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| **Program** | **Public Health and Health Policy** |
| **Degree Awarded**  |  **Master/MA in Public Health** |
| **Faculty** | Faculty of Medicine |
| **Program Coordinator** | Professor Gulnara Shelia |
| **Length of the program (semester, ECTS)** | 4 semesters (120 credits) |
| **The language**  **the program** | Georgian |
| **Program development and renewal date of issue** | The Master Program is developed in 2015, accredited in 2016 (accreditation decision №31; 28.06.2016); Updated in 2017 |
| **Program Prerequisites**  |
| * The enrollment on the Master course is organized by the national examination center, unified master and internal university, On the basis of positive results obtained in complex examinations, which are conducted by testing
* The right to study in Master's degree may be granted citizens of foreign countries are required to submit a document equivalent to the determined Inter States Agreement. (in accordance with the requirements of article 50, the Law of Georgia of Higher Education)
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| **Aim of the Program** |
|  The main goal of the Master Program is to prepare competitive specialists with scientific research and creative work skills in the field of Public Health, whose professional activities will facilitate the effectiveness of the health care system for specific groups of population and/or making significant contribution by improving health of the overall population. The program is focused on health as a social and economic category, health determining determinants, and on developing practical skills of health policy and administration |
| **learning outcomes (General and Field Competences)** |
| **Knowledge and understanding** | The graduate has:**I concentration: Public health*** The thorough knowledge about the essence of public health, its theoretical approaches and methods
* The deep and systemic knowledge in the field of public health for the identification of problems and ways of solving them
* A Knowledge about disease statistics and epidemiology; disease prevention and management, healthy lifestyle and behavior changes.
* A systemic knowledge in the patient health care services, the target groups and population orientation and the patient rights protection

**II concentration: health policy*** A knowledge about health care systems, about global and international health and its determinants; and is able to realize current changes in this field
* A Knowledge in health policy assessment and research methods
* A Systemic Knowledge in Health Sector Regulating Environment, Leadership and Organizational Culture, Managerial Economics, Health Insurance, Quality Assurance of healthcare services and marketing technologies of healthcare products
* A Knowledge in health care legislation and ethical aspects, patient's rights and legal issues in the field of health care
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| **Applying Knowledge** | The graduate has an ability**I concentration - public health*** to evaluate public health condition in target groups and population. An identification of the problematic issues and ability to solve them
* to plan, implement and evaluate the basic and alternative measures of public health according to the problems of target groups
* Identification of environmental pollution impacts on health as well as analysis of risks in terms of spreading diseases, identification of problems and giving recommendations of relevant intervention, As well as mobilization of the population to eliminate the existing problems timely and adequately
* Ability of data and information systematization, quantitative and qualitative evaluation and critical analysis

II concentration - "health policy"* to involve in the formation of health policy
* to find new original ways for solving difficult and complex problems; including of independently perform research using the latest methods and approaches.
* to analyze the health policy assessment and integrate the latest achievements into the country's politics
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| **Making judgments** | * making critical analysis and argumentative conclusions by using data obtained from literary sources and his/her own research
* making solution based on data and information systematization, critical analysis, quantitative and qualitative assessment
* Ability to getting information on synthesis and innovative solutions based on the latest data, critical analysis of difficult and incomplete information.
* Implementing evidence based documents and making conclusions on ethical-legal issues of health care
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| **communication skill** | * Graduate can use modern information and communication facilities, the art of communicating with human beings, convincingly demonstrates his/her own argumentative position.
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| **Learning skills** | The graduate will be able* to manage independently learning and to understand the specificity of the learning process
* to plan his/her own professional assessment and development strategies and acquire the knowledge needed to achieve the desired goals
* to determine the necessity of professional preparation at a higher level of education (Doctoral degree) and its implementation
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| **Values** | The graduate * is aware of the moral imperative of the protection of human fundamental rights in the field of health care and the necessity of preserving the principles of medical and managerial ethics.
* Understanding the practical and scientific activities in public, academic, religious, moral or national factors and others attitude towards values, the importance of controlling the balance of interests of the parties and contributing to the formation of new values for access to medical services and ensuring justice
* Can evaluate his/her and others attitudes towards values and contributing in the establishment of new values
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| Teaching methods |
| * Interactive lectures (using visual material)
* Practical / seminar classes
* Discussion / debates;
* Case study, situational analysis;
* Group work
* Brain Storming;
* Individual consultations.
* guest speaker
* experiential learning
* Preparation of theses / presentation
* • Testing, exam.
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| **Structure of the Program** |
| During 4 semesters of study, students should master 120 credits (One credit is 25 hours, 30 credits per semester). Duration of the program is 2 year. The curriculum includes study and research components, in it is detail information about the credits that are allotted for the training component. The first, second and third semesters will be conducted at Akaki Tsereteli State University. The 4th semester is intended for the preparation of master's thesis. Faculty will offer to students English language as an elective course. A major component of the program is a Master's theses, in which the Master student demonstrates the ability to conduct research independently in public health or health care policy; The student demonstrates the actuality of the problem in the paper, formulates study subjects, research objectives, tasks and expected results; the graduate has ability of studying scientific basis of the issue; discusses reasonably and makes logical conclusions about the results of the research topic. In case of master's thesis defense student will receive 30 credits.Separately should be mentioned internship component (6 credits), the student will be required to undergo an internship in public health institutions. As well as in NGOs’ working in the direction of health care, under the guidance of relevant specialists. Each student will be able regularly cooperate with professionals, observing their work style, communication process and professional behavior; arranging discussions with them; engage in research and grant programs. Through internships students will develop: Analysis and synthesis skills, communication skills, research skills, planning and time management skills; also practical habits: determining, evaluating and understanding public health problems, identifying the factors that affect healthcare, analyzing diseases elimination and health promotion approaches; planning and developing medical and educational activities and so on. |
| **Assessment System**  |
|  Assessment of the academic performance of students of higher education programs at Akaki Tsereteli State University is carried out via using modern indicators on the basis of the orders of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia No. 785 (05.01.2007), №3 (21.09.2009) and No.102 / n of August 18, 2016, the decisions issued by the Academic Council of Akaki Tsereteli State University (No. 12; 30.10.2009; Reinsurers №35; 10.11.2010; № 1, 17/18  15.09. 2017).The credits attributed to the program component can be obtained only in case when the learning outcomes are achieved in the syllabus, which is confirmed with one of the positive assessments provided by the assessment system:The student's assessment foresees:1. Mid-term assessments, which include the component of student attendance on lecture-practices, daily academic activity (survey, testing, presentation, essay), activities on tutorials, practical skills assessment and ongoing assessment. Mid-term assessment may also include other components.
2. Assessment of the final exam.

