

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Dr. William Mkanta, Department Chair

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The Department of Public Health offers academic programs which prepare students for a wide variety of health professions. An important responsibility of the department faculty is to carry out applied research and scholarly activities which improve the health of people in the communities we serve, provide opportunities for student engagement, provide faculty career advancement, and expand the science and practice of public health. The department also conducts service with multiple agencies, institutions, and organizations in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and across the nation. In addition, the department provides a service to the University's Colonnade program through instruction to improve the knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of students related to Colonnade goals.

Students may pursue one of several major or minor programs, and certificates. Specialized programs prepare individuals for careers in public health, health care administration, environmental health and safety, environmental management and compliance, occupational safety and health, health information management, health science, and related areas.

All majors and minors are expected to work closely with their academic advisors in planning a program of study. Each student's interests and abilities will be considered in planning the individual program of study. More information about the department is available at: <http://www.wku.edu/publichealth> (<http://www.wku.edu/publichealth/>).

## Departmental Academic Regulations

Students who have completed a minimum of 30 semester hours, including the courses required for seeking admission status, with an overall GPA of 2.3 (an overall GPA of 2.5 for Health Care Administration majors), qualify for admission into a program in the Department of Public Health.

Students whose grade point average falls below 2.3 for two successive semesters will be dropped from the program. Students who receive a grade below a "C" in two or more courses required in a major or minor will be dropped from the program. A student may be reinstated in the program when the overall grade point average is elevated to at least 2.3 and all courses in which a grade of less than "C" has been earned have been repeated and a grade of "C" or better was earned. Students must have an overall grade point average of at least 2.5 before enrolling in the internship. Grades below "C" in major or minor courses will not be counted toward meeting graduation requirements.

Academic regulations for Health Information Management and Health Sciences majors are described subsequently with the full descriptions of the programs.

## Internships/Off-Campus Experiences

Students may be required to undergo criminal background checks and drug testing, and to provide proof of health insurance, liability insurance, and/or immunization records prior to participating in any required experiences at selected off-campus facilities/agencies. Additionally, there may be certifications, training seminars, or other requirements specified by the facility/agency that a student must meet in order to be eligible for field or practical experiences at the facility. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that all institutional and/or facility requirements are met as a condition of participating in the off-campus experiences; students may be responsible in part or in full for any costs incurred to meet such requirements. Students are also responsible for transportation to and from off-campus experiences.

## Degrees

- Environmental and Occupational Health Science, Bachelor of Science (548P, 548) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/public-health/environmental-health-science-bs/>)
- Health Care Administration, Bachelor of Science (559P, 559) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/public-health/health-care-administration-bs/>)
- Health Information Management, Bachelor of Science (529P, 529) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/public-health/health-information-management-bs/>)
- Health Sciences, Bachelor of Science (564) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/public-health/health-sciences-bs/>)
- Public Health, Bachelor of Science (521P, 521) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/public-health/public-health-bs/>)

## Minor

- Health Care Administration, Minor (386) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/public-health/health-care-administration-minor/>)
- Health Education, Minor (389) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/public-health/health-education-minor/>)

## Certificates

- Environmental Health, Certificate (1743) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/public-health/environmental-health-certificate/>)
- Health Education and Promotion, Certificate (1741) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/public-health/health-education-promotion-certificate/>)
- Health Informatics, Certificate (1740) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/public-health/health-informatics-certificate/>)
- Long-Term Care Administration, Certificate (1717) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/public-health/long-term-care-administration-certificate/>)
- Occupational Safety & Health, Certificate (1705) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/public-health/occupational-safety-health-certificate/>)
- Public Health, Certificate (1742) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/public-health/public-health-certificate/>)

- Worksite Health Promotion, Certificate (1707) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/public-health/worksite-health-promotion-certificate/>)

## Faculty

### Professor

Tania B. Basta PhD (Health Promotion and Behavior), University of Georgia, 2006

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 Associate Professor

Janice R. Hunt-Shepherd MHA, Western Kentucky University, 2005

### 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

Pamela A. Chandler MED (Education), Indiana Wesleyan University, 2008

Melanie D. Eaton MBA, Western Kentucky University, 2003

Nadia F. Houchens MHA (Health Administration), Western Kentucky University, 2017

Roberta D. Pope MS (Health Informatics), University of Illinois at Chicago, 2013