



Master of Health Equity & Graduate Diploma in Health Equity Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

About Health Equity Programs at StFX University

What are the Master of Health Equity (MHE) and Graduate Diploma in Health Equity (GDipHE) programs?

StFX University offers fully online, asynchronous programs in health equity, grounded in population, public, and community health principles and focused on advancing health equity through evidence-based practice.

The **Master of Health Equity (MHE)** is a 30-credit professional master's program, while the **Graduate Diploma in Health Equity (GDipHE)** is a 15-credit credential that can be completed independently or applied toward the MHE.

Both programs examine the policies, systems, and social determinants that contribute to health inequities, equipping students with the knowledge and skills to develop, implement, and evaluate evidence-based solutions. Graduates will be prepared to collaborate with healthcare organizations, communities, government agencies, and non-profit organizations to advance population health and address systemic health disparities.

Both programs build on StFX expertise in health equity, its collaboration with the National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health, and thematic alignment with the [Victor and Mona Dahdaleh Institute for Innovation in Health](#), supporting broader efforts to advance health equity.

What will I study?

Using a population and public health approach, students will explore the foundations of health equity, healthy public policy, equity-informed research, epidemiology, and community evidence. Students will apply these concepts to address pressing public health challenges and the social and structural determinants of health.

The MHE culminates in a capstone project, allowing students to integrate their learning and apply knowledge mobilization principles to develop and implement a health equity strategy in a real-world setting. Students in the GDipHE will not complete a capstone project.

What are the learning and professional outcomes?

Students will develop advanced knowledge and practical skills to address health equity challenges through evidence-informed approaches. Graduates will be prepared to lead and collaborate across health, social, and community settings to advance health equity.

Who are these programs for?

The programs are designed for early- and mid-career professionals interested in advancing health equity through a population and public health perspective, particularly those working in:

- Health and social services
- Government
- Non-profit organizations

Students may come from diverse professional backgrounds, including:

- Nursing
- Human nutrition
- Health promotion
- Government and public policy
- Social work
- Community development
- Social justice

Through collaborative cohort-based learning, students will benefit from diverse professional experiences, perspectives, and expertise.

Application Process

Am I qualified for the MHE or GDipHE Program?

Admission requirements to the MHE and GDipHE programs include:

- Completion of a previous bachelor's degree (any field)
- An overall average of 70 (B) or higher in the bachelor's degree
- A minimum of 1-year professional experience in health or community settings, government or non-for-profit sector. Applications from those without the required one-year professional experience will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The committee will consider a combination of a shorter period of professional experience, relevant lived experience, volunteer experience, specific undergraduate courses/research experience, etc.
- Proof of English language proficiency when applicable

The following documents will be required as part of your application:

- Statement of Intent: this statement should be 250 words outlining your qualifications and interest in the MHE or GDipHE program and reasons for applying to StFX specifically.
- Professional Experience Statement: submit a 250-word statement outlining your professional experience in health or community settings, government or non-for-profit sector.
- Official transcripts: submit an official transcript from each post-secondary institution attended. These should be submitted directly from the issuing institution to the Admissions Office by mail or an official school email. Any transcript submitted directly by the student must be received in a sealed envelope from the issuing institution. Graduates of StFX do not need to provide a copy of their transcript from StFX. Transcripts in a language other than English should be provided in their original language, along with a certified translation into English.
- Resume/CV: submit an up-to-date resume/CV highlighting your educational background and professional experience to date.
- Reference Letters: provide names and contact information for two referees. Referees will be emailed a link for submission of their reference letters.

- English proficiency test results: please submit proof of English language proficiency if required. Test results must be two years old or less, at the time of application to be valid. Acceptable tests include:

English Language Proficiency Test	Minimum Score
IELTS (preferred test)	6.5 overall and no lower than 6.0 in each band. One Skill Retake accepted.
TOEFL iBT or TOEFL iBT Home Edition	90 iBT and no lower than 20 in each band. MyBest Scores accepted.
MET	55
CAEL and CAEL Online	70 overall and no lower than 60 in each band
C1 Advanced	180 overall and no lower than 170 in each band
C2 Proficiency	180 overall and no lower than 170 in each band
Duolingo	125 with no integrated sub-score lower than 105
Pearson Test of English – Academic	60 overall with no score below 50
Oxford ELLT Digital	7 overall and no lower than 6 in each band
Oxford ELLT Global	7 overall and no lower than 6 in each band

Enter discount code STFX10 at check out for 10% off the Oxford ELLT Digital test.

Are designated admission seats available for Indigenous and African Nova Scotian applicants?

The MHE and GDipHE programs promote equitable access to graduate education through designated admission seats for Mi'kmaw, Indigenous Nova Scotian, and African Nova Scotian applicants.

I am an international student. Do I need a Visa and/or study permit?

Since this is solely an online program, as an international student, you are not required to apply for a visa or study permit once you receive admission to StFX.

What is the deadline to apply?

The application deadline for both the master's and diploma programs for the 2027–2028 academic year is July 2, 2027.

How long will it take before I get a decision on my application?

Admission decisions are typically communicated within four to eight weeks of receiving all required application documents. For graduate programs, admission decisions are made by the academic department responsible for the program.

Do I need to submit an official transcript(s)?

Yes – StFX will not assess your application without official transcript(s).

Have all my documents arrived? Who can update me about my MHE or GDipHE application?

Please email admissions@stfx.ca to ask about your application status.

