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Thomas Jefferson University, College of Graduate
Studies to Offer a Master of Science in Public Health

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Thomas Jefferson University, College of Graduate Studies to Offer a Master of Science in Public Health

Beginning with the 2002-2003 academic year, a new professional program will be offered at Thomas Jefferson University (TJU). Under the Jefferson College of Graduate Studies, TJU will offer a Master of Science degree in Public Health (MSPH) for post-baccalaureate students who wish to prepare for a career in public health and its related applied fields. The MSPH program will be offered under the auspices of the Center of Graduate Education and Training of the College. Dean Jussi J. Saukkonen, MD, will serve as the first director of the program. The primary goal of this new program is to prepare graduates who will be public health practitioners to: 1) provide leadership within the field, 2) develop health care policy and research, and 3) succeed in a challenging health care environment.

The 40-credit MSPH program draws heavily on existing courses offered within the College of Graduate Studies. Students will receive training in the five core public health disciplines: biostatistics, epidemiology, health service administration, health education/behavioral science, and environmental science. In addition, students, working closely with a faculty member, will complete a practical internship to gain hands-on experience and familiarity with public health programs and research activities. The last requirement of the MSPH is the completion of a research thesis.

The program is designed such that the MSPH can be obtained with 12 to 18 months of full-time study. For those students wishing to enroll in the program on a part-time basis, it is anticipated that they may complete the requirements within two to four years of matriculation. The program's admission requirements include a baccalaureate degree in biology, chemistry or health-related field. Applicants from other disciplines, such as English, business, social work, and law, must have completed courses in the biological sciences before matriculation into the MSPH program. In addition, all applicants must meet the College of Graduate Studies' admission requirements: 1) satisfactory performance on the verbal and quantitative portions of the Graduate Record Examination or the Medical College Aptitude Test and 2) an undergraduate cumulative grade point average predictive of success in graduate school.

The MSPH program is an exciting and welcome addition to the community at Thomas Jefferson University. In the aftermath of September 11th, we see the continued importance of public health and public health practitioners. We look forward to welcoming new public health students here on campus. For more information regarding the new program, please call Dr. Georganne Buescher at (215) 503-5799, or go to: <http://jeffline.tju.edu/CWIS/CGS/mph/program.html>.

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