

Master of Public Health - Student Profiles 2025-2026

Name: Christina Arredondo-Lopez

Degrees: B.S, Biological Sciences, University of California Davis, 2023.

Professional Interests: Health Education & Promotion, Environmental Health, Nutrition Education, Health Disparities in Underserved Communities, Health Literacy, Disease Prevention, Health Education for Immigrant (Migrant Health), Latino & Immigrant Populations

Background/Interests: Growing up in California's Central Valley with undocumented parents, Christina witnessed how language barriers, limited access to healthcare, and misinformation created mistrust in the medical system—barriers that led to lasting health consequences in her family and community. These experiences fueled her passion for culturally responsive public health education aimed at building trust and improving health literacy. At UC Davis, she explored public health through research projects that highlighted the connections between environmental conditions, health behaviors, and disease outcomes, strengthening her understanding of the broader social determinants of health, and interest in Environmental Health, Nutrition, Health Education, and Community Outreach. Christina is committed to eliminating health disparities and empowering Latino immigrant communities through equitable and accessible public health outreach.



Name: Mikaila Barnes
Degrees: B.S., Health Science: Community Health Education, California State University Long Beach, 2023

Interests: Epidemiology, Mental Health, Environmental Health

Background/Interests: Mikaila is interested in Public Health due to the multifaceted and broad range of topics within in health field, as well as wanting to make a difference in the health outcomes of different communities. Mikaila is both interested in research, and working one-on-one with communities, and Public Health gives the best of both worlds! Mikaila worked as an Evaluation Assistant, creating educational materials and data reports regarding tobacco use among the LGBTQ community, community college students, and the San Pasqual Native American tribe in Orange County, California. In the future, she hopes to work in Health Education, and/or epidemiology to address different health disparities within the Sacramento/Central Valley Area. Though Mikaila has these goals and interests in mind, she is very open career-wise, and excited to explore other career and research opportunities within the field.



Name: Nicole Chesnut

Degrees: B.S., Public Health Sciences, University of California Irvine, 2023

Professional Interests: Health Care Equity, Health Care Education and Promotion, Health Policy, Health Disparities in Underserved Communities, Social Determinants, Maternal and Child Health, Patient Advocacy

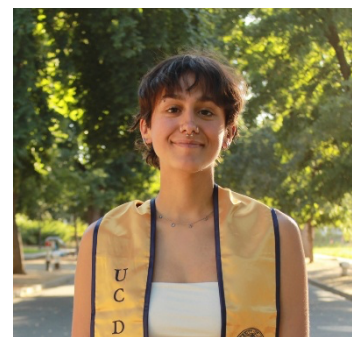
Background/Interests: Nicole discovered her passion for public health at UC Irvine, where she earned her B.S. in Public Health Sciences. During her undergraduate studies, she researched the American Black Maternal Mortality Crisis and became deeply invested in addressing healthcare disparities. Growing up with her mother as a physician, Nicole saw firsthand the importance of having a trusted medical advocate in the healthcare system. This perspective shaped her desire to extend that same level of support to underrepresented communities. She is particularly passionate about working with marginalized children and families, aiming to ensure they feel informed, heard, and protected within the healthcare system. Nicole looks forward to exploring innovative ways to bridge gaps in access and build trust between patients and providers.



Name: Ali Diaz
Degrees: B.S., Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior, University of California Davis, 2024

Professional Interests: Community Health, Street Medicine, Emergency Medicine

Background/Interests: Ali's passion for public health began with their involvement in student-led initiatives focused on increasing access to clean water and food for unhoused individuals in their hometown of Los Angeles. While attending UC Davis, they continued this work through the Joan Viteri Memorial Clinic (JVMC) and the Stockton Harm Reduction Program (SHRP), where they served unhoused populations in Sacramento and Stockton. At JVMC and SHRP, Ali worked to reduce barriers to medical care, increase access to harm reduction supplies, facilitate syringe exchange services, and advocate for their patients and residents. These experiences deepened their commitment to community medicine and public health. Currently, Ali volunteers as a camp lead with Sacramento Street Medicine, providing access to medical care and social services to unhoused communities throughout Sacramento County. They hope to use the knowledge and skills gained through an MPH program to better serve their current and future patients.



