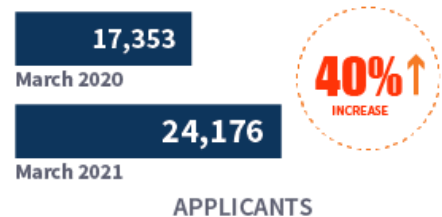


MAY 20, 2021

How COVID-19 Opened a New Chapter for Public Health

The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) is the go-to source for data and other information about the future public health workforce. ASPPH has seen considerable increases in interest to study public health through the platform SOPHAS.

For the past two decades, public health education has experienced continued growth at both the undergraduate and graduate degree levels. This growth is now spiking during the pandemic, with a 40 percent increase in applicants to 2021 graduate-level degree programs compared to March 2020. The pandemic has put a spotlight on public health, which has led to increased interest in studying public health. In addition, other effects from the pandemic are contributing to the increase: changes to higher education application processes and course delivery, as well as the economic impact on employment.



Top seven public health graduate-level areas of study for applications:

- 1 Epidemiology
- 2 Health Policy & Management
- 3 Health Education & Behavioral Sciences
- 4 Biostatistics
- 5 General Public Health
- 6 Global Health
- 7 Environmental Sciences

Public health is more important now than ever before, the field is experiencing a growth of interest by prospective students across all areas of study and across a variety of demographics. Since March 2020, ASPPH has seen increases in Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino applicants and these trends continue through to matriculating new students.

SOPHAS, the centralized application service for schools and programs of public health, is an ASPPH service that allows students to apply to master's and doctoral public health degrees at multiple institutions using one application.



The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) is a 501c3 membership organization located in Washington, DC. ASPPH's mission is to strengthen the capacity of our 130 member schools and programs by advancing leadership, excellence, and collaboration for academic public health. Our members are CEPH-accredited schools and programs of public health as well as schools and programs in applicant status for CEPH-accreditation.

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