



Master of  
Public Health Program  
Student Handbook

September, 2023

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## Welcome

Welcome to the Master of Public Health Program (MPH) at Slippery Rock University! We are excited to have you join us on this academic journey to improve the lives of individuals, communities and the larger society. The MPH program is committed to providing the knowledge, learning experiences and affiliations to prepare you for your career as a Public Health professional.

The MPH handbook contains information to assist you as you progress through the program until degree completion. This handbook provides information on the curriculum, program requirements, policies, procedures, services and resources which are essential in your pursuit of the MPH degree.

The enclosed content follows Slippery Rock University (SRU) policies/procedures, Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) guidelines, APSCUF Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), and it is in compliance with the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Board of Governor's Policies, and Middle States Commission on Higher Education Standards.

If you have any questions regarding the MPH program requirements or policies, please do not hesitate to contact the MPH Program Director, Dr. Joseph Robare via [joseph.robare@sru.edu](mailto:joseph.robare@sru.edu) or at 724-738-2943. You may also contact your academic advisor or the department chairperson.

Welcome to the Rock!

# Introduction

## What is Public Health?

“Public health promotes and protects the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work and play. While a doctor treats people who are sick, those of us working in public health try to prevent people from getting sick or injured in the first place. We also promote wellness by encouraging healthy behaviors.

From conducting scientific research to educating about health, people in the field of public health work to ensure the conditions in which people can be healthy. That can mean vaccinating children and adults to prevent the spread of disease, or educating people about the risks of alcohol and tobacco. Public health sets safety standards to protect workers and develops school nutrition programs to ensure kids have access to healthy food.

Public health helps to determine, track and reduce harmful environmental pollutants in air, water, soil and materials in one’s home and workplace. In addition, public health creates the platform for advocacy and promotion of laws and policies to reduce different types of pollutants in order to prevent diseases and other adverse health effects (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2020).

Public health works to track disease outbreaks, prevent injuries and shed light on why some of us are more likely to suffer from poor health than others. The many facets of public health include speaking out for laws that promote smoke-free indoor air and seatbelts, spreading the word about ways to stay healthy and giving science-based solutions to problems.

Public health [saves money, improves our quality of life, helps children thrive and reduces human suffering](#)”. (American Public Health Association, <https://www.apha.org/What-is-Public-Health>, downloaded July 19, 2021)

## The Public Health Profession

The Association of Schools and Programs in Public Health describes the public health profession as follows. “[Public health professionals](#) focus on preventing disease and injury by promoting healthy lifestyles. They implement educational programs, develop policies, administer services, conduct research, and regulate health systems to achieve these goals.

The public health field confronts global health issues, such as improving access to health care, controlling infectious disease, and reducing environmental hazards, violence, substance abuse, and injury. It spans many disciplines and is regularly [spotlighted in popular culture and media](#).

In the past century, public health initiatives have [improved lives worldwide](#), including increasing life expectancy by almost 30 years in the United States. The development and application of population-based prevention programs will continue improving health over the next decades” (ASPPH, <https://www.aspph.org/discover/>, downloaded July 19,2021)

## MPH Program Overview

The MPH program is practitioner based and provides the knowledge and skills relevant in the workplace. The program provides the convenience of 100% asynchronous online learning. This allows for greater flexibility to fit busy schedules for the working professional and those students residing in different time zones or in another country.

The MPH Program has two academic concentrations (descriptions below)

1. Health Promotion and Wellness
2. Environmental and Occupational Health

The program requires students to complete 42 credits including a capstone experience that provides an opportunity to further develop relevant experience in an applied setting. Students can complete the program on a full-time or part-time schedule. Completing the program on a full-time schedule takes 21 months to complete. Graduates will be well-prepared to take the Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) examination, or the National Board of Public Health Examiner's Certified Public Health (CPH) examination.

### MPH Program Academic Concentrations:

**The Health Promotion and Wellness concentration** is growing in importance as health care is essential to the performance of all activities in life. This concentration emphasizes disease prevention over treatment. Students are prepared to utilize wellness as a multidimensional and holistic concept which emphasizes lifestyle, mental and spiritual well-being, and the environment. Students will be able to identify and implement effective communication strategies with clients in an individual or group setting to enhance health and wellness. Students use written formats and media technology to increase the likelihood of engaging priority populations in health promotion programs and recognize barriers to culturally competent provider-consumer relationships and identify strategies to overcome barriers. Lastly, students analyze and evaluate how a person contributes to their environment and community, and identify how to build better living spaces and social networks that promote wellness. The concentration is designed to produce the next generation of public health leaders and to keep up with the workforce demand in the field of Health Promotion and Wellness.

**The Environmental and Occupational Health concentration** is growing as an essential field of study. The environment is recognized as essential to maintaining health and a positive quality of life in all areas. The demand for students in this area is growing at a rapid pace. The Environmental and Occupational Health Concentration prepares students to identify, recognize, and analyze the physical, biological, and chemical hazards that people are exposed to not only in the environment but in the workplace, along with the associated health effects. Students also learn the roles of policies and regulatory agencies in ensuring a safe environment and workplace. Furthermore, students acquire skills and knowledge in the areas of risk assessment, industrial hygiene and toxicology, aimed at controlling, regulating and sustaining an environment and workplace with minimal hazard. This concentration is designed to produce the next generation of public health leaders and to address the growing workforce demand for professionals in the field of Environmental and Occupational Health.

## **Career Opportunities with an MPH in Health Promotion and Wellness**

An MPH graduate with a concentration in Health Promotion and Wellness could work in the following agencies or organizations with the following job descriptions.

- Federal Government (CDC, FDA, NIH, USDA)
- State Health Departments
- County Health Departments
- Non-governmental organizations
- Intergovernmental organizations
- For profit organizations
- Global Health Organizations

### **Job Descriptions**

1. Health Education Specialist
2. Community Health Worker
3. Health Education Outreach Specialist
4. Health Coach
5. Health Educator
6. Wellness Coordinator
7. Health Program Specialist
8. Evaluation Specialist
9. Public Health Program Manager
10. Community Outreach Coordinator
11. Public Health Analyst
12. Health Communication Specialist
13. Research Associate
14. Policy Analyst
15. Government Relations Coordinator
16. Faculty Member/Teacher

## **Career Opportunities with an MPH in Environmental and Occupational Health**

An MPH graduate with a concentration in Environmental and Occupational Health could work in the following agencies or organizations with the following job descriptions.