Name: Sofiiia Gladilin

Degrees: B.A., Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, Minor in Public Health Sciences, University of California Davis

Professional Interests: Maternal and Child Health with a strong interest in health policy development and the application of health economics to improve healthcare outcomes.

Background/Interests: Sofiiia is passionate about advancing public health with a focus on health equity and accessibility. Her interest in the field stems from personal experiences navigating healthcare as an immigrant and working with underserved populations. She previously served as Co-Director of a student-run clinic providing care for uninsured Slavic families and worked with UC Davis' Health Education and Promotion department in the Safe Party initiative, which promotes substance safety and harm reduction among students. Sofiiia hopes to build a career that bridges her interests in women's health, health policy, and health economics. She is particularly motivated to explore innovative ways to improve healthcare access and health literacy for women and marginalized communities.



Name: Paola Gutierrez

Degrees: B.A. Public Health, Minor in Food Studies, University of California Los Angeles, 2025

Professional Interests: Community Health Education, Nutrition Education, Obesity Prevention, Preventative Healthcare, Improving Social Health & Mental Health

Background/Interests: As the daughter of Mexican immigrants, Paola has been deeply committed to advancing health equity and expanding access to vital resources in underserved communities. As a Communications Intern at the National WIC Association, she improved clinic accessibility and created a variety of digital content to communicate public health nutrition nationwide. At UCLA, she served as a Food Studies Student Ambassador, where she organized teaching kitchen events to demonstrate that healthy eating can be nutritious and enjoyable. As a volunteer at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, she developed educational materials aimed at supporting community wellness. These experiences reflect Paola's passion for public health and her aspiration to lead community-based programs focused on obesity prevention, nutrition education, and mental health.



Name: Mason Johnstone

Degrees: B.S., Biological Sciences, University of California, Davis 2025.

Professional Interests: Epidemiology, Microbiology and Infections Diseases, Health Education, Mental Health, Health Disparities, Clinical Research

Background/Interests:

Mason's interest in Public Health began during COVID and centered around the unique challenges faced by different communities due to the pandemic. Additionally, He took an interest in Medical and Biological Education with a strong emphasis on combating pseudoscience to promote public safety and knowledge. His work continued at UC Davis, joining an FDA microbiology laboratory in the Public Health Sciences while also engaging in science education and advocacy in multiple undergraduate biology and related courses. As an MPH student, Mason hopes to develop a holistic and thoughtful perspective on research and medical education to best serve his future communities.



Name: Jeanine Justiniano, MD

Degrees: B.S. Biology, Providence College, 2016, M.D. Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, 2021

Professional Interests: Global surgery research and Health disparities in immigrant communities

Background/Interest: Dr. Jeanine Justiniano is a surgery resident at UC Davis Medical Center. She completed a B.S. in Biology from Providence College. She then obtained her medical degree at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine. She has international public health experience in the Solomon Islands and Israel. She has also volunteered at free health clinics in Chicago. Most recently, she completed a year of global surgical oncology research in Tanzania with the Fogarty Global Health Fellowship, National Institute of Health, and University of California Global Health Institute. Dr. Justiniano has a desire to give back to under-resourced communities and is committed to patient advocacy and analyzing critical health disparity issues that plague underserved patient populations.



Name: Manpreet Kaur
Degrees: B.S., Neurobiology, Physiology, and behavior, University of California Davis, 2025

Professional Interests:

Epidemiology, Health Disparities in Low-Income and Marginalized Communities, Community Health, Social Determinants of Health, Nutrition, Biostatistics, Chronic Disease Management

Background/Interests: Manpreet is a first-generation college graduate and South Sacramento native committed to advancing health equity in immigrant communities. As a Punjabi Sikh and caregiver to chronically ill parents, she has witnessed how language barriers, cultural factors, and limited resources impact access to care. Motivated by these experiences, she designed and led two IRB-approved research projects focused on chronic disease and healthcare behaviors in the Punjabi Sikh community. As Senior Clinic Manager at Elaaj Community Healthcare, a free Sacramento clinic rooted in Sikh ethos, Manpreet also supports patients navigating complex health needs with empathy and cultural sensitivity. Manpreet plans to integrate evidence-based care into her future medical career to improve chronic disease management in Punjabi Sikhs and other underserved populations.



