



**Chair, Department of Health Behavior
School of Public Health
The University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama**

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Public Health (SOPH) is conducting a national search for an innovative and accomplished leader for the position of Department Chair of Health Behavior. One of six health science schools at UAB, the School of Public Health offers unparalleled opportunities for research, teaching, scholarship, and service, having transformed Birmingham into a nexus of medicine, business, research, and development. In 2022, the School received over \$38 million in research grants and contracts and ranked 22nd in NIH funding among all schools of public health.

The Department of Health Behavior has 11 full-time faculty and approximately 67 masters and 26 doctoral students. The Department offers the Master of Public Health (online and in class) and a Doctor of Philosophy degree (in class), both with an emphasis on Health Behavior. Additionally, the department recently launched the Disability Health Studies Graduate Certificate and two LGBTQ Health and Wellbeing Certificate Programs (undergraduate and graduate).

Research areas of the department include a range of methods (e.g., quantitative, qualitative, implementation science, community-engaged research) across diverse health domains (e.g., nutrition, physical activity, and obesity; sexual health; addiction and substance abuse; mental health). The Department takes an intersectional approach with attention to different core identities (e.g., sexual and gender minority orientation, racial/ethnic background, disability, individuals experiencing unstable housing, and veteran status) across the life course. Collectively, they contribute to a range of intervention and health promotion efforts that help reduce risk and promote resilience.

The SOPH recently established the [Magic City LGBTQ Health Studies Endowed Chair](#) in the department to address the significant health disparities impacting the LGBTQ population both in Alabama and across the nation. Faculty in the department are closely affiliated with SOPH's [Center for the Study of Community Health](#), which is one of 26 CDC Prevention Research Centers in the U.S. and the longest continually funded PRC within the CDC. Faculty in the department are also affiliated with various university interdisciplinary centers, such as the [Nutrition Obesity Research Center \(NORC\)](#), the [Center for AIDS Research \(CFAR\)](#), and the [National Center on Health, Physical Activity, and Disability](#).

The SOPH seeks a Chair with a vision to guide the growth of the department. The Chair will strengthen the department through strategic faculty hires to enhance the research portfolio and utilize creative approaches to improve the master's and PhD academic programs. The Chair will also provide direction and oversight for all aspects of departmental functions, including practice and service, finances, personnel, and governance structures. Lastly, the Chair will collaborate with the Dean and the faculty to ensure an infrastructure and culture that fosters academic career development and will participate with other chairs in guiding and shaping policies within the School of Public Health.

The successful candidate will demonstrate a record of academic accomplishments in health behavior or related areas, including recent first and senior authorships of manuscripts in high-impact journals, scholarly recognition, recent research support as a principal investigator (PI) on grants from the NIH, CDC, or similar agencies and foundations, along with administrative responsibilities such as serving as a chair, graduate director, or center director, to warrant appointment at the level of a tenured or tenure-earning Professor. The successful candidate should also have demonstrated excellence in teaching, mentoring, and/or supporting faculty members and students. Education at the doctoral level is required to apply for the position. Experience in community based participatory research is desired but not required.

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

UAB is a Carnegie classification 1 research university and academic health center that discovers, teaches, and applies knowledge for the intellectual, cultural, social, and economic benefit of Birmingham, the state, and beyond. UAB is internationally renowned for its intensely collaborative culture that has — for more than five decades — produced breakthroughs in education, health care, research, and service. UAB research grants and awards exceeded \$715 million in FY22, with the university ranking 11th in NIH funding among all public universities.

Spanning more than 100 city blocks, UAB is the state of Alabama's largest single employer with some 25,000 employees and has an annual, state-wide economic impact exceeding \$12 billion. In 2021, UAB was named America's No. 1 Best Large Employer by Forbes, topping the list of more than 500 public and private corporations, hospitals, universities, Fortune 500 companies and more. Located in the heart of Birmingham, UAB has transformed the city into a nexus of medicine, business, research, and development with a thriving arts and cultural scene and a vibrant campus that channels all the energies and opportunities of its metropolitan home.

The School of Public Health

Founded in 1978, the UAB SOPH has grown to 85 full-time faculty and 1100 undergraduate and graduate students across five departments: Biostatistics, Environmental Health Sciences, Epidemiology, Health Behavior, and Health Policy and Organization. Diversity is one of the SOPH's values and strengths, with 45% of students identifying as a member of an underrepresented racial/ethnic group and 16% identifying as a first-generation college student. In 2020, the UAB SOPH received the Health Professions Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity- focused publication in higher education.

To Apply

UAB has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist a university search committee in this recruitment. All applications, inquiries, and nominations, which will remain confidential, should be directed to the firm as follows:

Vijay Saraswat, Partner, vsaraswat@imsearch.com
Damla Williams, Senior Associate, dwilliams@imsearch.com

<https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-alabama-birmingham-school-public-health/chair-department-health-behavior>

UAB is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer committed to fostering a diverse, equitable, and family-friendly environment in which all faculty and staff can excel and achieve work/life balance irrespective of race, national origin, age, genetic or family medical history, gender, faith, gender identity, and expression as well as sexual orientation. UAB also encourages applications from individuals with disabilities and veterans.