- Federal Government (EPA, FDA, CDC, NIOSH)
- State Health Departments
- County Health Departments
- Non-governmental organizations
- Intergovernmental organizations
- For profit organizations

### **Job Descriptions**

1. Air Pollution Analyst
2. Industrial Hygienist
3. Environmental Health Inspector
4. Environmental Toxicologist
5. Environmental Health Education Outreach Specialist

6. Disaster Management Specialist
7. Environmental Health Advocate
8. Safety Official
9. Environmental Health Consultant
10. Groundwater Protection Specialist
11. Environmental Health Professional
12. Environmental Health Scientist
13. Faculty Member/ Teacher
14. Environmental Health Specialist



## MPH Faculty

### **Name**

Dr. Nikhil Ahuja  
Assistant Professor

Dr. Tarek Eshak  
Assistant Professor

Dr. Joseph Robare  
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## MPH Program

### Vision

Advancing health equity for all individuals and communities in Pennsylvania and beyond.

### Mission

Prepare leaders through a high quality online public health program that promotes community based research and collaborations.

### Goals

*Goal 1.* Prepare leaders to advance health equity to meet the needs of the public health field within a high quality online curriculum.

*Goal 2.* Students and faculty engage with communities and organizations in research beneficial to the field

*Goal 3.* Increase student and faculty community service collaborations.

### **Our program values are reflected in:**

***Professionalism*** | The program strives to foster the development of public health professionals who will hold the highest ethical standards with competence, enthusiasm, respect, integrity, responsibility, and a commitment to life-long learning.

***Collaboration*** | The program strives to work within and across disciplines to advance the field of public health.

***Health Equity*** | The program recognizes the differences in individuals, communities, and the population. We strive to advance scientific knowledge and practice to protect the health of all members of our communities.

***Social Responsibility*** | The program values health and environmental protection for all and challenges our students to advocate for positive social change for all in communities.

***Evidence-Based Practice*** | The program strives to deliver evidence-based practices that are ethically responsible to promote equity and opportunities for all.

***Leadership*** | The program is committed to developing public health leaders who demonstrate professional integrity.

## **Program Accreditation Status**

The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) is the accrediting body for Public Health programs. The MPH program at SRU was accepted as an applicant for accreditation in March 2021. The accreditation review process is a 3-4 year process which entails a review of the entire general curriculum and the concentrations in Health Promotion and Wellness (HPW) and Environmental and Occupational Health (EOH). This review process will involve an extensive review of a self-study document, site visit by CEPH consultant and interactions with faculty and MPH students.

If you have questions regarding the CEPH accreditation process, contact the program director or review program accreditation requirements at <https://ceph.org>. Program faculty and SRU administration are committed to pursuing and achieving full CEPH accreditation.

## MPH Program Competencies

The Council on Education for Public Health recently revised foundational competency criteria for MPH Programs. The following 22 foundational competencies ensure that students are grounded in Public Health knowledge and these competencies will be covered in the “core” MPH courses. The SRU MPH program has two academic concentrations (see below) that have additional defined competencies that will be covered in the concentration specific course curriculum.

<b>MPH Foundational Competencies as Required by the Council on Education for Public Health</b>
1. Apply epidemiological methods to the breadth of settings and situations in public health practice.
2. Select quantitative and qualitative data collection methods appropriate for a given public health context.
3. Analyze quantitative and qualitative data using biostatistics, informatics, computer-based programming and software, as appropriate.
4. Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy or practice.
5. Compare the organization, structure and function of health care, public health and regulatory systems across national and international settings.
6. Discuss the means by which structural bias, social inequities and racism undermine health and create challenges to achieving health equity at organizational, community and societal levels.
7. Assess population needs, assets and capacities that affect communities’ health.
8. Apply awareness of cultural values and practices to the design or implementation of public health policies or programs.
9. Design a population-based policy, program, project or intervention.
10. Explain basic principles and tools of budget and resource management.
11. Select methods to evaluate public health programs.
12. Discuss multiple dimensions of the policy-making process, including the roles of ethics and evidence.
13. Propose strategies to identify stakeholders and build coalitions and partnerships for influencing public health outcomes.
14. Advocate for political, social or economic policies and programs that will improve health in diverse populations.
15. Evaluate policies for their impact on public health equity.
16. Apply principles of leadership, governance and management, which include creating a vision, empowering others, fostering collaboration and guiding decision-making.
17. Apply negotiation and mediation skills to address organizational or community challenges.
18. Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors.
19. Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation.
20. Describe the importance of cultural competence in communicating public health content.
21. Integrate perspectives from other sectors and/or professions to promote and advance population health

22. Apply systems thinking tools to a public health issue.

### **Environmental and Occupational Health Academic Concentration Competencies**

1. Assess current environmental risk assessment methods.
2. Analyze the general mechanisms of toxicity in eliciting a toxic response to various environmental exposures.
3. Develop approaches for assessing, preventing, and controlling environmental hazards that pose risks to human health and safety.
4. Evaluate federal, state, and local regulatory programs, guidelines and authorities that control environmental health issues.
5. Examine various risk management and risk communication approaches in relation to issues of environmental justice and equity.

### **Health Promotion and Wellness Academic Concentration Competencies**

1. Develop population health programs to improve chronic and infectious disease outcomes in target populations.
2. Perform self and client health and wellness coaching assessments using health coaching psychology and motivational skills.
3. Expand basic and advanced techniques for creating and implementing social marketing programs.
4. Formulate a framework for public health evaluations that comprehensively assesses program effectiveness and program goals and objectives based on the six steps in the CDC's framework for program evaluation.
5. Critique health marketing and communication programs.

## MPH Program Curriculum

The MPH program curriculum consists of two components: the MPH core courses that all MPH students are required to complete, and the academic concentration courses based on the chosen academic concentration.

### Core Courses

All MPH students are required to complete the following core courses.

	<b>SRU MPH Core Courses</b>	Credit Hours
HTLH 604	Social and Behavioral Aspects of Health and Wellness	3
HLTH 605	Health Services Administration	3
HLTH 606	Principles of Epidemiology	3
HLTH 607	Designing and Conducting Health Surveys	3
HLTH 608	Planning and Implementation of Public Health Programs	3
HLTH 609	Practicum in Public Health	3
HTLH 610	Occupational and Environmental Health Science	3
HLTH 627	Public Health Culminating Experience	3
HLTH 628	Biostatistics for Public Health	3
HLTH 631	Foundations of Public Health	3
	Core Credits	30

### Academic Concentrations

Each student is required to choose one academic concentration when registering for Fall year 2 program courses. Please meet with your academic advisor to discuss any questions you have regarding the academic concentrations. Each of the following academic concentrations for the MPH program require the completion of four courses.