Name: Allie Kong

Degrees: B.S Animal Science, minor in Global Disease Biology, University of California Davis, 2023

Professional Interests: Family health, holistic medicine, basic needs in disaster struck areas, culture sensitive health education

Background/Interests: Allie is the daughter of a Vietnamese refugee and a Malaysian immigrant, raised with a deep reverence for both animal and human health. She began her studies at UC Davis in 2019 as an Animal Science major, initially intending to pursue veterinary medicine. However, the COVID-19 pandemic and a close family member's battle with cancer shifted her path toward human medicine. While at UC Davis, Allie founded the Aggie Baking Club, a student organization promoting adaptive coping strategies and mental well-being through baking. Since graduating, she has conducted research under Dr. Anil Bhushan at UCSF, contributing to work on drug therapies for cancer and diabetes. Allie plans to attend medical school and is passionate about advancing global health through a systems-based, community-centered approach.



Name: Katherine Kovach

Degrees: B.S., Psychology (Biology Emphasis), B.S., Human Development, University of California Davis, 2019

Professional Interests: Health Equity, Mental Health, Community Programming

Background/Interests:

Katherine initially attended university aiming to become a licensed clinical therapist. Her passion for public health appeared during her undergraduate degree in psychology. She noted through both classes and volunteer work that a number of marginalized groups were not receiving adequate mental health care through the standard therapy model. She was especially influenced by outreach work she did with Empowered Aging, connecting with isolated elders during the pandemic. She realized that disabilities and lack of community were common barriers to mental wellness and accessing care. She is hoping to be involved in creating easier access to mental health care as well as supporting more diverse models of mental health.



Name: Sandy La

Degrees: B.S., Public Health, Minors in Biology and Psychology, University of California San Diego

Professional Interests:

Epidemiology, Health Education, Preventative Healthcare, Infectious Diseases, Chronic Diseases, Healthcare Disparities in underserved populations

Background/Interests: Sandy is a first-generation college student and the daughter of immigrant parents. Growing up in an underserved community, she developed an early interest in public health after learning about the lack of access many populations face. She joined the Public Health Academy in high school and continued her journey in college. As a Health Promotion Intern with the Skinny Gene Project, a diabetes prevention program, she worked to empower pre-diabetic participants through lifestyle changes. Sandy is passionate about addressing health disparities and hopes to combine her love for data analysis with her community experience to become an epidemiologist.



Name: Andrea Leung, MD

Degrees: B.S., Premedical Sciences, Pennsylvania State University, 2013, M.D., Thomas Jefferson University, 2017

Professional Interests: Maternal health, substance use, mental health

Background/Interests:

Andrea completed her training in obstetrics and gynecology in 2021 at Jefferson Einstein Philadelphia. She then served as a physician educator with Seed Global Health in Malawi and was recognized as a Massachusetts General Hospital Fellow in Global Clinical Education. Her desire to support individuals with their reproductive health led her to work as an OBGYN with Kaiser Permanente. During her time at Kaiser, she appreciated the impact that patients' lives have on their health outcomes, leading her to pursue a career in public health. She is interested in studying prenatal substance use and promoting healthy behaviors during pregnancy.



Name: Elizabeth Moss

Degrees: B.S., Human Biology, Minor in Public Health Sciences, University of California Davis, 2025

Professional Interests:

Accessible health promotion and education, Health Disparities in Underserved Communities, Preventative Healthcare, Community Health, and Nutrition and Health Equity.

Background/Interests: Elizabeth's interest in public health began while interning at CalFresh, working with a primarily Latinx and rural population of Yolo County. During this internship, she began applying public health knowledge learned through her minor. Additionally, working with a population that she related to made her passionate about creating health equity within it. This then led her to begin working for the same population in a clinical setting at Knights Landing Clinic. This experience of serving a population with similar health issues she's seen in her personal life made her further explore the ways change can be made through community health. Through these experiences, Elizabeth has the ultimate goal of promoting public health education within the underserved populations of northern California.



