



# Arnold School of Public Health

## Professional Online MPH Program in Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior (HPEB)

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### The Application Process

1. Where can I find information about application deadlines?  
*Information about term start dates as well as application, registration, and tuition deadlines can be found at: [https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges\\_schools/public\\_health/apply/graduate\\_applicants/index.php](https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/public_health/apply/graduate_applicants/index.php)*
2. How do I know if I might qualify for a GRE waiver?  
*Decisions about GRE waivers are made on a case-by-case basis upon review of the full application including a compelling statement of GRE waiver request. Among those who have been granted a waiver, the average number of years worked in a health-related profession, post baccalaureate, is 10. In some cases, applicants have performed well on other standardized exams that can serve as a proxy for the GRE such as the MCAT or PCAT. Additionally, the average GPA for those who have been granted a GRE waiver has been 3.44 (on a 4.0 scale).*
3. What should I include as part of the statement of purpose (also known as the personal statement)?  
*This statement should describe the applicant's academic interests, relevant work experiences, and academic/professional goals and objectives as it relates to earning the MPH degree.*
4. How long does it take to receive a decision about my application?  
*Applications are reviewed on a monthly basis February through April for a Fall semester admission. Only completed applications (where application materials have been received) are reviewed.*
5. How will I be notified of acceptance?  
*Applicants will be notified of the admission recommendation initially by email from the HPEB Graduate Director, Dr. Ken Watkins. Official letters of acceptance are sent by the Graduate School.*
6. Who can I contact for more information about the application process?  
*Applicants may contact the Office of Graduate Student Services about their application status (803-777-5031). To speak with someone in the HPEB Department, applicants may contact:  
**Dr. Ken Watkins**, Graduate Director ([watkinsk@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:watkinsk@mailbox.sc.edu) | 803-777-7603)  
**Ms. Pam Metz**, Administrative Assistant ([pmetz@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:pmetz@mailbox.sc.edu) | 803-777-7096)*

## Once Accepted into the Program

7. When can I start taking classes?

*Students may begin taking classes in the Fall term for which they are admitted. Any changes to this date can be made via a request for change of term form.*

8. Where can I find information about registration and payment deadlines?

*Information about term start dates as well as application, registration, and tuition deadlines can be found at: [https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges\\_schools/public\\_health/apply/graduate\\_applicants/index.php](https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/public_health/apply/graduate_applicants/index.php)*

9. Where can I find information about tuition and fees?

*Information about tuition and fees can be found at: [https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges\\_schools/public\\_health/apply/graduate\\_applicants/tuition\\_fees/index.php](https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/public_health/apply/graduate_applicants/tuition_fees/index.php)*

10. How do I register for classes?

*Upon admission into the program, students must submit a series of forms and set up access to the online information management system, Self Service Carolina (SSC). Students use SSC to register for classes, view class schedules, manage financial aid, and pay tuition. Instructions for this process can be found at: [https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges\\_schools/graduate\\_school/new\\_students/index.php](https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/graduate_school/new_students/index.php)*

*In subsequent terms, students must submit an advisement form to Dr. Ken Watkins to be cleared for registration. Once notice of registration clearance has been sent to the student, students may then register for classes via [Self Service Carolina](#). You may access tutorials describing the registration process at: [https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges\\_schools/graduate\\_school/new\\_students/index.php](https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/graduate_school/new_students/index.php)*

11. How many courses are offered each term?

*Most students take two to four courses each 14-week term. The course load varies based on students' outside commitments.*

12. What if I want to sit out a term and not enroll in classes?

*Students may decide not to enroll during any given term. Any time a student does not enroll in a major term they are coded as inactive. In order to re-activate student status, a student will need to complete an [Update Request Form](#) to update their admission. Once a student completes the form and is re-admitted, then their student status will be updated to active.*

13. Where can I find information about which classes are offered each term?

*The [Professional Online MPH Student Handbook](#) has information about prospective course offerings. Additionally, students may access the schedule of courses offered up to one semester in advance via [Self Service Carolina](#).*

14. How can I communicate with other students enrolled in the program?

*The department houses a Blackboard site exclusively for students in the Professional Online MPH program. Here, students may communicate with one another via a discussion board, an open forum for posting questions and answers, discussions, and information. All students enrolled into the program will have access to the Blackboard site. Additionally, instructors typically have a similar style forum for their course Blackboard site and allow students to introduce themselves during the first week of class. This allows students to get to know one another and have the opportunity to request email addresses or other contact information for communication outside of the classroom setting.*

15. What is Blackboard?

*Blackboard is the digital learning platform used at the University of South Carolina. All courses are assigned a Blackboard page and some departments and organizations may also use Blackboard to share information. Information about how to get started with Blackboard can be found here:*

*[https://sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/division\\_of\\_information\\_technology/end\\_user\\_services/available\\_technology\\_resources/information\\_for\\_students/index.php](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/division_of_information_technology/end_user_services/available_technology_resources/information_for_students/index.php)*

16. How do I find out about what is happening in the department or with other students in the program?

*There are several sources for information about the department. The [HPEB department website](#) is a great place to access current information about the department, School, and University. There is also a listserv exclusively for students in the Professional Online MPH program where information may be shared such as important deadlines, job opportunities, or course changes. Upon admission, students will be automatically enrolled on this listserv. Additionally, there is a general listserv available for all HPEB students. For instructions on how to enroll for the general listserv, please contact Ms. Pam Metz.*