

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Dr. William Mkanta, Department Chair

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The Department of Public Health offers graduate programs which prepare students for careers as healthcare administration, environmental health and safety, public health, and occupational safety and health professionals. Graduate certificate programs offered include epidemiology, health education, global health administration, occupational safety and health, and worksite health promotion. An important responsibility of the faculty is to carry out applied research and other scholarly activities which provide opportunities for graduate student engagement, provide for the professional advancement of faculty, expand knowledge and practice in public health fields, advance the training of students, and improve health in the communities we serve. The department faculty, staff, and students conduct service with multiple agencies, institutions, and organizations in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and across the nation. Faculty in the department are leaders in teaching, research, and service, and provide leadership to various committees, centers, and organizations. Department faculty also serve in various leadership roles for the College of Health and Human Services.

Graduate students are expected to work closely with their academic advisors in planning their program of study. Students will have opportunities for advanced training through research, practical experiences, and internships. More information about the department is available at: <https://www.wku.edu/publichealth> (<https://www.wku.edu/publichealth/>).

Programs

- Environmental and Occupational Health Science, Master of Science (0473) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/graduate/health-human-services/public-health/enviro-occ-health/>)
- Epidemiology, Certificate (1751) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/graduate/health-human-services/public-health/epidemiology-certificate/>)
- Global Health Administration, Certificate (1735) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/graduate/health-human-services/public-health/global-health-administration-certificate/>)
- Health Administration, Master of Health Administration (153) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/graduate/health-human-services/public-health/mha/>)
- Health Education, Certificate (0494) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/graduate/health-human-services/public-health/health-education-certificate/>)
- Occupational Safety and Health, Certificate (1779) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/graduate/health-human-services/public-health/occupational-safety-certificate/>)
- Public Health, Master of Public Health (152) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/graduate/health-human-services/public-health/mph/>)

- Workplace Health Promotion, Certificate (1746) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/graduate/health-human-services/public-health/advanced-worksite-promotion-certificate/>)

Faculty Professor

Grace K. Lartey PhD (Health Education), University of Toledo, 2006

Gretchen M. Macy EdD (Kinesiology and Health Promotion), University of Kentucky, 2012

William N. Mkanta PhD (Health Services Research), University of Florida, 2005

Ritchie D. Taylor PhD (Environmental Science), University of North Texas, 2002

Associate Professor

Xiuhua Ding PhD (Epidemiology and Biostatistics), University of Kentucky, 2016

Gregory E. Ellis-Griffith PhD (Administration/Health Services), University of Alabama at Birmingham, 2010

Michelle C. Reece PhD (Public Health), East Tennessee State University, 2014

Edrisa Sanyang PhD (Occupational & Environmental Health (Industrial Hygiene)), University of Iowa, 2016

Pedagogical Professor

Michael D. Reece PhD (Public Health), University of Georgia, 2000

Pedagogical Assistant Professor

Angel N. Shoemake MPH (Public Health), Western Kentucky University, 2020

Instructor I

Jacqueline R. Basham MPH (Public Health, Environmental Health), Western Kentucky University, 2015

Melanie D. Eaton MBA, Western Kentucky University, 2003