 Overall Assessment is made on the basis of the sum of mid-term assessments and final assessments.**Student is required to have accumulated at least 18 points before he/she takes final exam.** Maximum assessment of the course/module/subject block is 100 points equal to the maximum score of 40 points. The assessment methods are mainly used: test, oral or combined examinations. There are five types of positive and two negative assessment. The assessment system allows:1. **Five types of positive assessment:**

a.a) (A) Excellent - 91-100 points;a.b) (B) Very good - 81-90 points of maximum evaluation;a.c) (C) Good - 71-80 points for maximum evaluation;a.d) (D) satisfactory - 61-70 points of maximum evaluation;a.e) (E) enough - 51-60 points for maximum evaluation. **b) two types of negative assessment:**b.a) (FX) failed to pass - 41-50 points of maximum assessment, which means that the student needs more work to pass and is given the right to pass an additional exam with independent work;b.b) (F) failed - The maximum score of 40 points and less, which means that the work carried out by the student is not enough and he/she has to retake the courseMinimum margin of assessment received by the student on the final exam is 20 points.A student shall have the right to take a makeup exam in the same semester. The time interval between the final and relevant makeup exams has to be no longer than 5 days. * The assessment on the makeup exam is student's final assessment, which does not include negative assessments received on the main examination.
* In case of obtaining 0-50 points at the final evaluation of the educational component, the student is given an assessment F-0.

The assessment of the **modules included in the program** are carried out via points calculated in sum as well as via European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). The specific criteria for assessment are determined by the syllabus of the appropriate course. **The master's thesis** is selected by master student and its supervisor, However, it should be noted that the degree of independence of the student is quite high in choosing topic and supervisor. Master student who fully accomplishes learning components of master program is allowed at the defense of master’s thesis.**100 points are defined for the final assessment of the master's thesis and it is divided into several components** **Assessment components**

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| **Working form** | **points** |
| Activity (visit to the supervisor) | 30 points |
| Interim assessment (preliminary review of the work) | 30 points |
| Defense of the thesis/presentation (Verbal side of presentation, technical and visual side) | 40 points |
| **Final assessment** | **100**  **points** |

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| **Employment opportunities** |
| **The graduate will be employed*** In public health oriented international and local NGOs’.
* In organizations participating in the development of national and regional policies of healthcare (Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs, relevant committees of Parliamentary or self-governance), as well as in insurance companies and agencies as specialists of health policy
* At any scientific research institution as a researcher or public health consultant
* At supervisory service of local governing bodies

During the master course students will be able to develop scientific work skills and will be able to continue their studies in Doctoral Studies in Public Health, as well as Health Policy and Administration |
| **Supportive resources** |
|  The educational program is implemented by the academic staff of the university, as well as local and invited teachers of the relevant competence.University’s study and lecture auditors, library and inventory are used for conducting educational process. Computer laboratories involved in the Internet allow students to obtain information and access to e-library. Students have access to e-mail through which they are closely linked with academic staff and faculty administration. As well as clinical skills laboratory. The Master's will carry out their internship in Public Health Regional Center, in Screening Center and in NGOs’ within the framework of the agreements signed with the institutions of the University. |