With Atlanta at the center of global public health, the School of Public Health at Georgia State University will be the leading public university to research, develop and evaluate practical, large-scale programs that address chronic disease and reduce urban health disparities, while educating the future public health workforce, making a profound difference in the ability of people to lead healthier lives.

Atlanta is widely considered to be the public health capital of the world, and this distinction provides unique opportunities for the School of Public Health. In the heart of downtown Atlanta, we are within walking distance of the American Cancer Society, CARE International, CNN, Grady Health System, state and local health departments, and multiple foundations, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Carter Center and the Task Force for Global Health a short ride away. These public health partners provide a special opportunity to our students for experiential learning and career opportunities and to our faculty for research collaboration.

Georgia State is the only school in the Atlanta area offering public health graduate students an affordable public education and the flexibility of part-time schedules for working professionals. We are committed to fully capitalizing on our location and providing opportunities for students who seek to establish a public health career in Atlanta, as well as for our global students who come to Atlanta for the best training in the world.

Ours is one of the most diverse public health programs in the nation, where more than half of our students are non-white or from countries outside the U.S. Our international student body and alumni include Fulbright and other international scholars from more than 40 countries.

Over the past decade, public health at Georgia State has grown dramatically, from a certificate program with a handful of students in 2004 to a full complement of programs, including not only a certificate, but a Master of Public Health (M.P.H.), J.D./M.P.H. dual degree, psychology PhD/MPH dual degree and Ph.D. programs. Our alumni have gone on to exciting careers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Peace Corps and government agencies at the local, state and federal levels, as well as nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations working in communities across metro Atlanta and around the world.
**Points of Distinction**

We are focusing on chronic conditions. We have clarity around the role we can play in addressing the global health challenges of chronic disease. By 2020, noncommunicable diseases are expected to account for seven of every ten deaths in the world, as they already do in the U.S. We will lead in addressing the most pressing public health problems of our time.

Our location connects us to community. We are in the heart of a growing urban area. Our faculty conduct innovative research and test community-based interventions, developing evidence-based best practices that are poised to make a difference.

Our students are central to our story. We are a young, emerging program founded just 10 years ago and have 500 alumni to date. We make a strategic choice to foster faculty-student relationships on a human scale.

Our reputation extends internationally. Ten percent of students are Fulbright Scholars who bring their international, practical experiences into our classrooms and will return to their home countries to become public health professionals and leaders. They are one metric of the caliber of students we attract.

We bring practical research to tackle complex health issues. From violence to tobacco to obesity to environmental threats to HIV/AIDS, we take on public health challenges that affect local and global populations in urban settings and deliver practical solutions based on rigorous analysis.

**Successful Programs**

We are building momentum as a school, growing our student body and building our teaching and research capacity in key areas.

Each new year sees us graduating the largest class in our history while setting records for the size of the incoming class of master’s of public health students. We have done this while maintaining a focus on small class sizes, with faculty and staff committed to student success.

We are the home of the Tobacco Center of Regulatory Science (TCORS), funded through a five-year; $19 million grant, the largest research award in Georgia State history. Our TCORS researchers are working to help inform regulation of tobacco, including emerging products such as e-cigarettes.

With the help of the World Health Organization, our researchers led the development of the Urban Health Index, a tool that allows researchers, public health professionals and policy makers around the globe to analyze and address complex problems such as health disparities in cities.

Located within the Mark Chaffin Center for Healthy Development, recently named a University Research Center, our National SafeCare Training and Research Center has developed a leading evidence-based home visitation program that has proven to reduce child maltreatment among at-risk families. The SafeCare model is being used in Georgia, more than a dozen other states across the U.S., as well as in Australia, Belarus, Canada, Israel, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Our Center for Leadership in Disability is a leader in Georgia, and its work includes developing an autism service plan for the state’s youth and working to expand college access for students with intellectual disabilities.

Here in metro Atlanta, we are training community peer guides to work with high-risk populations affected by HIV/AIDS, using social marketing to prevent teen dating violence, researching ways to reduce radon exposure for families in DeKalb County and studying how to protect Atlantans from heat-related illnesses and death. We are helping school systems that are working to reduce prescription drug abuse among their students and partnering with minority communities that are fighting childhood obesity and striving to reduce the rates of diabetes and other chronic diseases.
What We Need to Pursue Our Vision

Today, half of the world’s population lives in cities, and that percentage will continue to increase. As the rapidly globalizing world becomes even more urban, the need for effective solutions to address public health challenges in our cities becomes increasingly more important to human health and well-being. At the same time, chronic diseases are taking an increasing toll on population health and must be addressed. With an awareness of the immensity of addressing the challenge chronic diseases present for current and future generations, the School of Public Health is poised to make research and programs that will tackle these diseases a focal point of this campaign. The School of Public Health will seek to secure support to establish a Center for Chronic Disease Action. This proposed center will draw on the immense talents of our diverse faculty and also extend our reach to respected colleagues around the world to foster exchanges, conduct research and host related programming.

As the school at Georgia State, we are positioned to continue to attract students and faculty who are committed to addressing the most pressing health challenges facing urban communities. As a public university, we offer our students an affordable option to pursue degree programs that will enable them to devote their careers to improving the lives of others. And this distinction also enables us to recruit faculty who are committed to instruction and mentoring, in addition to offering our students a myriad of opportunities for experience with practical research and program implementation.

To continue along this trajectory, the School of Public Health needs to secure the support of partners who can establish scholarships that will help us attract the best and brightest students to our programs, especially those interested in addressing urban health problems. Creating endowed professorships throughout the school will enable us to continue as one of Georgia State’s most productive sources for research investment by supporting our efforts to recruit and retain nationally and globally recognized experts.

Why Give to the School of Public Health

As chronic diseases, emerging infectious diseases and environmental concerns continue to multiply and threaten human health, the need for effective population-level prevention methods has never been clearer. At the School of Public Health, we have embraced these challenges through excellence in training and research organizations. Our faculty is conducting cutting-edge research and our centers are designing and implementing societal solutions, partnering with community organizations in Atlanta and beyond to develop evidence-based answers to the challenges faced by cities across the globe.

Atlanta and the School of Public Health are unrivaled in the ability to research and deploy public health interventions that can be tested for effectiveness in a powerfully diverse community and applied both nationally and internationally. Your investment in the School of Public Health provides practical and measurably effective solutions to improve human health and save lives in cities, from Atlanta to those around the world.

The mission of the School of Public Health is to advance health through leadership, scholarship, research and service to better the human condition and promote the common good, especially for urban communities and for global populations.

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