#### *Environmental and Occupational Health Concentration*

	<b>Course Title</b>	Credit Hours
HTLH 623	Foundations of Environmental and Occupational Toxicology	3
HTLH 625	Occupational and Environmental Health Management and Leadership	3
HTLH 626	Assessment and Communication of Occupational and Environmental Risk	3
HLTH 630	Environmental and Occupational Exposure Monitoring Analysis and Control	3
	Credits	12

*Health Promotion and Wellness Concentration*

	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
HTLH 611	Infectious and Chronic Disease Control	3
HLTH 616	Health and Wellness Coaching	3
HLTH 617	Health Marketing and Communication	3
HLTH 618	Program Evaluation	3
	Credits	12

A brief description of the all MPH courses is located at [Public Health < Slippery Rock University \(sru.edu\)](http://Public Health < Slippery Rock University (sru.edu))

## MPH Program Curriculum Schedule (full time)

### Program Year 1

Fall Year 1	Winter Year 1	Spring Year 1	Summer Year 1
<p><b>Core Required Courses</b></p> <p>HLTH 631: Foundations of Public Health (3 credits)</p> <p>HLTH 628: Biostatistics for Public Health (3 credits)</p> <p>HLTH 604: Social and Behavioral Aspects of Health and Wellness (3 credits)</p>	<p><b>Core Required Course</b></p> <p>HLTH 605: Health Services Administration (3 credits)</p>	<p><b>Core Required Courses</b></p> <p>HLTH 606: Principles of Epidemiology (3 credits)</p> <p>HLTH 607: Designing and Conducting Health Surveys (3 credits)</p> <p>HLTH 610: Occupational and Environmental Health Science (3 credits)</p>	<p><b>Core Required Courses</b></p> <p>HLTH 609*: Practicum in Public Health (3 credits)</p> <p>HLTH 608: Planning and Implementation of Public Health Programs (3 credits)</p>

\* HLTH 609: Practicum in Public Health course has additional offerings in Fall and Spring terms, students must complete at least 21 core credits to register for the course.

### Program Year 2

<p><b>Students choose an academic concentration in Fall year 2</b></p> <p><b>Health Promotion and Wellness Concentration Courses</b></p> <p>HLTH 611: Infectious and Chronic Disease Control (3 credits)</p> <p>HLTH 616: Health and Wellness Coaching (3 credits)</p> <p>HLTH 617: Health Marketing and Communication (3 credits)</p>	<p><b>Winter Year 2</b> No required courses</p>	<p><b>Spring Year 2</b></p> <p><b>Health Promotion and Wellness Concentration Course</b></p> <p>HLTH 618: Program Evaluation (3 credits)</p> <p><b>Core Required Course</b> HLTH 627: Public Health Culminating Experience (3 credits)</p>
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<p><b>Students choose an academic concentration in Fall year 2</b></p> <p><b>Environmental and Occupational Health Concentration Courses</b></p> <p>HLTH 623: Foundations of Environmental and Occupational Toxicology (3 credits)</p> <p>HLTH 630: Environmental and Occupational Exposure Monitoring Analysis and Control (3 credits)</p>	<p><b>Winter Year 2</b> No required courses</p>	<p><b>Spring Year 2</b></p> <p><b>Environmental and Occupational Health Concentration Courses</b></p> <p>HLTH 625: Occupational and Environmental Health Management and Leadership (3 credits)</p> <p>HLTH 626: Assessment and Communication of Occupational and Environmental Health Risk (3 credits)</p> <p><b>Core Required Course</b> HLTH 627: Public Health Culminating Experience (3 credits)</p>
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## **PH Course Descriptions**

### **HLTH 604: Social and Behavioral Aspects of Health and Wellness**

This course covers the behavioral, social, and cultural aspects of health and disease. Students learn how behavioral and social theories are relevant to health promotion, wellness, and disease prevention efforts in public health.

### **HLTH 605: Health Services Administration**

This course provides a framework for developing and analyzing a range of health policy issues. This course takes into consideration the structure and functions of the US health care delivery system and its impact on health service administration.

### **HLTH 606: Principles of Epidemiology**

This course will prepare students to analyze and evaluate epidemiological study designs that are used to study disease and injury in human populations and the application of epidemiologic concepts to control health problems.

### **HLTH 607: Designing and Conducting Health Surveys**

This course provides instruction on how to design health survey questionnaires and how to conduct survey studies.

### **HLTH 608: Planning and Implementation of Public Health Programs**

The course provides students with core skills in public health and wellness program planning, development and implementation. Students will learn the challenges facing Public Health organizations and the solutions provided from a leadership perspective in making policies that affect the society.

### **HLTH 609: Practicum in Public Health**

The practicum provides students with a supervised, 200-hour experience in public health settings. The practicum enables students to participate in practices relevant to their area of specialization, integrating coursework and applying public health concepts and methods.

#### HLTH 610: Occupational and Environmental Health Science

##### Description:

This course explores the assessment of environmental exposures among populations, the recognition of risk among disparate populations and the practical application of local, state and federal public health law in controlling environmental exposures for the protection of the population's health.

#### HLTH 611: Infectious and Chronic Disease

This course provides an overview of the major chronic and infectious diseases with emphasis on disease syndromes and prevention. This course will aid the students' understanding of how diseases manifest and best practices and strategies for prevention.

#### HLTH 616: Health and Wellness Coaching

This course will provide students opportunities to plan realistic worksite health promotion programs and engage individuals in motivational interviewing and wellness coaching.

#### HLTH 617: Health Marketing and Communication

Health marketing and communication is essential for garnering interest and participation in public health and wellness initiatives. Effective marketing and communication is also imperative for sustaining and expanding wellness programming. This course addresses services marketing and marketing management in public health and wellness.

#### HLTH 618: Program Evaluation

This course provides students with opportunities to examine quantitative and qualitative ways to evaluate program effectiveness as well as avenues for improving program quality.

#### HLTH 623: Foundations of Environmental and Occupational Toxicology

This course provides learners with knowledge of environmental contaminants, their action on the body and the foundations for regulatory exposure limits and how those limits are achieved.

#### HLTH 625: Occupational and Environmental Health Management and Leadership

Based on the concept of task teams and management of task teams, this course provides managerial level background in program development, rules and policies development, education and training, inspections and audits and dealing with accidents and environmental releases and errors.

#### HLTH 626: Assessment and Communication of Occupational and Environmental Health Risk

This course provides students opportunities to examine the environmental health needs of specific communities and workplaces. Students learn how risks are assigned to environmental insults and how those risks must be clearly identified and communicated to constituents and used for mitigative action.

#### HLTH 627: Public Health Culminating Experience

The Public Health Culminating Experience course provides students with the opportunity to design and develop an integrative professional electronic portfolio. Developing an electronic portfolio is a learning

process, a way to deepen one's understanding of critical public health concepts, to put one's coursework and field experience into perspective, to demonstrate the knowledge and skills one has obtained, and to assess one's own mastery of the core competencies in one's chosen concentration and field.

