

Advanced Public Health Nurses (APHN)

The APHN is educated at the graduate level in accredited, university-based programs that build upon foundational RN clinical background and training. Academic programs are typically designed as MS, MPH and DNP degrees, focusing on the development of expertise in advanced public health nursing, public health leadership, and population health improvement.

This education helps these nurses to **function as a connection between clinical nursing care and public health practice.** As illustrated by the Pandemic, closer connections are needed between the clinical setting and the community to help prevent disease, establish easy to navigate pathways to move people from community to clinical care as needed, and educate and support communities to make effective use of available resources to achieve health equity.

Nurses have been identified as the most trusted profession in the nation for the past twenty years. They have **expertise in managing health care resources, recognizing signs and symptoms of disease, practicing collaboratively with patients, communities, and other health professionals and navigating health care systems, thus bringing important knowledge and skills to the practice of public health.** However, there is currently no funding support for graduate education in advanced public health nursing, leading to a dearth of nursing expertise in public health and challenges in recruiting new nurses to public health, which pays less than practice in acute care settings. .

APHNs:

- Provide the bridge between epidemiological data and the individual/family lived experience of health and illness.
- Improve the health of communities by conducting population and system assessments, root-cause analyses, and health impact assessments to design systems-level program initiatives.
- Drive equitable distribution of health and health care investment using population-based interventions, assuring appropriate resource utilization, and enhancing the strength of communities.
- Assure individual and community resilience to mitigate the impact of current and future health risks related to environmental and planetary climate threats through policy and systems-level initiatives.
- Activate **equitable policies** and solutions to health problems for populations by applying principles of **social justice** and **engaging with communities** to eliminate health disparities.
- Use systems-level methods to communicate public health information, influence behavior, and improve health for varying audiences.
- Build on the long history of Public Health Nursing practice by providing such nurses with advanced education in public health

APHN Graduate Education:

- Provides advanced nursing practice skills with the addition of biostatistics, epidemiology, population health, policy development, leadership and human resource management to best support the public health workforce and improve population health.
- Includes a unique focus on communicating and convening a wide array of partners, including community residents, toward collective impact for optimal community health and wellness of populations.
- Prepares graduates to assume leadership positions in local, state, and federal public, and global population health/public health nursing roles.