

DPHS International Student Admissions

I. Introduction

The Medical University of South Carolina is an academic health and educational center committed to diversity and we welcome international students from all nations. This document is designed to help prospective international students with the application process. It also gives an overview of studying at the institution, application fees, as well as the general procedure of being an international student at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) and the Department of Public Health Sciences (DPHS).

This document only represents the Department of Public Health Sciences (DPHS) and its guidelines. This document is also not meant to be taken as legal advice.

II. DPHS Programs

We have three graduate programs at DPHS. We offer a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree, a master's in biomedical science, and a Ph.D. in Biomedical Science. The concentrations offered in all three degrees are below.

MPH Concentrations

- Biostatistics
- Epidemiology
- Health Behavior and Health Promotion
- Generalist (Online)

MS in Biomedical Science Concentrations

- Biostatistics
- Epidemiology

Ph.D. Concentrations

- Biostatistics
- Epidemiology

III. Application Process

There is a different application process for each of the three degree programs in the department. Even though each program is housed in the Department of Public Health Sciences, they originate from different colleges. The MPH program is based in the College of Medicine, whereas the MS and Ph.D. programs are based in the College of Graduate Studies. Although there are common application requirements across all three-degree programs, some processes will differ.

Even though the GRE is not required for any of the programs, it is strongly recommended for the MS and Ph.D. programs. All three programs at DPHS are quantitative and research focused, so a sufficient mathematics background is essential for success in each program. The GRE will be required if you have never taken a college level math course.

As the application windows are different for each program, it is strongly recommended that you apply early, as the department will need to initiate the request for a F-1 sponsorship before **April 1st** for a Fall start date (see pages 6-7.)

Below is a list of the application requirements for all DPHS graduate programs:

1. A MUSC application
2. Application fee (Program Specific. [See below](#))
3. Three recommendation letters (advisors, supervisors, professors, etc.)
4. Official transcript from all post-secondary schools (i.e., college, technical school, associate degree, bachelor's degree, graduate school, etc.)
5. Resume
6. 1,000-word personal statement

IV. Transcript Credit Evaluation

Academic records from foreign institutions must be provided in English, certified, and validated as authentic by a university or government official. The College of Medicine, which houses DPHS, requires that transcripts be evaluated by professional agencies and are submitted to MUSC electronically or in unopened envelopes showing the equivalency of work completed outside the U.S.

The following websites are preferred agencies and are members of the National Association for Credit Evaluation Services (NACES). Their costs vary across agencies, and we encourage you to compare prices and select the best choice for you.

[NACES | National Association of Credential Evaluation Services](#)

[IERF – Credentials Evaluation Service – Chartered NACES Member](#)

[World Education Services: International Credential Evaluation for U.S. \(wes.org\)](#)

If your education was completed in the U.S., you do not need to complete a transcript credit evaluation. An evaluation is treated like a transcript, so if it was done for a previous program, you will be able to use it.

V. Language Proficiency Test

A language proficiency test is required for all applicants whose native language is not English. Scores must not be more than **two years old**. Exceptions can be made if a student has attended a United States institution for an extended period. An exception might also be made for students in a foreign institution that uses English as the primary language for instruction, however, these are made on a case-by-case basis.

Final consideration cannot be granted to an international student's application for admission until these official scores are received by the Office of Enrollment Management.

Accepted tests are IELTS and TOEFL. Minimal requirements are:

MPH

- Paper-based test for TOEFL: 600
- Computer-based test for TOEFL: 250
- Internet-based test for TOEFL: 100
- IELTS: A minimum of 7.5

MS and Ph.D.

- TOEFL: 100
- IELTS: 7

VI. Program Specific Requirements

MPH Program

MPH Application Requirements

The application window for the MPH program opens December 1st and ends May 15th. Once you submit all the required documents, the Office of Enrollment Management will send us a packet of your completed application. Faculty from our department will then review your application and you will receive an answer about your application within roughly 2.5-3 weeks.

The GRE is not required but will be recommended if the transcript shows that the student has not taken any college level math courses. Our Epidemiology and Biostatistics courses will require a more in-depth math background than our Health Behavior and Health Promotion concentration.

MPH Program Fees

Below are the fees that are associated with application to the MPH program. The list is broken down based on the stages of the application.

A. At Application

- Application fee: \$95

The application fee is required for applications to be reviewed and considered for admission.

B. After Acceptance

- Matriculation fee: \$485

An applicant declares their intention to matriculate with a written acceptance of admission together with a non-refundable matriculation fee. Without payment, admission is not confirmed. Applicants are expected to accept admission within four weeks of the offer unless otherwise stipulated by the college.

C. Tuition

For the 2023-2024 academic year, tuition and fees for the MPH program will be found [here](#). As international students, you will be required to show an affidavit of income verifying that you are able to pay for the costs of the program including living expenses.

MS Program

MPH Application Requirements

The application window for the MS program starts on December 1st and ends June 1st. Once you submit all the required documents, the Office of Enrollment Management will send DPHS a packet of your completed application. DPHS faculty will then review your application.

Although the GRE is not required, it is strongly recommended as the MS is a quantitative program.

MS Program Fees

Below are the fees that are associated with application to the MS program. The list is broken down based on the stages of the application.

A. At Application

- Application fee: \$25

The application fee is required for the application to be reviewed and considered for admission.

B. After Acceptance

- Matriculation fee: \$400

An applicant declares their intention to matriculate with a written acceptance of admission together with a non-refundable matriculation fee. Without payment, admission is not

confirmed. Applicants are expected to accept admission within four weeks of the offer unless otherwise stipulated by the college.

