

Doctor of Public Health (DrPH): Building Canada's public health workforce

October 17, 2020 | Presented by Dr. Erica Di Ruggiero, Associate Professor
DLSPH Open House

Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the Mississauga of the New Credit First Nation, Anishnawbe, Wendat, Huron, and Haudenosaunee Indigenous Peoples on which the Dalla Lana School of Public Health now stands.

The territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and Confederacy of the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. We would also like to pay our respects to all our ancestors and to our present Elders.

Dalla Lana

School of Public Health

Launching Canada's first DrPH

Highlights:

- Our [Academic Plan 2019-2024](#) highlights a vision to provide the full cycle of public health training
- Immense support from local, national and global partners
- Long-anticipated program
- First cohort will join DLSPH in September 2021

What is a 'Doctor of Public Health'?

- A professional doctorate degree, which fosters advanced expertise in evidence-based public health practice.
- A recognized degree since 1988 and has since been adopted by more than 12 top-ranked academic institutions worldwide.^{1,2}
- The number of DrPH programs around the world, and the demand for the program from potential students is increasing, reflecting the growing need for multi-skilled practitioners.

**"...a way to
fulfill the chasm
between
research and
practice."**

Sherman et al. (2017)

References: (1) Sherman et al. 2017; (2) Lee et al. 2009

Professional Doctoral Program

The DrPH focuses on accelerating the use of research evidence to inform practice and policy; this program offers practice-based training and applied research skills.

DrPH	PhD
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Applied Research (theory and practice)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Research-based (mostly theory)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Emphasis on research skills and development of other competencies (i.e. policy, leadership, management and more!)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Emphasis on research skills

Who Might Benefit?

- Professionals who want to pursue advanced public health training (not research-focused).³
- Professionals interested in expanding competencies in knowledge translation, leadership and management.^{1,2}
- Organizations that need strong public health leaders.¹

References: (1) Sherman et al. 2017; (2) Lee et al. 2009; (3) Berman & Frenk 2018

Demand and Need

Student Perspective	Employer Perspective
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A stepping-stone to pursuing academia and practice related career paths• “The MacGyver degree of public health training”• Benefits students who do not want to pursue a PhD, but want advanced training	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acknowledgement of training gap in public health education• Produces “a seasoned leader”• Produces a highly skilled professional who can work in diverse settings such as public health agencies, government, as well as both private and not-for-profit sectors

Note: Demand and need was discerned through consultations and qualitative interviews in 2018 and 2019.

Our Process



2018

- Jurisdictional Scan
- Internal Consultation with Faculty
- External Consultation with stakeholders



2019

- Program Planning
- Proposal Development
- Engagement with local and national public health partners
- External Review



2020

- Program Launch & Promotion
- Recruitment

DrPH Program

- **School-wide program (PHS and IHPME)**
- Graduate Unit: Public Health Sciences
- Division: Clinical Public Health

Curriculum

- Core and elective courses (6.5 FCE)
- Applied Project (16 weeks)
- Comprehensive Exam
- Thesis and Oral Defense

Program Structure



DrPH Cohort

- Up to 10 students per year

Eligibility

- Relevant Master's training (e.g. *Master of Public Health, Master of Health Administration, etc.*)
- Minimum 5 years of work experience

