HEALTH SCIENCE M.S.

Degree: Master of Science
https://www.towson.edu/chp/departments/health-sciences/grad/health-science/

Program Director: Dr. Niya Werts
Phone: 410-704-2378
Email: nwerts@towson.edu

The Master of Science in Health Science is designed to meet needs within the state of Maryland for graduate-trained professionals to work in educational, medical care, community and worksite settings. The program is intended both for people with classroom or work experience in the health sciences or related fields as well as those seeking to expand their expertise to include the field of health science. It is particularly well suited to people who have been in the work force and now wish to receive additional education to enhance their performance as well as their competitiveness on the job.

Students may select one concentration from the following: Community Health, School Health Education or Administration. Students may also elect to take two concentrations. To do so, students must complete the requirements of both concentrations.

A graduate of the Community Health concentration may pursue a career as a health education specialist in a variety of public and private sector agencies. Students holding current credentials in pharmacy, nursing, dentistry, dietetics and other professions may wish to combine their skills from prior training and redirect their careers toward community health related to their specific prior training. A graduate of the School Health Education concentration can consider such employment opportunities as supervisor of a health science program within a school system, health education media specialist, program evaluation specialist or a position within continuing education and school personnel departments. A graduate of the Administration concentration is prepared for positions in a variety of settings (voluntary, proprietary, governmental, school, community, etc.) that require sound background in health and administration.

The distinction of the M.S. in Health Science program is its emphasis in pragmatic applications derived from theory. The program is based on the core approach of providing a sound academic base in principles of education and training, research and behavioral sciences. While students register for graduate work within the Department of Health Science, support cores from this or other TU departments can be selected to contribute toward their individual professional goals. In addition, with permission of the program director, students may transfer up to 9 graduate units earned in other academic settings to their master's program of study. Students may elect to pursue a graduate project or thesis, if either activity is consistent with their professional goals.

The M.S. in Health Science is designed to accommodate the needs of students whose personal and professional lives restrict their ability to enroll in a full-time, traditional graduate program. Students are overwhelmingly part time, participating in courses that are primarily offered only during weekday evenings throughout the year. Individuals desiring full-time graduate status may be able to construct programs responsive to their needs. However, the department cannot promise that full-time course work will be possible within any given term or academic year.

Please note that only one degree in Health Science can be awarded; students who complete more than one concentration in Health Science will earn only one degree.

Accelerated Bachelor’s-Master’s Program

Undergraduate students who have successfully completed 60-80 units may apply for admission to the B.S. to M.S. Program (http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/health-professions/health-sciences/bs-ms-health-education-and-promotion-with-health-science). This program allows students to complete accelerated undergraduate and graduate degrees for the M.S. in Health Science. Students accepted into the program begin graduate course work during their senior year. After successful completion of graduate units during the senior year, students are eligible to apply to for full admission to the MS in Health Science graduate program. Nine units taken at the 500/600 level after completion of the junior year will be double-counted toward the B.S. and M.S in Health Science. Students must earn a “B” or better in the double-counted courses. A bachelor's degree will be awarded to B.S. to M.S. program students after all degree requirements for the Bachelors are met. After successful completion of the undergraduate degree, students are eligible to apply for full admission to the MS in Health Science graduate program.

Undergraduate Admission Requirements

• Completion of /or current enrollment in 60-80 units (may include transfer units)
• Declaration of a Health Education and Health Promotion major (all concentrations are eligible)
• Completion of the following courses with a grade of B or better:
  1. HLTH 222
  2. HLTH 2XX or higher (any 200-level HLTH course)
  3. HLTH 315 or Core 9 Advanced Writing equivalent
  4. Statistics (Core 3 options - MATH 231, MATH 233, MATH 237) or statistics equivalent *
  5. Biology with a lab
  6. Minimum overall GPA of 3.00 by the end of the Spring term preceding screening for admission

Admission Requirements

Admission to the master's program in Health Science may be secured in two ways:

1. The master's program requires a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university** in a health science field (e.g., nursing, health education, psychology, etc.) or substantial upper-division course work in those fields, or experience in those same areas (as determined by the program director). In addition, applicants must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.00 to be admitted to the master's program; conditional admission may be granted to students whose GPA is at least 2.75. All GPA calculations for admission are based upon the last 60 units of undergraduate and post-baccalaureate study.
2. Also eligible for conditional admission are individuals without the stipulated educational or experiential foundation. To qualify for this category of conditional admission, candidates must provide the program director with a personal statement (no more than 500 words) that establishes why they seek admission to the master’s program and how they see themselves using the degree; have at least three years documented full-time work experience; and maintain a GPA of
at least 2.75. All GPA calculations for admission are based upon the last 60 units of undergraduate and post-baccalaureate study.