C. Tuition

As for the 2023-2024 academic year tuition for the MPH program will be found [here](#) under “Full-time Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences Tuition and Fees.”

As international students, you will be required to show an affidavit of income verifying that you are able to pay for the costs of the program including living expenses.

Ph.D. Program

Ph.D. Application Requirements

The Ph.D. program application window starts September 1st and ends January 15th. Once you submit all the required documents, the Office of Enrollment Management will send DPHS a packet of your completed application. The Ph.D. application has two stages. Once the enrollment management sends DPHS your packet, DPHS faculty will evaluate your application and determine whether you will be invited for an interview. Your interview date will be sent to you. If you are in the U.S., then you will come to MUSC in person and your travel expenses including your ticket and hotel expenses will be paid by MUSC. In-person interviews span two days and are typically scheduled for Thursday and Fridays in January, February, and March. If you are outside the U.S., we will conduct a virtual interview.

The process consists of **five interviews** on Interview Day of which one is with a member of the graduate admissions committee. The interviews will be an opportunity for faculty to assess your abilities, independent thought, and attitude towards a scientific career.

Ph.D. Program Fees

Although the Ph.D. program is fully funded, prospective students are still required to show proof of funds. Below are the fees that are associated with application to the Ph.D. program. The list is broken down based on the stages of the application.

A. At application

- Application fee: \$95

The application fee is required for your application to be reviewed and considered for admission.

B. After Acceptance

- Matriculation fee: \$400

An applicant declares their intention to matriculate with a written acceptance of admission together with a non-refundable matriculation fee. Without payment, admission is not

confirmed. Applicants are expected to accept the offer of admission by April 15th, unless otherwise stipulated by the offer letter.

C. Tuition

The Ph.D. program is a fully funded program. You are guaranteed funding for 5 years if you are in good standing. This means that your tuition and health insurance are paid for. In your first year as a Ph.D. student, you will be under the dean's scholarship from the College of Graduate studies. Your second year, you will be required to find funding within our department from faculty members and Primary Investigators (PI) that you would be interested in working with.

In addition to tuition and health insurance, you will also get a monthly stipend (currently \$34,000 a year). Even though this is a fully funded program, you are still required to show that you can pay for the costs of the program including living expenses.

VII. Obtaining an F-1 Visa

New F-1 Students

After you have been accepted and the matriculation fee is paid, a representative from the admitting MUSC college will be required to submit a new F-1 sponsorship request to the MUSC Center for Global Health. Once this request has been submitted, a designated school official from the Center for Global Health will contact you to discuss the next steps and the MUSC F-1 sponsorship process. For more information, please visit [New F-1 Students | MUSC | Charleston, SC](#).

As part of the F-1 sponsorship application process, you will be required to complete the Declaration of Finances form showing proof of your financial support for the first year of your program. This includes financial support for tuition and school fees as well as estimated living expenses. An administrator in your admitting college will complete the first part of the form and send it to you to complete. You will also be required to submit supporting documentation showing proof of your funding for the first year of the program. The exact amount that you must show will be determined by your college and will be indicated in the Declaration of Finances form. Depending on the source of your funding, you may need to obtain official bank statements or student loan documents to submit with this form. This can take some time. Please note that all documents must be in English or accompanied by a certified English translation.

Once the complete F-1 sponsorship application has been submitted through Terra Dotta, if the request is approved, then you will receive Form I-20 from MUSC. You must then present Form I-20 to the embassy or consulate to apply for the F-1 visa. The MUSC center for Global Health will provide you with more information once the Form I-20 has been issued.

Since it can take many weeks for the visa to be processed and issued by the embassy or consulate, applicants should apply early to have enough time for visa processing. For programs that begin in the Fall term, the new F-1 sponsorship request must be submitted no later than April 1st. Please keep in mind that visa wait times are highly variable and are subject to change at any time based on local conditions.

Dependents

As an F-1 student, you can also include your spouse or children as your dependents, if your spouse and dependents are planning to reside with you in the United States during your program. You will need an F-2 visa for your dependents. F-2 visa status is only available for spouses and children under 21 years old. It is not available for other relatives such as parents or siblings.

Each family member that will accompany you will need to be issued Form I-20 by MUSC and need to apply for the F-2 visa. For more information on visa for dependents please visit [F-2 Visa Status for Dependent Family Members | MUSC | Charleston, SC](#).

Transfers

If you are a student with a valid F-1 status, you may be able to transfer from one SEVP-certified school to another. You must maintain the F-1 status at the current school by pursuing a full course of study or be engaged in post-completion optional practical training (OPT) until the transfer release date. You must also be accepted into a degree program by another SEVP-certified school to qualify for a transfer. For more information, please visit [Transferring Your F-1 SEVIS Record | MUSC | Charleston, SC](#).

VIII. Contact Information

Department of Public Health Services

Name	Role	Email
Jacketta Cobbs MPH, Ph.D.	Academic Program Director	cobbsj@musc.edu
Eden Mekonnen CHES, MPH	MPH Program Manager	Mekonnen@musc.edu
Kristen DelliColli, MAT	Student Services Manager (MS/Ph.D.)	dellicol@musc.edu

College of Graduate Studies

Name	Role	Email
Catherine Butler, MS	Director of Recruitment and Admissions	butlecat@musc.edu

Office of Enrollment Management

Name	Role	Email
Richa Pokhrel	University Admissions Coordinator	Pokhrel@musc.edu
Anna Goodwin	Assistant Director of University Admissions	Goodwann@musc.edu

Office of Global Health

Name	Role	Email
Erin Huley	Immigration Program Manager	Huley@musc.edu