Name: Alexandria Long

Degrees: B.S., Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior, Minor in Public Health Sciences, University of California, Davis, 2024

Professional Interests:

Epidemiology; Preventive Medicine, especially in Diabetes and Cardiovascular Diseases; Equitable Healthcare for AANHPI Sub-groups and Immigrant Communities; Social Determinants of Health; Global Health; Immunization; Health Education

Background/Interests: Alex's interest in public health began when she moved from Cambodia to the U.S. She grew up in a Khmer-speaking household, interpreting for her family and helping them navigate health insurance with limited health literacy. These experiences showed her the inequities immigrant families face and how important it is, as a future physician, to understand the social determinants of health affecting individuals and communities. At the HLUB Student-Run Clinic, she interpreted for Khmer patients, led QI projects focused on cardiopulmonary health, and implemented public health and education initiatives. She is pursuing an MPH to deepen her understanding of population health and help bridge barriers to care for underserved AANHPI subgroups..



Name: Emera Nai'a

Degrees: B.S., Human Development, University of California Davis, 2025 A.S., Pre-Health Occupations, Sacramento City College, 2023

Professional Interests:

Epidemiology, Age-Related Diseases, Geriatric Syndromes, Delirium in Older Adults, Health Equity, Social Determinants of Health, Health Disparities in Underserved Communities, Preventative Healthcare, Infectious Diseases, Environmental Health.

Background/Interest: Emera is passionate about public health approaches to improving the well-being of others on a broad scale. After losing her grandfather to COVID-19 induced delirium, her refined focus included predisposing vulnerabilities of certain groups to infectious diseases or conditions. Emera gained invaluable experience supporting Sutter Health's Age-Friendly Health System implementation across the care continuum, including practice gap analysis and developing clinician training focused on delirium and dementia prevention. As a UC Davis Human Development major, she wrote a research paper on improving the longevity of older adults that further sparked her interest in Geriatric Epidemiology and protective factors supporting healthy aging. She hopes to continue making meaningful contributions in the use of epidemiological findings to develop public health prevention strategies.



Name: FNU Neha

Degrees: MBBS., Bachelor's in Medicine, Bachelor's in Surgery

Peoples University of Medical & Health Sciences, Pakistan, 2016

Professional Interests:

Epidemiology, Health Disparities, Community Health Education, and Vaccine-Preventable Disease.

Background/Interests: Dr. Neha is an MBBS graduate from Pakistan with clinical experience in pediatrics. While working in underserved communities, she witnessed children suffering from preventable diseases like polio and measles—conditions largely eliminated in much of the world. She observed that many families were hesitant to vaccinate due to lack of awareness and access. These experiences motivated her to pursue a career in public health, with a focus on community health education and disease prevention. Through the MPH program at UC Davis, she aims to develop effective strategies to promote vaccination and improve child health outcomes, especially in low-resource settings. Dr. Neha is passionate about empowering communities through knowledge and creating lasting change in public health systems.



Name: Sriya Pappula

Degrees: B.S., Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Minors in Public Health, Education, 2025, University of California Davis, 2025

Professional Interests:

Health Disparities in Underserved Populations, Health Education, Epidemiology, Nutrition, Pediatric and Women's Health, Oncology, Preventative Healthcare

Background/Interest: Sriya's interest in public health began through growing up in Sacramento County and observing health disparities in her community, especially related to access to nutritious food. She wanted to find a way to incorporate her passion for education with healthcare to try to solve these problems, and turned to public health. This passion for public health grew through some of her experiences, including volunteering at the student-run free clinic Clinica Tapat, which serves the underserved Latinx population in Sacramento, and leading a committee on educating the Davis community about disaster preparedness through the American Red Cross. Sriya hopes to explore more about how nutrition can affect communities' health as a whole, especially underserved populations.



Name: Theresa Nguyen

Degrees: B.S., Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior, Minors in Public Health Sciences and Professional Writing, University of California Davis, 2024

Professional Interests: Health Education, Health Disparities in

Underrepresented and Underserved Communities, Health Administration, Inclusive and Effective Communication in Healthcare, Leadership in Public Health, Community Health, Emergency Medicine, Healthcare Accessibility

Background/Interests: Theresa's interest in public health originated with Second Breath, an initiative that works to reduce medical waste while simultaneously increasing medical supply accessibility. She continues her work with Second Breath to distribute essential medical supplies to local community members and global organizations. Her passion deepened during her time at Clinica Tapat. Serving underrepresented patient populations compelled Theresa to pursue her MPH. She seeks to become a physician who is both knowledgeable and compassionate. During her MPH journey, Theresa will continue exploring methods to make medical care more accessible. Theresa intends to utilize her MPH to advocate for culturally and communicatively inclusive care for underserved patient populations.