3. All applicants must have taken a 3-credit class in statistics or equivalent with an earned grade of a “B” or better.

The program admits students for the fall and spring terms only. Priority will be given to students whose applications and transcripts have been received by March 1 for fall admission and November 1 for spring admission. Students who miss the priority deadline may contact the program director via email to inquire if space is still available for the forthcoming term.

**Non-immigrant International Students**

Program Enrollment: F-1 and J-1 students are required to be enrolled full-time. The majority of their classes must be in-person and on campus. See the list of programs that satisfy these requirements (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/international/programs-complying-j1-f1-regulations.html), and contact the International Student and Scholars Office (https://www.towson.edu/academics/international/isso) with questions.

Admission Procedures: See additional information regarding Graduate Admission policies (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/policies.html) and International Graduate Application (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/international) online.

**See Exceptions to Policy in Graduate Admissions** (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/policies.html).

**Degree Requirements**

The master’s program in Health Science requires successful completion of 36 units. For students in School Health Education, 18 units are identified for the student by the Department of Health Science, with the remainder derived from elective offerings. In Community Health, 18 units are stipulated by the department. For those enrolled in the Administration concentration, 18 units constitute mandatory enrollment. Mandatory enrollment for students who elect two concentrations will derive from the two concentrations comprising their degree program. Only students in good academic standing within the master’s program in Health Science are eligible to request a change in concentration.

**School Health Education Concentration**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 601</td>
<td>CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN SCHOOL HEALTH</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 615</td>
<td>QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE PRINCIPLES</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 625</td>
<td>RESEARCH METHODS IN HEALTH</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 639</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH BEHAVIOR AND PROMOTION</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLTH 643</td>
<td>HEALTH EDUCATION: CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND SUPERVISION</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLTH 785</td>
<td>GRADUATE SEMINAR IN HEALTH</td>
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**Electives**
Select 18 units from the following:

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 501</td>
<td>TEACHING ABOUT DRUGS AND SEX</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Community Health Concentration**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 615</td>
<td>QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE PRINCIPLES</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 625</td>
<td>RESEARCH METHODS IN HEALTH</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLTH 631</td>
<td>PROGRAM PLANNING IN HEALTH EDUCATION</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH BEHAVIOR AND PROMOTION</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>PROGRAM EVALUATION</td>
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<tr>
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<td>DRUGS IN OUR CULTURE</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLTH 551</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLTH 645</td>
<td>HEALTH CARE POLICY</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>PROGRAM EVALUATION</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLTH/IDHP 651</td>
<td>PLANNING AND MARKETING HEALTH IN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLTH 880</td>
<td>GRADUATE PROJECT IN HEALTH SCIENCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLTH 897</td>
<td>HEALTH SCIENCE THESIS</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>
Other HLTH/HCMN/GERO elective, or those approved by the program director

| Total Units | 36 |

1 Number of units and specific selections dependent on student's concentration; all electives should be approved by the student's adviser.

### Administration Concentration

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<td>HLTH 625</td>
<td>RESEARCH METHODS IN HEALTH</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLTH 633</td>
<td>HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLTH/IDHP 647</td>
<td>HEALTH CARE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>GRADUATE SEMINAR IN HEALTH</td>
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#### Electives

Select 18 units from the following:

1. HLTH 501 TEACHING ABOUT DRUGS AND SEX (3)
2. HLTH 505 DRUGS IN OUR CULTURE (3)
3. HLTH 551 INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (3)
4. HLTH 601 CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN SCHOOL HEALTH (3)
5. HLTH 617 HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (3)
6. HLTH 631 PROGRAM PLANNING IN HEALTH EDUCATION (3)
7. HLTH 637 HEALTH LEADERSHIP (3)
8. HLTH 645 HEALTH CARE POLICY (3)
9. HLTH 649 PROGRAM EVALUATION (3)
10. HLTH/IDHP 651 PLANNING AND MARKETING HEALTH IN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY (3)
11. HLTH 880 GRADUATE PROJECT IN HEALTH SCIENCE (3)
12. HLTH 897 HEALTH SCIENCE THESIS (3)

Other HLTH/HCMN/GERO elective, or those approved by the program director

| Total Units | 36 |

1 Number of units and specific selections dependent on student's concentration; all electives should be approved by the student's adviser.