Will I be pre-registered in all my courses?

StFX Online will register you in your required and selected courses before the term begins and confirm your registration by email.

Fee Details

How much is tuition?

For information regarding StFX tuition and additional fees, visit the [Student Accounts](#).

Please note: Tuition and fees are based on the current academic year and are subject to annual changes.

For current tuition rates and associated fees for the MHE and GDipHE programs, please contact the Student Accounts Office at studentaccounts@stfx.ca or 902-867-2123.

Are the programs eligible for government student loan funding?

The MHE and GDipHE Equity programs are **not eligible** for government student loan funding.

Are there scholarships available for the MHE and GDipHE programs?

Yes, applicants may be eligible for the Jeannine Deveau Scholarship. For eligibility criteria and application details, please visit the [Deveau Funding Opportunities](#) or contact scholarships@stfx.ca.

Are there bursaries available for the MHE and GDipHE programs?

Yes, applicants may be eligible for Need-Based Bursaries. For eligibility criteria and application details, please visit the [Need-Based Bursaries](#) or contact financialaid@stfx.ca.

Program Details

How many people are accepted each year for the MHE and GDipHE Programs?

Approximately 30-40 students combined are accepted per academic year. Students may apply to either the MHE or GDipHE.

The diploma may be completed independently, used as a pathway toward the MHE, or awarded to eligible MHE students who choose to conclude their studies after fulfilling the diploma requirements.

What is the MHE program structure?

The MHE is a 30-credit, course-based professional master's program focused on applying research and evidence to professional practice rather than producing original research. The program welcomes students from diverse academic and professional backgrounds.

The curriculum includes six core courses (18 credits), two electives (6 credits), and two applied capstone courses (6 credits), with no thesis option. Students complete the online program part-time over approximately 2.5 years. Detailed course descriptions can be found in the current [StFX Academic Calendar](#).

Course Code	Course Name	Prerequisite
HEEQ 501	Health Equity Theory and Foundations	None
HEEQ 502	Evidence Informed Practice to Advance Health Equity	HEEQ 501
HEEQ 503	Health Equity Programs: Planning, Implementation, Assessment, and Evaluation	HEEQ 501 & 502
HEEQ 504	Public Policy for Health and Health Equity	HEEQ 501 & 502
HEEQ 505	Partnerships, Leadership, Mobilization, & Communication to Advance Health Equity	HEEQ 501 & 502
HEEQ 506	Indigenous Health Equity	HEEQ 501 & 502
HEEQ 512	Capstone Project Proposal	24 credits of HE EQ core and elective courses
HEEQ 513	Implementing Capstone Project: Knowledge Mobilization	24 credits of HE EQ core and elective courses and HE EQ 512
Sample Electives (students select two 3-credit courses from a set of offerings)*		
HEEQ 507	Emergency Preparedness & Equity	HEEQ 501, HE EQ 502
HEEQ 508	Racism & Health Equity	HEEQ 501, HE EQ 502
HEEQ 509	Toward Nutrition Equity: Canada's Wicked Food Problem	HEEQ 501, HE EQ 502
HEEQ 510	Mental Health & Substance Use Equity	HEEQ 501, HE EQ 502

*Electives will be offered in rotation. The current list of electives includes planned courses that reflect core areas of StFX faculty expertise. Elective courses could also be developed in additional areas such as: Health Equity for People with Disabilities; Geographical Equity (rural, remote, isolated); Environment & Health Equity; Nutrition Policy Issues & Controversies; 2SLGBTQIA+ Communities & Health Equity; Methods/HE Surveillance/Reporting.

What are capstone courses?

The Master of Health Equity (MHE) emphasizes experiential learning through a two-course capstone project (HEEQ 512 and HE EQ 513). Students develop and implement an applied health equity project in collaboration with their workplace or a community organization.

Projects may include health equity assessments, audits, policy reviews, or the application of health equity frameworks. Students must identify a partner organization before enrolling in HE EQ 512, with guidance available from program faculty or the program coordinator.

For students requiring assistance securing a project partner, the StFX [Service Learning](#) Office can help identify suitable organizations and facilitate placements.

What is the GDipHE program structure?

The GDipHE is a 15-credit credential consisting of two required courses (HEEQ 501 and HEEQ 502) and three additional courses selected from four core course options (HEEQ 503, 504, 505, and 506). Detailed course descriptions can be found in the current [StFX Academic Calendar](#).

The graduate diploma does not include electives or capstone courses.

Course Code	Course Name	Prerequisite
HEEQ 501	Health Equity Theory and Foundations	None
HEEQ 502	Evidence Informed Practice to Advance Health Equity	HEEQ 501
HEEQ 503	Health Equity Programs: Planning, Implementation, Assessment, and Evaluation	HEEQ 501 & 502
HEEQ 504	Public Policy for Health and Health Equity	HEEQ 501 & 502
HEEQ 505	Partnerships, Leadership, Mobilization, & Communication to Advance Health Equity	HEEQ 501 & 502
HEEQ 506	Indigenous Health Equity	HEEQ 501 & 502

Detailed course descriptions can be reviewed within the current [StFX Academic Calendar](#).

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Note: Completion of the GDipHE alone **does not** qualify students for the StFX X-Ring.

Disclaimer: This information is updated regularly; however, MHE and GDipHE program policies are outlined in Section 8.6 of the StFX Academic Calendar. In case of any discrepancies, the [Academic Calendar](#) will prevail.