The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), World Health Organization (WHO) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) appeal for greater focus on health in disaster management and homeland security. Zika and Ebola highlight the need to develop response capacities to include health emergencies. Protection and public health interventions are needed for host communities, refugee populations and for those internally displaced following natural or man-made disasters. Where and when the next tsunami or earthquake will strike, predicting the future impacts of climate change, or knowing when the next terrorist group will attack is unknown. But the logic behind professionally mitigating and preparing for the next incident to occur that places us in a stronger position to respond and recovery for complex emergencies.

The program has both a strong research base, and is designed to supplement and enhance work-related experiences of professionals to address real-world problems and develop useful tools and outreach programs to serve those affected by humanitarian emergencies. Students in the graduate program are involved in a wide range of topics including the development of early-warning systems, conducting community-based needs assessments, organizing humanitarian action with a focus on logistical support, and identifying national and international trends affecting the outcomes of health services for populations affected by disaster.

Our Master of Public Health (MPH) in Global Disaster Management, Humanitarian Relief and Homeland Security aims to prepare graduates with the ability to recognize, assess, implement and evaluate programs on a global or local level to serve as leaders in the field. This degree requires the completion of 36 credits.

Required Courses:

MPH Foundation Courses:
- PHC 6000 Epidemiology
- PHC 6050 Biostatistics I
- PHC 6102 Principles of Health Policy & Management
- PHC 6357 Environmental & Occupational Health
- PHC 6410 Social & Behavioral Sciences Applied to Health
- PHC 6945 History & Systems of Public Health
- PHC 6945 Supervised Field Experience
- PHC 6977 Special Project
- Comprehensive Exam (CPH)

Required Concentration Courses (9 credit hours):
- PHC 6230 Foundation of Humanitarian Assistance
- PHC 6183 Overview of US & International Disaster Management
- PHC 6254 Public Health Implications and Concerns in Homeland Security

Choose five electives (15 credit hours) from the following list of courses:
Disaster Management
PHC 6185  Disaster Preparedness & Planning Concepts
PHC 6184  Disaster Recovery
PHC 6186  Public Health Emergencies in Large Populations

Humanitarian Assistance
PHC 6231  Organizing Humanitarian Actions
PHC 6232  From Emergency to Development & Prevention
PHC 6233  Current Challenges in the Humanitarian Field

Homeland Security
PHC 6235  Critical Infrastructure Protection for Public Health Concepts
PHC 6236  Business Continuity for Global Health and Security
PHC 6255  Homeland Security: Law, Policy and Public Health
PHC 6373  Protecting Public Health: Bioterrorism and Biodefense

The University of South Florida is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and the Council on Education in Public Health (CEPH).

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