subjects, all students participate in seminars, group projects, and group work. Opportunities are provided for students to interact with alumni.
<b>Opportunities for Student-Faculty Interaction</b>	Faculty development (FD) is designed to be student-participatory. Opportunities for dialogue are provided at research progress presentations and presentation on master's thesis where students and faculty members come together.

### Approaches to Assuring and Enhancing Educational Quality

The steering committee will evaluate students' learning outcomes and verify the validity of the curriculum and appropriateness of instruction. The results of student class evaluation surveys are reviewed to make improvements. Faculty development (FD) is designed to improve quality of education.