

American Indian Public Health



NDSU offers the only Master of Public Health program in the nation specifically designed to prepare graduates to work with American Indian populations and to improve Native health.

The American Indian population suffers from among the worst public health disparities in the nation. In the Northern Plains, including North Dakota, the Native population has the highest rates of death due to diabetes, cancer, infant mortality, unintentional injuries and suicide. Risk factors and social causes of the disparities include high rates of smoking, substance abuse, poverty, poor nutrition, historical trauma and other circumstances.

In addition, unique American Indian health policy considerations, along with the federal government’s trust responsibility to provide health services, are often misunderstood among many public health leaders. Faculty members are American Indian Public Health professionals. They include Donald Warne, Oglala Lakota; Donna Grandbois, Turtle Mountain Chippewa; and Linda Frizzell, Cherokee/Lakota.

Students will take the required core Master of Public Health courses, including Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Leading and Managing Public Health Systems, Environmental Health, Health Care Delivery in the U.S., and Social and Behavioral Sciences in Public Health. In addition, students will be required to complete the Master of Public Health practicum and a master’s paper—each focused on American Indian Public Health. The 18-credit specialization curriculum is described below.

Required Courses	Credits
MPH 771: American Indian Health Policy	3
MPH 772: American Indian Health Disparities	3
MPH 773: Cultural Competence in Indian Health	3
MPH 774: Research Issues in Tribal Communities	3
MPH 775: Case Studies in Indian Health	3
Elective Courses	
In addition, choose 3 credits from the list of courses at www.ndsu.edu/publichealth/curriculum/progelectives .	

For more information and to apply to the Master of Public Health program, visit www.ndsu.edu/publichealth.

Traditional symbols and art hold deep, personal meaning for many Native Americans. Above is the Lakota Medicine Wheel. Donald Warne, director of NDSU’s Master of Public Health, explains its meaning at www.youtube.com/watch?v=fIGrFH463g.