#### HLTH 628: Biostatistics for Public Health

This course will cover statistical methods such as descriptive statistics, probability, Central Limit theorem, probability distributions, statistical inference, hypothesis testing and Linear regression. These topics will be taught using health/public health/epidemiology, examples as well as applications to business, engineering and finance. Projects will be tailored to individual students' specialty area such as health promotion, epidemiology, biostatistics, administration, marketing, etc.

#### HLTH 630: Environmental and Occupational Exposure Monitoring Analysis and Control

This course provides students with a practical look at exposure monitoring and area sampling, and the purposes and uses for these types of sampling. The course also examines the chemistry behind these types of examinations and the application of results from monitoring.

#### HLTH 631: Foundations of Public Health

This course presents the overarching framework, principles and core responsibilities of public health practice and introduces students to various elements of the public health system.

### **MPH Practicum Field Experience**

All graduate students in the MPH Program are required to complete a Practicum (Field Experience), in accordance with the requirements of their chosen concentration and professional or academic goals. Consider a choice of a field experience carefully, involving the *Academic Advisor*.

As such, the field experience, or practicum, has always played an important role in integrating classroom instruction with real-life experience in most public health educational programs. The Field Experience provides three graduate hours of credit and on-the-job training. In a ***minimum of 200 contact hours*** it provides an opportunity to assess how public health theory is being used in the practice setting and what skills and competencies are required to prepare for a career in the field. Detailed information regarding the MPH Practicum Experience may be found in the MPH Practicum Handbook. The practicum course is typically completed during the Summer term in Year 1 but can be completed in the Fall and Spring terms of Year 2 prior to graduation.

## **Educational Policies and Procedures**

### **Student Orientation Meeting**

Before the first semester of the program, typically two weeks before classes begin, students are required to attend the **MPH Student Orientation**. This session will introduce students to the program and faculty and reinforce the activities required for successful matriculation of this online graduate program. The MPH Program Director will schedule this meeting via Zoom using the SRU email system.

### **Graduation Requirements**

Degree candidates must have a **3.000** or better cumulative GPA on a 4.000 scale for all graduate courses attempted at Slippery Rock University to graduate.

All requirements must be completed within a six-year period commencing with the first graduate course taken at SRU. Requests for extension will be considered by the Dean on a case-by-case basis only through special request with an absolute statute of limitations of ten years. It is the student's responsibility to complete all degree requirements and to know the program's and university's requirements for graduation.

### **Professional Advisement**

Upon admission to the MPH program, students will be assigned a faculty advisor. This assignment will be made by the department chairperson in consultation with the program director. The faculty advisor will be a full time tenure or tenure-track professor designated to teach graduate Public Health classes. Students are strongly encouraged to meet regularly with their academic advisor each semester to clarify any questions, concerns or issues related to courses, practical experiences, employment opportunities and advanced educational pursuits.

## Faculty Office Hours

Faculty members welcome the opportunity to confer with students and are required to have 5 hours set aside each week for office hours. Faculty will identify office hours on each course syllabus and faculty will meet virtually or in-person. It is recommended to schedule an appointment with the faculty member to ensure there will be adequate time for discussion.

## Semester Credit Hours

The MPH program can be completed in 21 months on a full time basis. A full academic load for MPH graduate students is 9 credit hours per Fall and Spring semesters. There are also 3 credits to be completed during the winter term in year 1 and 6 credits to be completed in the summer term year 1.

Students are permitted to complete the MPH program on a “part-time schedule”. If you plan to complete the program part-time, please contact your academic advisor to develop the most efficient course schedule based on your needs.

## Transfer Credits

For newly admitted SRU MPH graduate students who wish to transfer graduate coursework earned at other institutions prior to attending SRU, please review the following requirements. A maximum of twelve (12) semester hours of graduate coursework earned at other accredited institutions may be accepted for transfer to Slippery Rock University before enrolling. The Graduate Transfer Credit Form can be downloaded at <https://www.sru.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/graduate-forms>. Please discuss any transfer credits with your advisor as soon as you are accepted to the program.

## Course Registration

Newly admitted MPH graduate students are permitted to register for courses online once they receive network access. Network access is granted once the student has submitted the Graduate Program Acceptance Form and received correspondence email from the SRU Graduate Admissions Office. The MPH Program Director will follow-up with an email detailing the specific courses to register for the Fall admittance year term.

- If you forget your network user name and password, contact the Help Desk in Maltby Center, 724.738.4357
- The following links provide helpful guidance to registering for courses at SRU: Students can use the **Student Guide to Registration** to learn how to register for classes using **MySRU**.

Please review the MPH course schedule and meet regularly with your Academic Advisor to plan a course of study. During the course registration period each term, your advisor will reach out to you via email with course registration requirements.

## Online Classes and the *Desire2Learn*® Computer Assisted Instructional Delivery System

All SRU MPH courses use the *Desire2Learn* (D2L) system that allows for courses to be taught online. It allows instructors to post assignments, give tests, post grades, and make additional course material available—all in a user friendly computer-assisted instructional interface. It also allows students to retrieve their assignments, submit their work, take tests, view their grades, and communicate with the

instructor(s) and classmates. In order to access the benefits of this system, students must use their @sru.edu accounts. For more information about learning online at SRU please visit the D2L support website at <https://www.sru.edu/offices/academic-affairs-and-integrated-learning/rock-learning-now/online-learning-platforms>

### **Online Class Attendance and Participation**

SRU MPH courses are delivered asynchronously fully online (unless specified in the course syllabus) using the D2L system discussed above. Success in all MPH courses is dependent on your active participation and engagement throughout the course. As such, students are required to complete all assignments by the due date, and to actively participate in class discussions. Additionally, students are expected to Log onto courses and complete weekly assignments, assessments, discussions and/or other weekly deliverables as outlined in the syllabus. Please review each course syllabus carefully for specific course requirements.

### **Course Grading System**

All completed courses will be graded on a letter grade basis of A, B, C, D or F. Passing grades are considered a “C” or better. All courses must be passed to graduate. If a student earns a “D” or an “F” in a course, the student **will be put on probation and required to retake the failed course**. To remain in good standing, a graduate student must maintain an overall grade point average of 3.0 or better. All graduate course grades earned at SRU by a student will be used in computing the grade point average. An overall average of 3.0 is required for graduation.

### **Incomplete Grades**

Students who receive a grade of “incomplete” (I) in any course must finish the course in 1 year per Slippery Rock University requirements. Per MPH Program requirements students must complete a minimum of 50% of the required coursework or documented unforeseen circumstance to receive an incomplete. If the students do not complete the course within this timeframe the course will convert to an “F” and the student will be required to retake the course. If you receive an “I” in a course please contact your professor to discuss and develop a course assignment completion plan to ensure course success.