Name: Logan Peters

Degrees: B.A., Sociology, California State University Sacramento, 2021

Professional Interests:

Epidemiology, Community Health, Health Equity, Environmental Health, Participatory Action Research, Program Evaluation, Food Security, Geographic Information Systems

Background/Interests: Logan's exposure to and resonance with public health came from his lived and professional experiences post undergrad. While working in applied social research, he had the opportunity to contribute to primary violence prevention efforts which opened the door to epidemiology, the social determinants of health, ACEs, and hospital-based interventions. His time working in nonprofit after-school skateboarding programs reinforced much of what he'd seen at other levels of the public sector, emphasizing the benefits of physical activity, the outdoors, and social emotional learning. The throughlines from sociology, program evaluation, and community organizing situate Logan to continue developing as an advocate for the mitigation of systemic harms and promotion of health in many contexts.



Name: Rosalinda Ramos-Hernandez
Degrees: B.S. Global Disease Biology, Minor in Public Health Sciences, University of California Davis, 2024



Professional Interests: Community Health, Rural Farm-Working Communities, Health Disparities in Underserved Communities, Health Education and Promotion, Preventative Healthcare, Maternal and Health Outcomes
Background/Interests: Born and raised in rural Northern California, Rosalinda is a proud first-generation college graduate. Her interest in public health began as an Aggie Public Health Ambassador, in which she educated and monitored students during the COVID-19 pandemic. This allowed her to witness the public health policies at a community and national level. During her time at UCD, Rosalinda also volunteered for Knights Landing One Health Center, a UCD student-run clinic where she served as the Patient Coordinator. Her passion for community health was solidified at clinic as she witnessed the impact and efforts of public health in rural medicine. As an MPH Student, Rosalinda is interested in research on Community Health among rural farm-working communities. In the future, she hopes to work in a community center, outreaching and engaging first-hand with the community while conducting health education and promotion.

Name: Nathan Rich
Degrees: B.S., Public Health, Minor in History, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, 2025
Professional Interests: Health Communications, Health Policy, Health Education, and Health promotion.



Background/Interest: Nathan's interest in public health began during the Covid 19 pandemic as he found many people confused by the available health information. Nathan found this to be extremely concerning as many people in his family had been knowingly exposed to the virus. Nathan always knew he wanted to enter the medical field but struggled to find his interest. In college Nathan learned more about health education and his ability to teach others. Since then Nathan has completed research in the field of public health and presented at the 75th annual SOPHE conference aside several of his colleagues. Nathan hopes to enter the field of public health education for a few years before ultimately returning to college as a professor of public health.

Name: Coralia Rodriguez
Degrees: B.A., Anthropology with a Biological Emphasis, University of California Santa Barbara, 2024



Professional Interests: Epidemiology, Global Health, Infectious Diseases, Health disparities, Neglected Tropical Diseases

Background/Interests: Coralia's interest in public health began in high school when she volunteered in a mobile flu vaccine event. During the event she noticed barriers Latinos in the US face with obtaining preventative vaccination due to language and insurance. Coralia's public health interest expanded into a broader global spectrum while experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic in El Salvador, her birth country. While in undergrad she learned about diverse cultures, genetics, and evolutionary medicine. After graduating she became a Pathways into Public Health Fellow where she assisted Butte County Public Health and learned about barriers rural communities face. Through the MPH program she hopes to expand her knowledge of infectious diseases and how to effectively implement initiatives to combat diseases globally..

Name: Khushi Shah
Degrees: B.S., Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior, University of California Davis, 2025



Professional Interests: Epidemiology, Mental Health, Aging and Brain health, Health Disparities in Underserved Communities.

Background/Interest: Khushi has always been deeply passionate about improving the health and well-being of others, with a particular interest in serving children and families. Her interest in public health began after noticing high rates of diabetes and hypertension in the South Asian community, inspiring her to explore health disparities and preventive care. Volunteering at Sacramento clinics, working as an Emergency Medical Technician, and interning with public health groups gave her hands-on experience with childhood nutrition, vaccinations, and prevention. These experiences solidified her goal to become a pediatrician who not only treats patients but also fosters healthier environments. Looking ahead, Khushi hopes to integrate clinical care with public health strategies to promote equity, education, and holistic care in pediatric populations.

