



Certificate in Disaster Preparedness and Response Program Summary

As disasters occur around the world, whether they are natural, accidental, or intentional, public health graduates need to be educated and trained to prepare and respond to them. This certificate program packages four existing classes that will provide this didactic and hands-on experience, teaching skills that will increase marketability when applying for jobs and/or applying for further educational opportunities.

In addition, as communities face the growing challenges of climate change, growing technological dependency, and the specter of terrorism and other conflicts, even the healthcare practitioner must be versed in basic disaster concepts and management strategies and tactics.

Students will receive training and education related to preparing communities for and responding to any disaster. Apart from synchronous and asynchronous didactic education, the learner will participate in tabletop scenarios, functional exercises, and skill labs, taking full advantage of the University of Toledo's Jacobs Inter-professional Immersive Simulation Center. This will include but is not limited to, weekly exercises, a live, simulated response to a tornado and triaging of victims, and hospital evacuation exercises. Students will receive online and in-person training with the Incident Command System (ICS). Additional skills that will be interwoven throughout this program will include but is not limited to patient assessment, splinting, suturing, tourniquet application, START and SALT triage, personal protective equipment (PPE) application, decontamination, and more.

The certificate's strength is its commitment to interdisciplinary education where students from the various health disciplines (e.g. medicine, physician assistant, pharmacy, nursing, EMS, PT, OT, RT, etc.) can work with public health students and where everyone can obtain a better perspective of what each discipline does and how they can form comprehensive health care teams when a disaster occurs.

Courses Required for the Certificate

- PUBH 6640/8640 Issues in Public Health (offered Fall and Spring)
- PUBH 6500/8500 Disaster Preparedness and Response: The Essentials (offered Fall)
- PUBH 5260 Hazardous Materials and Emergency Response (offered Summer)
- PUBH 6560/8560 Interdisciplinary Crisis Management for Medical and Public Health Professionals (offered Spring)