### **Leave of Absence/Program Withdrawal**

Students taking a leave of absence or withdrawing from the MPH program are required to meet with the MPH Program Director for a brief exit interview. Students who wish to withdraw from the University must also complete an exit interview with a Student Success Coach, which can be scheduled by calling the Office for Inclusive Excellence at 724.738.2700. If receiving financial aid, a student may also be required to meet with financial aid.

Medical Withdrawals are reserved for students with medical circumstances making it difficult or impossible to complete coursework during the semester in which they are enrolled.

Information for University Medical Withdrawals can be found <https://www.sru.edu/life-at-sru/health-and-wellness/student-support>.

### **Readmission Process**

A student who has withdrawn/medically withdrawn from the University and wishes to return to the program will be required to meet all University readmission criteria. In addition, the student must submit a letter to the MPH Program requesting to return to the program along with an academic plan for their success within the program. The MPH Admissions Committee will review the

student's information as requested. The Admissions Committee will make a recommendation to the Dean and the Dean will decide if the student will be reactivated. If the student will be reactivated, Graduate Admissions will be notified by the Dean. In addition, a student who has medically withdrawn from the University will be required to meet all University requirements for readmission to the University.

## **Academic Probation**

Students may be subject to program probation for the following reasons:

Academic Probation whereby a student fails to maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.000 or better for one semester.

Professionalism Probation:

- Not completing a remediation assignment by the agreed upon (or stated) date
- A lapse in professionalism, which can include but is not limited to:
  - Dishonest and/or unethical behavior (including but not limited to lying, or falsifying or omitting any required program information or documentation)
  - Uncooperative, hostile, disruptive, negative, disrespectful or verbally abusive behavior manifested toward the program staff, patients, instructors, clinical preceptor(s), the MPH Program, the University, medical staff, visitors, or fellow students
  - Insubordination to a preceptor or faculty member including refusal to accept constructive feedback or criticism
  - Failure to adhere to the defined dress code (please see the SRU MPH Student Practicum Handbook for specific details)
  - Inappropriate, accusative, derogatory, argumentative, disrespectful or privileged information included in any kind of written materials, electronic mail, conversations, or comments in any open setting at the University or clinical site
  - Use of profane, vulgar, abusive, obscene, or threatening language of any sort while participating in University activities
  - Any violation of requirements set forth in an MPH course syllabus
  - Lack of respect for the privacy or property of others
  - Any other situation or condition not addressed in this list of behaviors will be considered independently according to the individual case

A student will receive written notice of their probationary status from the Deans Office/Program Director. The letter will describe how the student has failed to meet expected standards, it will stipulate the expectations and conditions to remain in and/or graduate from the program. It will also include steps that should be taken to remediate a deficiency or improve performance. Once a student is placed on either academic or professional probation, failure to comply with the conditions established constitutes grounds for further disciplinary action, including deceleration and dismissal from the program.

## **Academic Integrity Policy**

The value of education is determined by the quality and character of its students and graduates. Therefore, students, student organizations, management, and faculty are expected to uphold academic integrity. Academic integrity refers to the adherence to agree upon moral and ethical principles when engaging in academic or scholarly pursuits. Mastery of subject matter should be demonstrated in an honorable and straightforward manner.



The course instructor is the primary individual responsible for ensuring academic integrity within the MPH program. If a student is guilty (directly or indirectly) of academic misconduct (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) they are subject to disciplinary action. The course instructor will decide the severity of the misconduct and the corresponding disciplinary action. The instructor may reduce an assignment/examination/course grade to an “F” or a “0” depending on severity of the violation. Students have the right to appeal a grade associated with academic misconduct and should review this process and all other SRU policies and procedures at <https://www.sru.edu/offices/student-conduct/code-of-conduct> to ensure academic success.

## **Grievances and Harassment Policy**

### **Student Grievances**

It is a priority of the SRU MPH program to maintain a highly effective and professional relationship with all enrolled students. However, students may not always agree with a faculty/committee decision/action. SRU encourages students to address concerns directly with the specific faculty and if unresolved, make an appointment with the department chairperson for a constructive resolution.

The following link provides a detailed outline of the grievance procedures set forth by SRU <https://www.sru.edu/offices/student-conduct/code-of-conduct>. These procedures are followed to ensure grievances/complaints are properly reviewed by the university.

### **Allegation of Harassment**

Slippery Rock University’s discrimination and harassment policy seeks to provide an environment that is free from discrimination, including the form of discrimination recognized as harassment based upon race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, religion, age, disability, age/or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

It is the policy of Slippery Rock University that discrimination is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. The university will take action to prevent discrimination and harassment, including, if necessary and as appropriate, disciplining any individual whose behavior violates this policy. Discipline may include, but is not limited to, oral or written warning, transfer, suspension, termination and expulsion. Vendors and other visitors to campus are also required to observe this university policy.

For the complete policy and procedures visit the links below, or contact the Office for Diversity and Equal Opportunity: 724-738-2016.

<https://www.sru.edu/Documents/offices/diversity/discrimination-and-harassment-policy.pdf>

<http://www.sru.edu/offices/diversity-and-equal-opportunity/policies-procedures-samples-and-forms>

### **Violation of MPH Program Policies**

Student who fails to adhere to the Slippery Rock University MPH Program policy manual will face disciplinary consequences. The MPH program director will request a meeting with a student to review alleged violations. The program director along with MPH faculty will recommend sanctions at the conclusion of the disciplinary process, and inform the chairperson of the final

recommendation.

## **Other University Policies**

Please visit the SRU Office of Academic Affairs for additional policies and procedures at <https://www.sru.edu/offices/academic-affairs/syllabi-policies>

## **Title IX Policy**

Slippery Rock University and its faculty are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students. In order to comply with the requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the University's commitment to offering supportive measures in accordance with the new regulations issued under Title IX, the University requires faculty members to report incidents of sexual violence shared by students to the University's Title IX Coordinator. The only exceptions to the faculty member's reporting obligation are when incidents of sexual violence are communicated by a student during a classroom discussion, in a writing assignment for a class, or as part of a University-approved research project. Faculty members are obligated to report sexual violence or any other abuse of a student who was, or is, a child (a person under 18 years of age) when the abuse allegedly occurred to the person designated in the University protection of minors policy. Information regarding the reporting of sexual violence and the resources that are available to victims of sexual violence is set forth at: <https://www.sru.edu/offices/diversity-and-equal-opportunity/sexual-misconduct-and-victim-resources>.