Name: Valentina Valentine-Ortiz

Degrees: B.A. Anthropology, Minor in Public Health Sciences, University of California Davis, 2025

Professional Interests:

Epidemiology, Infectious Disease, Biomedicalization Theory, Health Education and Propaganda, Vaccine and Preventative Medicine Research, Health and Public Policy, Integrative Medicine, Mental Health, Health Disparities in Underserved and Marginalized Communities, LGBTQIA+ Health, One Health, and Biostatistics

Background/Interests: Valentina is a first-generation Mexican-American student with a curiosity and interest in medicine that began at an early age. Her specialty in public health and epidemiology stems from her personal experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her volunteerism, which began at age 16, and her experiences with the American Red Cross, ASUCD, and local governments fostered a strong passion for philanthropy and public service. At age 18, her father's near-death from COVID-19 contributed to her studying epidemiology, as well as anthropology, to understand anthropogenic systemic inequalities in healthcare and society. She hopes to work for the CDPH and integrate her anthropological understanding of society and healthcare systems with public health practice to restore public trust, combat infectious disease, and restore empathy in medicine.



Name: Anirudh Yadlapati

Degrees: B.S., Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior, University of California Davis,

Professional Interests: Health Disparities

Background/Interest: Anirudh Yadlapati is a first-generation Indian American whose interest in

public health began after witnessing the stark difference in healthcare costs with and without insurance during an emergency surgery. He deepened this interest through coursework in public health sciences, where he learned to analyze community-level health disparities and design evidence-based interventions. His experience mentoring students with intellectual disabilities and volunteering in wound care clinics further solidified his commitment to addressing structural barriers to care. Anirudh has also conducted research on glycosylation-based biomarkers in brain cancer, presenting his work at national conferences. He plans to pursue a career at the intersection of medicine and health policy to expand access to care for underserved populations, especially in rural and low-income communities.



Name: Xueyi Yang

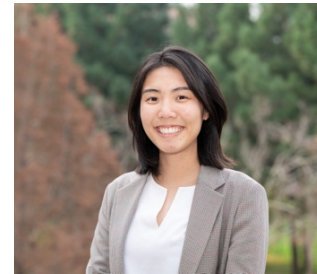
Degrees: B.S., Physiology and Neuroscience, University of California San Diego, 2019

Professional Interests:

Health disparities in communities with limited-English proficiencies; clinical trials for underrepresented populations

Background/Interest:

Xueyi gained interests in public health at her first job at community health center. Using her multilingual background, she produced videos on blood pressure management and made health information handouts on medical devices in English and Chinese that are displayed throughout the clinics. This experience inspired her to focus more on the wellbeing in the communities with limited English proficiencies. She is in the process of becoming a healthcare interpreter to be a conduit for quality healthcare delivery. Currently, she is working as a research coordinator for clinical trials. She hopes to utilize her passion and experience to broaden treatment options for the underrepresented population and promote inclusivity in clinical research.



Name: Pyramida Zabala

Degrees: B.S., Public Health, Population Data Science Concentration, San Jose State University, 2023

Professional Interests:

Epidemiology (Noninfectious Epi, Lifecourse Epi, Social Epi), Disease Prevention and Surveillance, Health Equity, Community Health Promotion

Background/Interests: Born and raised in the Philippines before immigrating to the US, Pyramida brings a multicultural perspective to her work in public health. Her background as a research assistant and community health worker has equipped her with a unique blend of analytical and grassroots experience, allowing her to approach public health research with both scientific rigor and deep community awareness. Pyramida is especially committed to practicing ethical, community-centered research that bridges the gap between data, policy-making, and real-world implementation. As an aspiring epidemiologist, Pyramida is dedicated to contributing to efforts that dismantle systems that uphold health inequities and to advancing equitable public health practices that promote the health and well-being of diverse communities.



About the MPH at UC Davis

The UC Davis MPH program is designed for people interested in disease prevention and community health. The program includes instruction in epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental and occupational health, health services and administration, and social and behavioral science, prepares students for an expanding range of professional opportunities and roles in public health and medicine.

Questions and Information:

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