Saint Louis University – Master of Public Health (MPH) in Biosecurity & Disaster Preparedness and Graduate Certificate in Biosecurity & Disaster Preparedness

Saint Louis University, College for Public Health and Social Justice, Institute for Biosecurity offers advanced degrees in Biosecurity and Disaster Preparedness. Both the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree and the Graduate Certificate in Biosecurity & Disaster Preparedness may be completed via online distance learning technology. As the nation’s first Master of Public Health degree in biosecurity & disaster preparedness, the Institute for Biosecurity programs offer excellence in education and experience for those wanting a broad-based public health approach to this rapidly expanding and emerging discipline. The online format allows students to earn their degree while working, and without relocating. Both full- and part-time schedules are available to accommodate students’ needs. The Institute's MPH degree in Biosecurity & Disaster Preparedness can also be completed as a hybrid program, with both distance-based Biosecurity courses and traditional on-site classes. All of our programs are fully accredited and competency-based.

Biosecurity measures are aimed at mitigating, preventing, preparing for, responding to or recovering from natural or manmade biological events that could harm humans, animals or the environment. The field of biosecurity is expanding rapidly, both within the U.S. and globally. There is a need for public health and emergency response professionals with the education and skills to respond to emerging public health threats and improve community resilience. Experts are needed to detect and respond to disaster-related health threats, and to develop policies that address those hazards. These are complex humanitarian events that require a multi-disciplinary approach, incorporating clinical medicine, public health, veterinary medicine, epidemiology, environmental health, business, law enforcement, and emergency management.

The programs are designed for public health officials, nurses, veterinarians, emergency management professionals, laboratory professionals, corporate security, law enforcement, physicians, physician assistants, and those individuals interested in the fields of public health, business continuity, emergency management, and homeland security.

MPH and Certificate students will learn how to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate emerging public health threats that could harm humans, animals or the environment, such as anthrax, avian influenza, botulism, chikungunya, dengue fever, Ebola, methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), Middle East respiratory syndrome Coronavirus (MERS Co-V), Nipah, plague, severe acute respiratory syndrome Coronavirus (SARS Co-V), smallpox, tularemia and Zika. Students are also prepared to respond to complex humanitarian crises, man-made disasters (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive terrorism), and natural disasters. Training in biosecurity and disaster preparedness prepares students to help prevent biological terrorism and build effective rapid response capabilities for organizations throughout the public and private sectors. Graduates can work to curb emerging infectious disease outbreaks in humans, or in crops and livestock that threaten our food supplies.

A Master of Public Health (MPH) enables students to become leaders in the diverse areas of public health practice, and offers broad-based education in all of the public health core disciplines. A required internship gives students the practical skills needed for a career in any of the related fields of biosecurity and disaster preparedness. Career opportunities include: Public Health Emergency Preparedness Manager, Emergency Response Coordinator, Disaster Coordinator,
Infection Preventionist, Bioterrorism Epidemiologist, Biological Safety or Biosecurity Officer, Ebola Specialist, Business Continuity Consultant, or Director of Emergency Management.

Student wishing to pursue the MPH degree may choose the single concentration in Biosecurity and Disaster Preparedness, or they may choose one of two joint programs: the joint MPH in Biosecurity & Disaster Preparedness and Epidemiology (54 credit hours), or the joint Global Health and Biosecurity & Disaster Preparedness MPH (also 54 credit hours). MPH degrees with a joint concentration are hybrid programs, with distance-based and traditional on-site classes.

**The Graduate Certificate** is comprised of five core courses within the Biosecurity and Disaster Preparedness curriculum. Students completing the certificate program can apply the credits earned toward completion of the Master of Public Health degree.

Biosecurity and Disaster Preparedness Course offerings (all courses earn 3 credit hours):

- BSDP-5100 Public Health and Disasters
- BSDP-5101 Fundamentals of Disaster Planning
- BSDP-5103 Communicable Diseases & Infection Control
- BSDP-5104 Public Health Ecology
- BSDP-5106 Disaster Communications & Media Relations
- BSDP-5201 Terrorist Organizations & Their Motivations
- BSDP-5203 Disaster Planning For Infectious Disease Disasters
- BSDP-5206 Disaster Management & Risk Analysis
- BSDP-5208 Facing the Challenges of International Bioterrorism
- BSDP-5209 Emerging Infections: Epidemiology and Public Health Importance
- BSDP-5210 Preparing for Disasters - Resilience and Stress Response
- BSDP-5211 Business Continuity Management and Pandemic Planning
- BSDP-5960 Biosecurity Capstone

Saint Louis University and the College for Public Health and Social Justice are granted accreditation from the Accrediting Commission on Education for Health Services Administration and the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

For more information contact:

Terri Rebmann, PhD, RN, CIC, FAPIC
Director, Institute for Biosecurity
Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics
Saint Louis University, College for Public Health & Social Justice
3545 Lafayette Room 463 St Louis, MO 63104
Phone: (314) 977-8260
Email: terri.rebmann@slu.edu


Updated: 9/12/17
“Please note: Some of the Web sites linked to in this document are not federal government Web sites, and may not necessarily operate under the same laws, regulations, and policies as federal Web sites.”