## **Anti-discrimination Policy**

Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, religion, age, disability, age/or veteran status in its programs or activities in accordance with Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other applicable statutes and University policies. Available at <https://www.sru.edu/offices/diversity-and-equal-opportunity/notice-of-non-discrimination>

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Assistant Vice President of Diversity and Equal Opportunity/ Title IX Coordinator 008 Old Main 104 Maltby Avenue Slippery Rock University Slippery Rock, PA 16057 724.738.2016

## **Correct Pronouns, Names and Inclusion**

Slippery Rock University, MPH program seeks to create a space where students have the opportunity to bring all aspects of their selves into the classroom in order to fully engage in this course. We support people of all gender expressions and gender identities and encourage students to use the name and set of pronouns which best reflect who they are. In this spirit, faculty and others welcome and expect all students to also use the correct name and pronouns of their classmates. We will do our best to respect and use the language you use to refer to yourself and will encourage other members of our classroom community to do the same. Please inform your faculty member if class documentation reflects a name or set of pronouns different from what you use, and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact your faculty after class, by email, or during office hours.

[Rockprice.sru.edu/policies/#search=chosen](https://rockprice.sru.edu/policies/#search=chosen)

## **Online Course Etiquette “netiquette”**

What is Netiquette? Simply stated, its network etiquette – that is, the etiquette of cyberspace. And “etiquette” means “the forms required by good breeding or prescribed by authority to be required in social or official life.” In other words, Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online.

The list of core rules below, and the explanations that follow, are excerpted from the book. They are offered here as a set of general guidelines for cyberspace behavior.

It is important for you as a student to recognize that the online classroom is in fact a classroom, and certain behaviors are expected when you communicate with both your peers and your instructors. These guidelines for online behavior and interaction are known as “netiquette”.

The purpose of the following information is to help you be a more effective and successful student when communicating via email, chat rooms, or on discussion boards as a part of your online learning activities at Slippery Rock University.

### **Importance of Netiquette**

Proper conduct in an online class is just as important as in a face-to-face classroom with similar potential repercussions for failing to maintain decorum. Remember that in an online class it is common for a very substantial portion of your grade to be a function of how well you perform in online discussion areas and other “classroom participation” activities. Your ability to clearly and properly communicate in an online class can be every bit as important to your success as how you perform on multiple choice tests and written assignments.

You can start by either:

- Viewing this short [Youtube video on Netiquette](#)
- Or visiting Virginia Shea's [Netiquette Home Page](#)

## Netiquette General Guidelines

When communicating online, you should always:

- Treat your instructor(s) with respect, even in email or in any other online communication.
- Always use your professors' proper title: Dr. or Prof., or if you're in doubt use Mr. or Ms. (Corollary: Make sure if you use a gender-specific title that you are clear on their gender. Some names can be gender ambiguous. When in doubt, obtain a picture of them online.)
- Unless specifically invited, don't refer to them by first name. Some will be OK called "Bob" and others will expect to be "Dr. Smith".
- Use clear and concise language. Be respectful of readers' time and attention.
- Remember that all college level communication should have correct spelling and grammar.
- Avoid slang terms such as "wassup?" and texting abbreviations such as "u" instead of "you".
- Use standard fonts that are optimized for online reading (e.g., sans serif) along with a consistent and readable size (12 or 14 pt.)
- Avoid using the caps lock feature AS IT CAN BE INTERPRETED AS YELLING.
- Limit and possibly avoid the use of emoticons. Not everyone knows how to interpret them.
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm as tone is sometimes lost in an email or discussion post and your message might be taken literally or offensively.
- Be careful sharing personal information online (both yours and others).
- If you are in a health-care course follow HIPPA guidelines including not sending confidential patient information via e-mail or posting online.

## Netiquette in Discussion Forums

When posting on the Discussion Board in your online class, please take the following into consideration:

- Develop posts that are on topic and within the scope of the course material. If necessary, re-read the instructions from your instructor.
- Take your posts seriously and review and edit your posts before sending. (Would you put sloppy writing with poor grammar in a formal research paper?)
- Be as brief as possible while still making a thorough comment. Remember this is a discussion area, not a doctoral thesis.
- Always give proper credit when referencing or quoting another source. (Don't copy and paste another student's post and claim it as original as that is essentially plagiarism.)
- Be sure to read all messages in a thread before replying.
- Don't repeat someone else's post without adding something of your own to it.
- Avoid short, generic replies such as, "I agree." Explain why you agree or add to the previous point. The point of a discussion in an online course is to help you and other students learn through in-depth consideration of important topics, just like "traditional" brick and mortar classroom discussions.
- Always be respectful of others' opinions even when they differ from your own. When you disagree with someone, you should express your differing opinion in a respectful, non-critical way. (Do not make personal or insulting remarks.)
- Be open-minded as that is one of the major points of participating in an open classroom online discussion.

## **Email Netiquette**

When you send an email to your instructor, graduate assistant, or classmates, please consider the following:

- Use a clear and descriptive subject line as a way to give them a reason to open your email.
- Be brief. Don't make the reader have to scroll to read the entire message.
- Put the most important part at the very beginning. They may not read it to the end.
- Avoid attachments unless you are sure your recipients can open them. This is especially important with many people using smart -phones and tablet PCs to view email.
- Sign your message with your name and return e-mail address. Make sure they know how to contact you.
- Think before you send the e-mail to more than one person. Does everyone really need to see your message? (Be sure you REALLY want everyone to receive your response when you click, "reply all".)
- Similarly, be sure that the message author intended for the information to be passed along before you click the "forward" button.
- If you are sending an email while upset or angry, think about not sending it until you've cooled off. A 24-hour resting period is often a good idea.

## **Staying Secure Online**

Remember that your password is the only thing protecting you from malicious activity or more serious harm.

- Always follow Slippery Rock University campus guidelines with respect to password security. Keep it private and never share it with anyone. If you have questions, call the IATS help desk at 724-738-4357.
- Change your password immediately if you think someone else might know it. (Call 724-738-4357 if you need help managing your password.)
- Always logout when you are finished using any secured system – especially if you are using a shared computer in a public place.

Overall, you should use common sense when communicating electronically. In the same way that you would present yourself in person to make a positive and constructive impression you should always do the same when taking an online course. Remember that the majority of what we communicate to others is in non-verbal ways (body language, voice inflection, etc.) and all you have in online courses is in a text form. Make sure your digital impression is a clear and positive one.

Reference: adapted from Virginia Shea, Netiquette, <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>, 2015

## **University Resources and Services**

### **Academic Records & Registration**

For information about transcripts, attendance verification, course registration, class and final exam schedules, or graduation, contact the Office of Academic Records and Registration. The Office of Academic Records & Registration serves to support of the university's mission by providing faculty, administrators, staff and students with the information and services required to excel and be successful in their roles within the university community. For more information, visit the link below or contact the office at: 724-738-2010 [academic.records@sru.edu](mailto:academic.records@sru.edu)  
<http://www.sru.edu/academics/academic-services/academic-records>

### **Academic Tutoring**

Academic tutoring is provided on an as needed basis, the student should contact the course instructor to develop a plan of action.