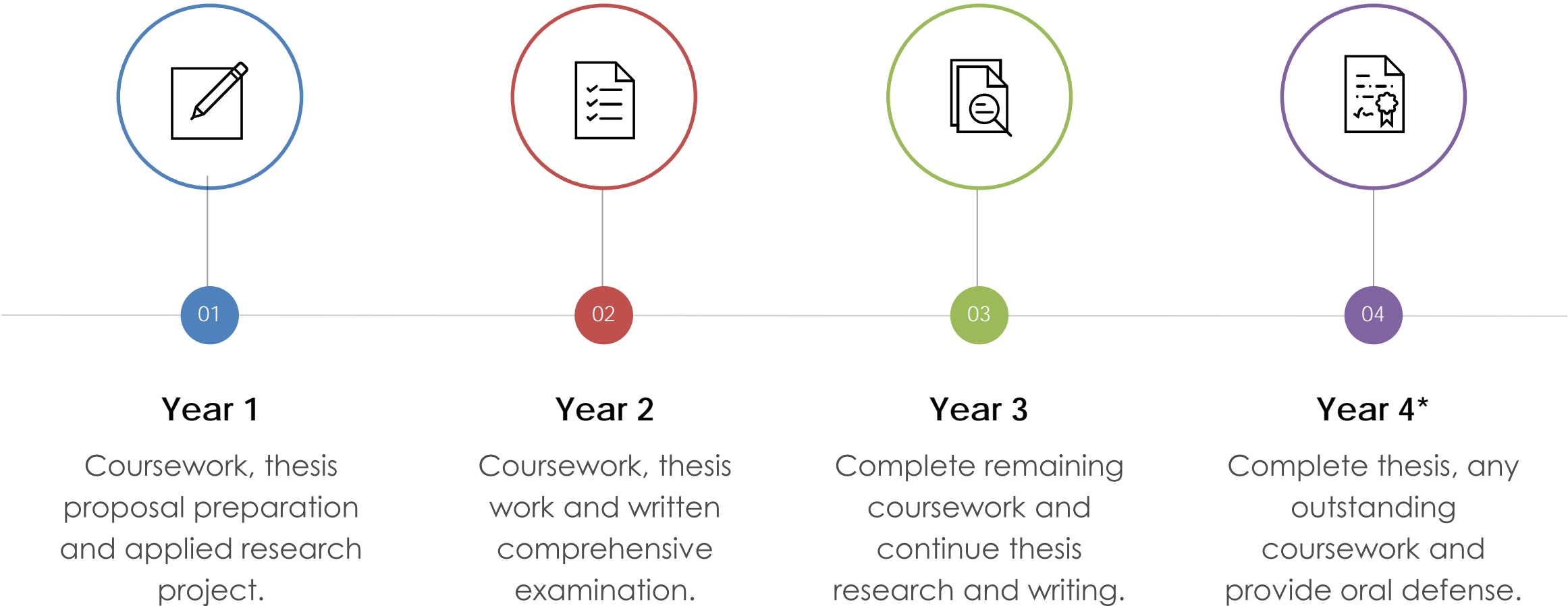
Program Delivery

- In-person and online course work
- On-campus requirements heaviest in first year of study; more flexibility thereafter

Program Details

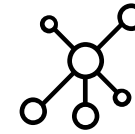


Program Timelines (Full Time)



* Could take up to six years

Core Competency Domains



DATA & ANALYSIS



**LEADERSHIP,
MANAGEMENT &
GOVERNANCE**



**POLICY &
PROGRAMS**



**EDUCATION &
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**

Year I

Fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHL5005H Public Health Research (0.5 FCE) (D) • CHL5624H Historical, Ethical and Philosophical Foundations of Public Health (0.5FCE) (B, C, D) • CHL4001H Contemporary Approaches to Population Health and Health Equity (0.5 FCE) (multiple domains) – NEW! • RST9999Y Thesis (enrollment)
Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Methods course, including data analytics (0.5FCE) (A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Options (see Appendix A of DrPH Proposal for comprehensive list) • CHL4002H Critical Appraisal and Use of Evidence (0.5 FCE) (A) – NEW! • CHL4003H Leading High-Performing Health Systems (0.5FCE) (B) – NEW!
Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHL4004H Global Health Policy (0.5FCE) (C) – NEW! • RST9999Y Thesis (Students will begin thesis work via their Research Informed Professional Placement / Applied Project; this will be conducted off campus in an organization, which could be the student's workplace or other agency) (16 weeks; co-directed with a field supervisor in an implementing agency; leadership log) (multiple domains)

Year II

Fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CHL4005H Governance & Financial Leadership (0.5 FCE) (B) – NEW!• CHL5132H Population Health Intervention Research (0.5 FCE) (A) (2nd methods course)• 1 Elective (0.5 FCE) (multiple domains)• RST9999Y Thesis
Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HAD5778H Comparative Health Systems and Policy (0.5 FCE) (B, D)• 1 Elective (0.5 FCE) (multiple domains) <p>Comprehensive Exam (multiple domains) - assess knowledge and skills acquired to date about theories and methods, and demonstrate an ability to synthesize this knowledge, as applied to their topic and to support the student in selecting an appropriate thesis topic (students are expected to complete this exam at the end of the spring or no later than the summer of their second year)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• RST9999Y Thesis
Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RST9999Y Thesis (finalize proposal building on applied research project)

(A) = Data & Analysis; (B) = Leadership, Management & Governance; (C) = Policy & Programs; (D) = Education & Workforce

Year III

Fall to
Summer

- HAD5765H Case Studies in Health Policy (i.e. pressing topics in public health and health systems (interactive seminar; opportunity for students to present dissertation ideas in progress and discuss case studies) (0.5 FCE) (A, B, C)
- Candidacy Achieved
- RST9999Y Thesis

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Career Trajectories

Upon completion, DrPH graduates are competitive for diverse types of senior roles:

- Leadership positions in non-governmental organizations (NGOs);
- Director roles within public health units, regional health authorities and other similar agencies, as well as in the private sector
- Executive/Director roles within non-governmental organizations

Examples of DrPH Graduates:

- [DrPH Careers](#) (Columbia University)
- [DrPH Alumni Profiles](#) (University of North Carolina)
- [Graduate Employment Outcomes](#) (Harvard University)

Canada's First Doctor of Public Health

To learn more about the program and our launch:

- [A Message from Steini Brown](#), Dean of DLSPH
- [Podcast by PH Spot](#) (featuring Prof Erica Di Ruggiero who led the development of the program)



"...the DrPH and why doesn't Canada have one came up, and I realized good ideas take time to take hold, and so fast track to I guess about 2018, where I was finding myself at the School of Public Health and asking similar questions, and I think the time was better now..."

Episode 19:
Welcoming the Doctor of
Public Health (DrPH) degree to
Canada at UofT & FAQ session,
with Erica Di Ruggiero
phspot.ca/podcast

For More Information

email: drph.dlpsh@utoronto.ca

website: [dlspsh.utoronto.ca/program/
doctor-of-public-health](https://dlspsh.utoronto.ca/program/doctor-of-public-health)

Thank You!