1.0 Background

1.1 About the MPH program. Health status indicators in eastern North Carolina (NC) are among the worst in the nation. The region’s diverse population is predominantly rural and disproportionately poor. Meaningful improvement in the health status of the region’s population requires a transformation in the practice of public health and medicine emphasizing prevention, health promotion, strategic partnerships, and interventions that provide lasting improvement. Training of public health professionals will provide leadership to implement this transformation.

The MPH degree program admitted its inaugural class in Fall 2003. In 2012, the MPH program received re-accreditation from CEPH until 2019.

ECU’s practice-based program is specifically tailored to individuals working in public health, medicine, and health or health-related agencies without formal training in public health. Individuals with other academic or professional backgrounds with an interest in public health are also encouraged to apply. Courses are offered at times and in formats convenient to working professionals. A dual MD-MPH degree is available to students enrolled at the Brody School of Medicine (BSOM). The program incorporates practice-based teaching, competency-based learning, and evidence-based principles.

Core knowledge areas include epidemiology, health services administration, social and behavioral sciences, environmental health sciences, and biostatistics. An internship and professional paper adds a learning dimension in applied practice and research. This interdisciplinary program, administratively located in ECU Graduate School and organizationally located in the Brody School of Medicine (BSOM), encourages coursework in other ECU colleges and schools to promote integration, cooperation, and communication between medicine, public health, and the many disciplines that contribute to public health.