### **Career Education and Development**

The Career Education and Development Office is located in 108 Bailey Library and hours of operation are 8:00-4:30 pm Monday through Friday. Staff can be reached by calling 724-738-2028 for scheduled appointments. Program staff are available to assist with resume preparation, locating practical experiences, preparing for interviews, application to graduate programs, and changing careers. A vast array of resources are available for student access and use. Career coaching is also available for those students who are in need of this service and appointments can be scheduled via SRU HANDSHAKE.

Additionally, the MPH program has implemented a MPH Career Series Presentations that take place virtually via Zoom in the Fall and Spring terms. The recorded Zoom presentations/discussions are uploaded to the MPH Students D2L shell, under content, MPH Career Series Presentations. These

presentations are a great way to find out about how to apply for positions, available positions, including websites. The speakers for this series are leaders in the field of public health and work within the US and globally.

## **Counseling Center**

The health of the mind is just as important as the health of the body. The Student Counseling Center (SCC) is staffed with qualified professionals who will assist with managing and reducing psychological problems and distress and enhancing mental health and wellbeing. SCC provides brief confidential counseling aimed at helping students academically and interpersonally. All SCC services are free to SRU students. Some of the issues addressed include but are not limited to: adjustment to college life; relationship issues; self-esteem issues; communication skills; gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans concerns; academic or learning difficulties; stress/anxiety; alcohol abuse; drug abuse; eating disorders; depression; grief; abuse issues; and victimization. Contact SCC for an appointment via 724-738-2034.

## **Financial Aid**

The SRU Financial Aid Office supports the mission and vision of the University and the Division of Academic & Student Affairs by helping to remove the financial barriers to higher education. The Financial Aid Office is committed to providing a high level of service and to offering a coordinated delivery of comprehensive student aid programs that are supportive of the recruitment and retention of students.

The Office of Financial Aid provides information and resources related to the following: applying for financial aid (and forms), types of aid available, estimated costs, satisfactory academic progress, return of Title IV funds, military education benefits, external financial aid resources, and more. For more information, visit the link below or contact the office at: 724-738-2044 or [financial.aid@sru.edu](mailto:financial.aid@sru.edu) <http://www.sru.edu/admissions/financial-aid>

## **Health Services**

Located in Rhoads Hall, the staff of [Student Health Services](#) looks forward to assisting you to achieve your best personal health. Student Health Services is available 24/7 - staffed by nurses, nurse practitioners, and physicians. Our caring and competent health care team is standing by to help you take care of yourself. Most services from general physical exams to pregnancy tests to allergy shots are covered under the health services fee. Annual flu shots are also provided free of charge. Staff work to educate students on issues like dangerous drinking, safe sex practices, stress management, and healthy living. You can reach Student Health Services at 724.738.2052.

## **Services for Students with Disabilities**

Services for Students with Disabilities are available to any enrolled Slippery Rock University student having a documented disability. SRU is committed to accommodating students with disabilities and helping them to achieve academic success. The Office of Disability Services provides students with reasonable accommodations and services to ensure equal access to education as intended by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008. Services include assistance with, but are not limited to, the following disabilities: learning, physical, hearing, vision or psychological. Students requiring an accommodation must submit an Accommodation Request Form and adhere to all policies and procedures of the Office of Disability Services. For more information or to request accommodation visit the links below or contact the office at: 724-738-

4877 or [natalie.burick@sru.edu](mailto:natalie.burick@sru.edu)

<http://www.sru.edu/academics/academic-services/services-for-students-with-disabilities>

Accommodation Request Form [https://sru-accommodate.symplicity.com/public\\_accommodation/](https://sru-accommodate.symplicity.com/public_accommodation/)

## **Student Support**

Student Support at SRU is part of Student Affairs and acts as a central location where faculty, staff, students, parents or community members can refer a student experiencing or causing distress that interferes with learning, development and success. Student Support uses a comprehensive support model focused on the holistic development of the student to assist when they encounter challenges, barriers, and crises that impact their ability to be successful and safe by setting goals and connecting to the appropriate resources. Student Support Staff focuses on enhancing student learning and development through boost social and emotional peer outreach; one on one case management; behavioral Intervention; critical incident response; and community training and consultation.

## **Writing Center**

The SRU Writing Center is located in Bailey Library and staff will provide assistance for students who require guidance in improving their writing skills. Staff will assist with the preparation of research papers, essays, writing style, tone, organization, thesis development, formatting and citations. Contact the Writing Center staff at 724-738-2654 for an appointment.

## **University Library**

Bailey Library is the intellectual, interdisciplinary center of the university. The strength of the library is a reflection of Slippery Rock University's ongoing commitment to education and research, and Bailey Library is an active partner in the education mission of Slippery Rock University. ACCESS Medicine (electronic database) is available through Bailey Library for students and is staffed with discipline specific librarians to assist students with research needs. For more information, visit the link below or contact the library at 724-738-2058

<http://www.sru.edu/academics/bailey-library>



## **Professional Organizations**

Students are encouraged to join and actively participate in student organizations and professional organizations to supplement program knowledge and to network with Public Health professionals. Numerous organizations exist for membership and align with students with particular interests.

### **Pennsylvania Public Health Association (PPHA) Collegiate Chapter**

The SRU collegiate chapter is a student organization open to undergraduate and graduate Public Health students. Students elect officers, identify agendas, invite presentations, and engage in community activities. Students work to promote health and educate peers on campus while growing as future health professionals. This collegiate chapter membership dues are \$5 and payable fall and spring semesters. Meetings are held on a monthly basis, and the faculty advisor is actively engaged with the Public Health students.

### **Pennsylvania Public Health Association (PPHA)**

Pennsylvania Public Health Association (PPHA) is an all membership organization working to promote the health of Pennsylvania residents. PPHA does this through the advancement of sound public health policies and practice.

PPHA Members are a diverse group of public health professionals and students from across Pennsylvania who share an interest in and expertise with a wide range of health-related issues, including those related to policy, education, private and public sector health services and healthcare delivery, legislation, and health-related research.

People who work in public health promote and protect the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work and play. The medical profession focuses on individual treatment, while the public health profession focuses on large scale solutions that are prevention oriented. People who work in public health are researchers, practitioners and educators who work across a broad spectrum of fields

examples of which include social work, child welfare, education, chronic disease, the science of aging, mental health, disaster response, refugee health, injury prevention and tobacco control.

In Pennsylvania, public health priorities include things such as:

- Access to clean water
- Asthma
- Diabetes
- Hypertension
- Lead remediation
- Substance Use Disorders including opioid use disorders
- Rural Health
- Urban Health
- Gun Violence
- Suicide

One year student membership is \$20/year and for more information please visit <https://pa-pha.phmc.org/get-involved/membership-form>

### **American Public Health Association (APHA)**

APHA is the premier professional association for Public Health professionals. Membership includes professionals in various careers from all over the world. Members work in every discipline of Public Health, in every state and in international countries. The goal is to create the healthiest nation in one generation.

