The average Purdue Global military student is awarded 54% of the credits needed for an associate's and 45% of the credits needed for a bachelor's. Most Commonly Searched: Most Commonly Searched: Considering a career in public health? Not only is it a growing field, but it’s also a diverse one. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention currently lists more than 170 different public health job categories. This extensive range highlights the sector's adaptability and breadth. As public health challenges evolve, so do the opportunities for professionals to make significant contributions to community well-being. A Master of Public Health (MPH) degree is a crucial stepping stone for those aiming to take leadership roles in this vital sector. Nicole Heim, MPH, MSHEd, CHES, CPH, REHS, faculty in the School of Health Sciences at Purdue Global, offers insights into the world of public health, the potential of an MPH degree, and the transformative impact it can have on your career. Public health is an interdisciplinary science that's concerned with the health of populations. Heim explains that population can be defined in many ways, including age, gender, ancestry, or a combination of those characteristics. The overarching objective of public health, according to Heim, is to "identify health problems, determine causes, and then recommend or develop solutions that can be implemented to improve the health of that population." Once these solutions are in place, it’s important to evaluate them to see if they are working as intended. At its core, public health aims to ensure the well-being of the population — in part, Heim says, because this enables a productive society. “When people are injured or sick, they can't work or attend school, diminishing their contribution to society, even if temporarily,” Heim says. “The goal is to reduce disability and mortality, ensuring a thriving society powered by a robust economy and healthy individuals who actively contribute using their talents." An MPH degree can pave the way for various roles in hospitals, health care facilities, and organizations. Some of these roles include: Medical and health services managers: Those working in this role are responsible for planning, directing, and coordinating various medical and health services in hospitals, clinics, and similar organizations. They also ensure that health care facilities run efficiently and comply with regulations. The BLS projects 28% job growth for this role from 2022 to 2032, which is much faster than average. Health education specialists: Professionals in this capacity are tasked with designing and implementing programs that promote behaviors conducive to wellness. They also work closely with communities and groups to provide necessary health information and resources. According to the BLS, the anticipated job growth for this role is 7% from 2022 to 2032, which is faster than average. Community health workers: Individuals in this role serve as vital bridges between communities and health care providers, ensuring that community members receive the care and information they need. They also gather data, provide health education, and advocate for community health needs.