

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Application & Admissions

I'm interested in transferring from another institution to one of your programs. Is that feasible? And if so, how?

All prospective students, including those with previous college credits in related degree programs, must complete an application as a new student. Individual departments may or may not accept credits earned at another institution. Such decisions typically are based on a review of course syllabi by the program director.

Do your programs accept transfer credits?

Master's students may transfer up to 20 percent of the credits required for a degree. Credit transfers must be approved by the UNC program in which you are enrolled and by the UNC Graduate School.

Does the Online Master of Public Health program have a different application? Where can I find more information about the online MPH program?

Yes, the Online Master of Public Health program has a different application portal. Visit the [sign-up page](#) to apply. Prospective graduate students for the Online MPH can also request information using the [online form](#) or learn more about the program by visiting the [program website](#).

What is SOPHAS?

[SOPHAS](#) (the Schools of Public Health Application System) is a centralized application system that allows you to apply to multiple public health institutions using one application. If you are applying to a SOPHAS program, please start the process early. Official transcripts, test scores, letters of recommendation, and statements of purpose all go through SOPHAS.

Can you give me an idea of general criteria used to review applications to the Gillings School's graduate programs?

Use the [GPS](#) to find specific details on each program's criteria and expectations for applicants. Our admissions committees review each application using some or all of the following criteria:

- Academics (academic performance and test scores)
- Work experience
- Research experience
- Letters of recommendation
- Personal statement

Prospective graduate students also should review [The Graduate School's](#) admissions criteria.

Tuition, Funding & Financial Aid

How much is tuition?

Visit the [UNC Office of Scholarships and Student Aid](#) for cost estimates for tuition and fees. You also will find important financial deadlines and a guide to student billing.

Note: Tuition rates are determined by the North Carolina General Assembly and may not be finalized until late summer each year.

What's the difference between funding and financial aid?

Funding refers to money awarded by the department/concentration/program. Funding is typically merit based. Financial Aid refers to money awarded based on FAFSA determination. Students who wish to apply for financial aid will need to complete the FAFSA.

What type of funding is available?

Funding may come in the form of scholarships, assistantships, and other awards from the program.

How do I apply for financial aid?

Generally speaking, funding is pretty limited within the MPH program and most of our students are self-funded. Once students are admitted, they can begin applying for assistantships across campus. Since the School of Public Health is relatively small, it is wise for admitted students to apply to any assistantships at UNC that are of interest. Some common places that hire are UNC Wellness, Research, Innovation and Global Solutions, the UNC Writing Center, etc.

Here is a link to the UNC Gillings Financial Aid webpage:

<https://sph.unc.edu/students/financial-aid/>

Is the Gillings School of Global Public Health accredited?

The Gillings School of Global Public Health is accredited by the [Council on Education for Public Health \(CEPH\)](#), an independent, private, nonprofit corporation recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

If I have additional questions, who should I contact?

Our admissions team is here to help you with your questions throughout the application process. Feel free to email sph-admissions@unc.edu with your questions.