Student membership\* also provides all of APHA's core benefits, including community, professional development and science and industry resources respectively.

APHA Communities, based on interest areas, allow you to expand your expertise and network with public health professionals.

APHA Connect - our exclusive online member-only community.

CareerMart, the #1 job site for public health professionals.

The Career Development Center offers members a discount on services including resume review, career coaching, reference verification and more.

APHA's Annual Meeting and Expo is the premier public health event in the world. Members receive substantial registration discounts.

The [American Journal of Public Health](#), the leading peer-reviewed monthly journal, contains original public health research, program evaluations and special reports. (Save \$20 on membership dues when you choose online-only access to *AJPH* through the green discount.)

[The Nation's Health](#), the highest circulated periodical in the field, focuses on public health news from your state legislature to the nation's capital.

APHA Press, the world's foremost publisher of books and periodicals on public health topics, offers members up to a 30% discount on publications.

Students must be enrolled in a degree program. Qualifying students should be taking at least 6 credit

hours (undergraduate degree) or 3 credit hours (graduate degree) per semester or comparable credits in a quarter system. Student membership is available for up to six years per degree. Proof of Status is required annually and must include both credit hours and academic institution verification. Students are eligible for green discount, and a new discount student membership.

### **Pennsylvania Rural Health Association (PRHA)**

The goals of the Pennsylvania Rural Health Association are as follows: Serve as an advocate for rural health development at the local, state, and federal levels; maintain a coordinated rural health emphasis in federal, state, and local health policy development and implementation; promote improved rural health services; provide continuing education opportunities for rural health professionals; improve awareness and public education of rural health issues; foster cooperative partnerships to improve rural health; provide opportunities for leadership development through active membership involvement; promote regulatory flexibility and effectiveness for rural health care providers; promote the maintenance and enhancement of Pennsylvania's rural health infrastructure.

The Association's diverse constituency is composed of individual and organizational members interested in providing leadership on rural health issues. Members include health care providers and administrators from private and public settings, state and local government leaders, researchers, educators, consumer groups, consultants, insurance and employer representatives and individuals concerned with rural health. It is a non-profit organization governed by a Board of Directors.

Numerous benefits are associated with membership. Membership benefits include advocacy, leadership, professional and community networking, technical assistance, information on rural health issues, publications and conference. Students can join for \$10 annually. Full time students who are interested in joining this organization should visit <https://paruralhealth.org/>

### **Pennsylvania AHEC Scholars Program**

The program prepares health professional and allied health students interested in rural and underserved care to provide continuously improving care in a transforming health care system. This care will be culturally competent, interprofessional, holistically integrated, and responsive to current and emerging health needs and social determinants of health in rural and underserved communities. *To learn more about the program and join please visit <https://www.paahecscholars.org/>*

### **Society of Toxicology (SOT)**

“Founded in 1961, the Society of Toxicology (SOT) is a professional and scholarly organization of scientists from academic institutions, government, and industry representing the great variety of scientists who practice toxicology in the US and abroad. The Society's mission is to create a safer and healthier world by advancing the science and increasing the impact of toxicology”. A \$20 fee is required for graduate student membership which is renewed yearly. Information about graduate student members can be found at <https://www.toxicology.org/groups/gs/graduates.asp>. Membership grants free access to educational materials, information on career opportunities and attendance and presentation at the annual meetings at a highly subsidized rate for graduate students. Awards in the form of scholarships are available for outstanding students who are presenting at the annual meeting. Furthermore, Toxicological Sciences is the official journal of SOT proving the most comprehensive and current information in toxicological research. Information about SOT can found by visiting <http://www.toxicology.org>. Please, contact Dr. Ufelle at [alexander.ufelle@sru.edu](mailto:alexander.ufelle@sru.edu) for further information about SOT.

## **Allegheny-Erie Chapter of the Society of Toxicology (AESOT)**

This is a regional chapter of the Society of Toxicology that comprised of members from tri state region of Pennsylvania, Ohio and Northern West Virginia. There is an annual meeting within the region shortly after the national SOT meeting. The AESOT provides opportunity for students to present their research work, network and explore career opportunities. A fee of \$10 is required for membership of the AESOT. There are scholarship opportunities for students presenting at the conference that take care of transportation, accommodation and feeding. More information about AESOT can be found by visiting “<https://www.toxicology.org/groups/rc/allegheny/index.asp>”. Please, contact Dr. Ufelle for detailed information about AESOT and membership.

## **National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)**

This is an umbrella organization for environmental health professional in the academic, industrial and private sections within the United States. The mission of NEHA is “to build, sustain, and empower an effective environmental health workforce”. There is an annual meeting (Annual Educational Conference – AEC) that is held in different cities across the United States. This annual meeting creates opportunities for network, meet potential employers, and present your research work to a national and international audience. Journal of Environmental Health (JEH) is a product NEHA with outstanding Environmental Health publications. Members have access to 10 electronic publications of the journal per year. A \$25 fee is required for graduate student membership of NEHA. Scholarships are available for students who are presenting at the annual conference. A list of NEHA provided credentials can be found at <https://www.neha.org/professional-development/credentials>. Detailed information about NEHA can be found at “<https://www.neha.org/about-neha>”. Please, contact Dr. Ufelle at [alexander.ufelle@sru.edu](mailto:alexander.ufelle@sru.edu) for further information about NEHA and membership.

### Receipt and Acknowledgement of the SRU MPH Program Student Handbook Explanation and Electronic Link

The SRU MPH Program Student Handbook Receipt and Acknowledgement is described below.

I acknowledge that I have received and read the SRU MPH Program Student Handbook. I have had an opportunity to have any questions answered with regard to its content. I have been made aware that I am bound by policies and procedures contained in the SRU MPH Program Student Handbook, Slippery Rock University Code of Conduct, and University Catalogue. The SRU MPH program reserves the right to update the SRU MPH Student Handbook without prior notice. The most recent SRU MPH Program Student Handbook will supersede all previously distributed versions. **All newly matriculated MPH students are required to acknowledge the document by the submission of a signed and dated ‘Receipt and Acknowledgement’ generated through the Qualtrics platform by clicking on the link below.**

I agree to abide by the policies and procedures contained therein

Please click on the following Qualtrics link to complete the Receipt and Acknowledgement of the SRU MPH Program Student Handbook.

[https://sru.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eSc8qT7c0SNaNi6](https://sru.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eSc8qT7c0SNaNi6)

*The MPH Program faculty reserves the right to revise this content as needed to comply with CEPH accreditation standards.*