## NEW MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREE ADDRESSES PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY CHALLENGES

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Photo: Rivier launches new online Master of Public Health degree.

**R**ivier University will offer a new, online Master of Public Health (MPH) degree in January 2015. This degree prepares students to meet Certification in Public Health (CPH) and professional practice requirements through a combination of theory and applied, skills-based learning.

"Recent international news highlights the critical need for public health professionals with advanced training and a global perspective," says Dr. Douglas Howard, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs. "The Master of Public Health degree is a strong addition to our Division of Nursing programs and complement to our B.S. in Public Health."

The Master of Public Health degree offers specialty focus areas in Health Management and Global Health. Coursework addresses the core public health disciplines: biostatistics, environmental health science, epidemiology, health policy and management, social and behavioral sciences, and global health issues. The program's online coursework is supplemented with practicum work experience at public health agencies and organizations. Practicum placements and other experiential learning opportunities will be supported by Rivier University's Institute for Global Health.

The Institute facilitates academic and co-curricular programs to promote international understanding. It is a platform for global health programs that promotes communication, partnerships, and unique health-oriented immersion experiences for Rivier faculty, staff and students.

Dr. Paula Williams, Dean of the Division of Nursing, says, "This program will help fulfill workforce needs for highly skilled public health leaders. Graduates will assume key roles in protecting individuals' health and safety and in advancing community health around the globe. They will be problem solvers, policy makers, and change agents."

Online courses are asynchronous, enabling students to complete coursework at any time of the day, seven days a week to provide maximum flexibility for working adults.

Rivier University is a leader in nursing education with accredited programs at the associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels. New B.S. in Public Health and Master in Public Health programs reflect Rivier's ongoing commitment to educating the next generation of healthcare professionals and improving global health practices.

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