Mission Statement

The mission of the public health program at the University of California, Irvine is to create, integrate, and translate population-based knowledge into preventive strategies for reducing the societal burden of human disease and disability through excellence in research, education, and public service.

The Program is situated in the largest research university in the sixth most populous county in the United States, and more than 30% of residents in our county community are foreign born with more than 35 different languages spoken at homes. Therefore, our vision is to be the leading academic resource for research, education at the baccalaureate and graduate levels, and outreach service in suburban settlements where emphasis is placed on the sociocultural diversity and global context of public health.

Goals

We accomplish our mission by pursuing three specific goals:

(1) To conduct research on risk factors that render people vulnerable to diseases in their communities, and to develop strategies for preventing disease by separating risk factors from specific vulnerable populations.

(2) To educate students at the undergraduate level, establishing for them a strong academic foundation for further education and/or practice in public health; and at the graduate level, to prepare them for entry into the public health profession through instruction and research. We aim to train students to identify threats to public health, to assess the health status of diverse populations, and to plan and implement strategies to improve population health status.

(3) To perform service to the public, the university and the professions in order to promote understanding of the determinants of population health and to support the adoption of practices to improve the quality of health.

Objectives

To reach our goals in research, education, and service, we articulate a set of measurable objectives. Both undergraduate and graduate degree programs are integrated in our mission, goals, and objectives and we assess performance on these measures based on activities at all levels of organization of our academic and professional operations.
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| **RESEARCH GOAL:** To conduct research on risk factors that make people vulnerable to diseases in their communities, and to develop strategies for preventing disease by separating risk factors from specific vulnerable populations. | 1. The Program faculty will lead research projects funded by competitive award programs. 

Each year, at least 75% of faculty members who are appointed in the professor series will lead or participate in funded research projects in all major disciplines of public health. 

2. The Program faculty will engage in interdisciplinary research projects and translational collaborations. 

At least 50% of faculty will participate in interdisciplinary research centers, institutes, or organized research units. 

3. The products of research conducted in the Program will be disseminated widely in high quality publication venues. 

Each year, 75% of faculty members appointed in the professor series will publish at least two peer-reviewed articles. 

4. The Program faculty will engage in recognized research network and interactive events. 

Each year, 75% of faculty members will give presentations at professional conferences, workshops and/or and panels. 

5. The Program faculty will contribute to the upholding of high quality standards for research in public health through review of grant applications or research results prior to publication. 

Each year, 50% of faculty members will participate in reviewing research either through funding agency panels, or as reviewers for peer-reviewed journals. |

| **EDUCATION GOAL:** To educate students at the undergraduate level, establishing for them a strong academic foundation for further education and/or practice in public health; and at the graduate level, to prepare them for entry into the public health profession through instruction and research. We aim to train students to identify threats to public health, to assess the health status of diverse populations, and to plan and implement strategies to improve population health status. | 1. The Program will maintain high admissions standards for students recruited to study toward the public health degrees administered by the faculty. 

a. The average combined score of students admitted to the MPH program in the verbal and quantitative tests of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) will be greater than or equal to 1,200. The average GPA will be greater than or equal to 3.0. 

b. For the undergraduate program, the average Scholastic Aptitude Test combined score in reading, mathematics and writing will be greater than 1600. 

c. The selectivity or proportion of applicants offered admission will be less than 50% and the yield of admitted students who enroll will be greater than 25%. 

2. The Program will maintain a variety of instruction that is consistent with the interdisciplinary concepts and approaches in public health. 

a. All MPH students will master the five major sub-disciplines of public health (Biostatistics, Environmental Health, Epidemiology, Health Behavior, and Health Policy) through core competencies addressed in MPH core courses, and passing with a grade of B or better. 

b. All students will engage in professional public health activities during their training. The activities can include practicum course, directed or independent research, teaching, participation in professional meetings, and membership in professional or community organizations. |
c. All students will engage in a culminating experience during their training to demonstrate proficiency in the integration of public health principles into practice in their selected areas of interest. The culminating experience can include a comprehensive examination, development of a personal portfolio of accomplishments, reflection, and integration, and writing for various public health audiences, including research proposal writing.

3. The Program will maintain a high quality of instruction in all didactic courses taught by the faculty.

Courses taught in the Program will receive very good student evaluations of average teaching effectiveness and overall value of course will be rated at least 3.0 (on a scale of 1 = poor, 4 = excellent).

4. The education received by the students in the Program will be substantively relevant to opportunities for higher education and advances in their career paths.

At least 75% of graduates from the Program will either continue their education in health related fields or gain employment in their selected field of training and interest.

SERVICE GOAL:
To perform service to the public, the university and the professions in order to promote understanding of the determinants of population health and to support the adoption of practices to improve the quality of health.

1. The Program faculty will engage in service to public agencies and to professional organizations that support public health research, teaching and practice.

Annually, at least 25% of the faculty will provide service to communities at the local, state, national, or international levels through service on panels and boards or provision of technical assistance to government agencies.

2. The Program faculty will engage in service to the university.

Annually, at least 75% of the faculty will provide service to the academic institution, through roles in the department, the academic senate, or other university programs. Service can also include special panels and consultation to other academic units on campus.

3. The Program faculty will engage in service in community education initiatives for advancing public health knowledge and its dissemination.

The Program will host a regular seminar series, and at least one-third of these will be presentations or other major symposia events open to the public in any given year.

4. The Program will support student organizations engaged in service to the community.

Each year, the Program will support at least one undergraduate student organization and one graduate student organization to participate in at least one public service or community engagement program on public health issues.