1. Assimilate facts, theories and principles basic to health science and to students concentration that establish students information literacy and technological competency.
2. Apply the scientific method to problem solving and decision making.
3. Speak and write effectively.
4. Develop a sense of responsibility and confidence for ones decisions / actions as a health science professional.
5. Engage in creative thinking with regard to health science.
6. Engage in analytic and inductive thinking with regard to health science.

### Courses

**HLTH 501 TEACHING ABOUT DRUGS AND SEX (3)**
Examination of content, procedures, and methods for presenting sensitive topics, including human sexuality and drugs. Prerequisites: HLTH 222 and BIOL 191/ BIOL 191L (BIOL 190) or consent of instructor.

**HLTH 502 HEALTH COMMUNICATION (3)**
Application of program planning, evaluation and communication theory to the development and evaluation of health promotion efforts.

**HLTH 505 DRUGS IN OUR CULTURE (3)**
Examination of psychoactive substances from physiological, psychological and sociological perspectives. Prerequisite: None.

**HLTH 551 INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (3)**
Examination of the interrelationships between humans and their environment. Emphasis is placed upon health aspects of pollution, housing, sanitation, radiation, behavioral disorders and epidemiology. Prerequisite: BIOL 191/ BIOL 191L (BIOL 190) or BIOL 200/ BIOL 200L (BIOL 201) or BIOL 202.

**HLTH 570 HEALTH WORKSHOPS (1-3)**
Study of contemporary health concerns as they influence health of the individual and the community.

**HLTH 571 HEALTH WORKSHOP (3)**
Study of contemporary health concerns as they influence health of the individual and the community. Prerequisites: none.

**HLTH 572 HEALTH WORKSHOPS (3)**
Study of contemporary health concerns as they influence health of the individual and the community. Prerequisites: none.

**HLTH 591 HEALTH-DIRECTED READINGS (1-3)**
Independent study of health or related disciplines. Prerequisite: Permit only.

**HLTH 594 HEALTH TRAVEL AND STUDY (3)**
Examination of health care delivery in other countries compared with that of the United States. Prerequisite: Permit only.

**HLTH 595 INDEPENDENT STUDY (3)**
Directed study of specific problems in health and related fields. Prerequisite: Permit only.

**HLTH 601 CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN SCHOOL HEALTH (3)**
Exploration of structure, organization, scope, content and practices in school health education. Prerequisites: none.

**HLTH 603 EMERGING ISSUES IN THE HEALTH OF THE NATION (3)**
Study of social, political and health issues as they impact the nation's health, including strategies and programs in response to such concerns. Prerequisites: None.

**HLTH 615 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE PRINCIPLES (3)**
Study of qualitative and quantitative data analysis techniques applied to health disciplines. Prerequisite: HLTH Masters program.

**HLTH 617 HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (3)**
Exploration of the health industry, including concepts of management and administration.

**HLTH 618 INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC HEALTH (3)**
Study of disease prevention and health promotion with a focus on community efforts to improve the public’s health. Prerequisites: none.
HLTH 619 ORGANIZING SYSTEMS OF CARE FOR CHRONICALLY ILL AND PHYSICALLY DEPENDENT POPULATIONS (3)
Examination of the long-term care industry, including relevant political and regulatory structures, issues of access, availability and other managerial challenges of working with special needs populations. Prerequisite: none.

HLTH 625 RESEARCH METHODS IN HEALTH (3)
Study of research and statistical designs in health science and allied health disciplines. Prerequisite: HLTH 615 with grade of C or better.

HLTH 627 HEALTH AND WORKER PERFORMANCE (3)
Analysis of health issues affecting worker performance from the employee perspective, with particular attention to worksite problems. Prerequisites: none.

