General Description:
Public health professionals work in a variety of different environments including community health centers, local, state and federal health departments, large non-governmental organizations, private corporations, and international health organizations. Public health practitioners treat individuals and focus on preventing disease and injury, promoting healthy lifestyles, and educating entire populations. They implement educational programs, develop policies, administer services, conduct research, and regulate health systems to achieve these goals.

What are some common daily activities/experiences?
Public health professionals also confront complex global health issues, such as improving access to health care, controlling infectious disease, and reducing environmental hazards, violence, substance abuse, and injury. In the past century, public health initiatives have been responsible for increasing life expectancy by almost 30 years in the United States. The broader development and application of population-based prevention programs will continue improving health over the next decades.

What are 3-5 personal characteristics important for happiness and success in your profession?
Public health is an interdisciplinary profession, and successful public health practitioners incorporate leadership, effective communication, data collection, and program management to improve population and community health outcomes. Public health professionals use the necessary skills to tackle the most pressing health concerns at the community, national, and international level.

What are 3-5 key questions students should be asking themselves as they prepare for your profession?
Prospective students of public health should ensure that the institution where they are applying is CEPH-accredited. The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) is the nationally recognized accrediting body for both schools of public health and public health programs. (www.ceph.org). The Master of Public Health (MPH) degree is the most common graduate-level degree awarded by schools and programs of public health. The degree is suited for students interested in pursuing a professional career in public health. Common work environments include hospitals, consulting firms, international agencies, state and federal agencies, health departments, managed care organizations, community-based organizations, among others. Students with strong quantitative and research skills should consider an MS which is an academic degree oriented toward students wishing to seek a career in teaching or conducting research at a college or university or other settings.

Preparing for Admission:
- Prerequisite coursework
- Standardized Tests
- Experience/Exposure
- Letters of Recommendation
- Resources for researching schools: aspph.org/program-finder

The Admissions Cycle:
  - Application opens: August 18, 2016
NAAHP Fact Sheet for Health Professions Advisors
Public Health

- Application can be submitted: if date is different from above – is there a date of first submission? N/A
- Application system closes: August 4, 2017
- Number of schools participating: 90 out of 106 accredited institutions. Not every institution uses SOPHAS for each program, but if a program is on SOPHAS, students may not apply through any other format. Institutions may choose to have a supplemental application in addition to the SOPHAS application. See sophas.org/program-finder for details about SOPHAS programs, or contact the institution directly.
- Fees: $135 for first school/program selected, $50 for each additional school/program selected
- Fee waivers: SOPHAS Fee Waiver information
- Letters of rec logistics: Letters should be sent electronically to SOPHAS
- Standardized test logistics: MCAT, GRE, and TOEFL scores can be submitted through SOPHAS; other scores should be sent directly to schools.
- Transcripts: Transcripts should be sent directly to SOPHAS in Watertown, MA – do not send any materials to ASPPH/Washington, DC
- Instruction manual and FAQ: https://portal.sophas.org/sophasHelpPages/frequently-asked-questions/index.html
- Contact information: (617) 612-2090, SOPHASInfo@sophas.org
- CAS contact for advisors: Guy Piotrowski (gpiotrowski@aspph.org) or Brittney Dunn (bdunn@liaisonedu.com)
  - SOPHAS Facebook Page: http://www.facebook.com/SOPHASapp

The Admissions Process:
- Advisor portal: N/A
- Approx dates of interviews, offers: Varies; many programs do not require interviews
- Total number of applicants in most recent cycle (through CAS and/or all member programs if known):
  - Average # of applications per student: 3
  - Total number of first year students (through CAS and all if known): 18,166 in 2015
  - Total number of students: 54,112 in 2015

Learn More about the Profession

Training & Career Opportunities
- Number of years: Varies; Masters programs: 1-3 years (generally), Doctoral: 4-7 years (generally)
- Degree attained: MPH, MS, MHA, DrPH, PhD and many other options, including joint degrees
- Total number of graduates in most recent academic year: 18,781 in 2015
- Data on employment of recent graduates, if available: N/A

Key Resources for Students,
- ASPPH Public Health (Discover)
- ASPPH Public Health (Study)

Key Resources for Advisors
- http://www.aspph.org/public-health-advisors-toolbox/

For more information on many health professions, we recommend the NAAHP publication, Health Professions Admission Guide: Strategies for Success, available on the NAAHP website.
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