

Q: What type of work experience counts as "health-related work"?

A: Health related work can be anything from working in healthcare, to non profit or advocacy, to public health research, to health education, etc. As with your future public health career outlook, your past experience can be equally diverse! In terms of framing your experience in your statement of purpose, it's more about quality than quantifying the exact number of hours. Try to situate yourself in your past experience in terms of how it lead you to want to pursue an MPH and how the MPH fits with your past and future experience.

Q: Is there financial aid available for MPH students?

A: Yes! There is FAFSA, and there are a variety of [public health related funding opportunities](#). Please see more information from Graduate Studies here about [Funding Graduate School](#).

Q: Is there a page requirement for the writing sample?

A: There is no page requirement. Just take this as an opportunity to showcase your favorite piece of writing from undergrad or from work.

Q: What if I haven't taken Stats/calculus within 6 years?

A: This is okay! If you are admitted to the program, a "condition" of your admission will be that you are required to take a refresher course over the summer prior to starting the program. The refresher course is actually an excellent opportunity to jog your memory before starting Biostats! Many students take the refresher course each year prior to starting the program, and most are very grateful to have had the reminder!

Q: Where can I take the refresher statistics course?

A: This course can be any lower-division intro to statistics course, so any community college or CSU, and there are a variety of private online only options that have worked in the past as well. If you are unsure if a course would work, feel free to send it to mfeinmanwelcher@sfsu.edu for confirmation.

Q: Is there a waiver for the Application fee?

A: The application is sent through [Cal State Apply](#). Unfortunately fee waivers are only available for undergraduate students at this time.

Q: Is our MPH Program STEM Certified?

A: No, we are not STEM Certified at this time.

Q: Are Graduate Research Assistant or Graduate Assistant roles available?

A: While these roles are frequently open and available for MPH students, we do not have these roles formally or consistently set up each semester. Opportunities would pop up when faculty members obtain grants and can hire a student. The MPH Program Coordinator would usually send these opportunities out to the whole cohort, and individuals could apply.

Q: What is the projected cost of the program?

Total Length	two years (four semesters)
Total Units	43
Cost per Semester	\$4,971 (based on Fall 2025)
Total Cost (estimate)	\$19,884 (\$4,971 x four semesters)

Q: Can MPH students secure a Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) or Graduate Assistant (GA) position before entering the program?

A: While we do have many opportunities to work with faculty on research either for salary or for independent study credit, these opportunities pop up as needed and are sent to current cohorts of students. Unfortunately, we do not have the consistent funding to be able to offer set opportunities every semester, or ahead of time to students who are not yet enrolled.

Personal statement prompt (taken directly from Cal State Apply):

The SF State MPH program embraces a socio-ecological perspective that views health as a function of the intersecting levels of individual, interpersonal, community and systems. We are committed to health equity and social justice and incorporate related issues in our class content, readings, exercises and discussions. We strive to build a learning community that is diverse, inclusive, welcoming and supportive for each member. Over the course of the program we will reflect on and build from the strengths and challenges of diversity within the cohort community in regards to race, ethnicity, gender identity, age, physical ability, education, economic class, and other forms of cultural experience. We actively engage students and faculty in what it means to create and maintain a healthy, inclusive learning community from people of many different backgrounds. In a typed essay of no more than three double-spaced pages with one inch margins, font size 12, please address all of these questions in a single, polished essay.

- How is the SF State MPH Program with its socio-ecological view and the mission to promote health equity, and social justice the right fit for your interests and career goals?
- How have your academic and professional experiences prepared you to excel in the SF State MPH Program and to contribute to the MPH student and faculty learning community?
- What have been some of the most challenging experiences you have had with socio-demographically diverse groups and how have you grown from those experiences?
- Given those experiences, how can you contribute to and grow from an MPH cohort's work to build a healthy and inclusive learning environment?