HLTH 630 EPIDEMIOLOGY IN PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE (3)
Examines how the basic epidemiological concepts such as disease transmission, measurement, study design, data analysis, screening and risk assessment are used in public health practice. Will also examine how data sources and data management systems can be used to improve population health.

HLTH 631 PROGRAM PLANNING IN HEALTH EDUCATION (3)
Exploration of planning models with application to program planning and proposal writing for health information and promotion. Prerequisites: none.

HLTH 633 HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS (3)
Development of the American health care system and trends in organization, administration, funding and legislation. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor.

HLTH 635 EDUCATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR HEALTH (3)
Analysis of health education standards applied to health promotion and health education strategies.

HLTH 637 HEALTH LEADERSHIP (3)
Examination of effective leadership skills, with in-class experiential activities for skill development.

HLTH 639 INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH BEHAVIOR AND HEALTH PROMOTION (3)
Analysis of health promotion and health behavior incorporating organization, marketing, implementation and evaluation of health promotion program. Prerequisites: none.

HLTH 643 HEALTH EDUCATION: CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND SUPERVISION (3)
Study of methods and techniques for designing and implementing school health education. Prerequisites: none.

HLTH 645 HEALTH CARE POLICY (3)
Examination of public and private health care policy making and implementation.

HLTH 647 HEALTH CARE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (3)
Examination of the financial aspects of health care, with attention to health services' production, distribution and organization from financial and economic perspectives. Also listed as IDHP 647. Prerequisites: none.

HLTH 649 PROGRAM EVALUATION (3)
Study of the purpose, applications, and role of evaluation in health promotion programs. Prerequisite: none.

HLTH 651 PLANNING AND MARKETING HEALTH IN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY (3)
Study of strategic planning of health promotion and delivery in the profit and not-for-profit sectors, with application to various healthcare settings. Also listed as IDHP 651. Prerequisites: none.

HLTH 652 HEALTHCARE INFORMATION DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT (3)
Provides students with an interdisciplinary introduction to design, implementation and use of IT systems in public health and health care environments. Students are introduced to foundation concepts, tools and techniques for needs assessment, data management strategies and IT architecture for modern healthcare systems. Also covers the role of clinical information management specialists in public health and health care domains.

HLTH 653 RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH (3)
Interdisciplinary exploration of the ethical conduct of research including diverse impacts, values, and evaluation regarding research integrity. Prerequisites: none.

HLTH 655 MANAGING CONFLICT IN HEALTH SETTINGS (3)
Examination of knowledge and skills necessary for effective negotiation and resolution of conflicts in health settings.

HLTH 656 MANAGING VOLUNTEERS IN HEALTH SERVICE SETTINGS (3)
Analysis of knowledge, skills and influences related to effective recruitment, management and leadership of volunteers in diverse health service programs. Prerequisites: None.

HLTH 657 HEALTH ADVOCACY ACROSS SERVICE SETTINGS (3)
Study of skills and knowledge to advocate for vulnerable populations, including experience in the investigation of complaints and relevant interview processes. Prerequisites: None.

HLTH 670 SPECIAL TOPICS (3)
Study of contemporary health aspects as they influence health of the individual and the community. Prerequisite: none.

HLTH 691 DIRECTED READINGS IN HEALTH (3)
Independent study of health related disciplines. Prerequisite: Permit only.

HLTH 695 INDEPENDENT STUDY: HEALTH (3)
Directed study of specific problems in health and related fields. Prerequisite: Permit only.

HLTH 785 GRADUATE SEMINAR IN HEALTH (3)
Analysis of research design, methods, professional literature and related issues in the health sciences. Prerequisite: HLTH 625 with grade of C or better.

HLTH 880 GRADUATE PROJECT IN HEALTH SCIENCE (3)
Individual study and preparation of a project which is oriented toward the application of specific techniques in health education. Prerequisite: HLTH 785.

HLTH 885 PROJECT CONTINUUM (1)
Continuation of graduate project. Prerequisite: Previous registration for project work.

HLTH 897 HEALTH SCIENCE THESIS (3)
Original investigation of a health science problem using acceptable research method and design, under the direction of one or more faculty members. Prerequisites: HLTH 785 and permit only.

HLTH 898 HEALTH SCIENCE THESIS (3)
HLTH 897 taken over two consecutive terms.