

Public Health

Program Overview

Public health is one of the fastest growing majors in undergraduate education and covers the five core public health disciplines: biostatistics, environmental health sciences, epidemiology, health policy and management, and social and behavioral sciences.

The public health major emphasizes problem solving skills, critical thinking, practical application, career exploration and an understanding of both clinical- and population-based ethics. Early in the program, students will build a strong foundation of knowledge in the natural and social sciences and become familiar with cultural and socioeconomic differences among populations. Further study will provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to identify evidence-based techniques for disease prevention and promotion of health, both at home and from a global perspective.

Preparing Students for Future Opportunities

The Community and Population Health Area of Emphasis prepares students for entry into social science-based and public health graduate programs.

The Public Health Sciences Area of Emphasis prepares students for entry into graduate programs in public health sciences or clinical professional degree programs.

The Patient Navigation Area of Emphasis prepares students for positions in clinical and health insurance settings, as well as entry into graduate and professional programs.

The public health program also prepares graduates for entry-level public health positions in a wide array of agencies involved in public and private health, including local, regional and state health departments, consulting and advocacy organizations, healthcare organizations and government agencies.

PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCE AREA OF EMPHASIS

- Recognize how environmental and occupational factors impact the health status of individuals and populations.
- Apply skills in biostatistical and epidemiologic methods in public health practice and research.

COMMUNITY AND POPULATION HEALTH AREA OF EMPHASIS

- Recognize how social and behavioral factors impact the health status of individuals and populations.
- Identify appropriate theories, methods, strategies and policies to address the public health needs of communities and populations.

PATIENT NAVIGATION AREA OF EMPHASIS

- Attain productive and effective communication skills with all members of the patient care team, including those that may not traditionally be included in this team (e.g., social workers, food pantries, transportation, childcare)
- Recognize how to improve patient quality of life and care via multiple systems and processes.
- Apply chronic disease management techniques and constructs.

Admission Guidelines for the School of Public Health's Undergraduate Program

SPH Admissions for BS in Public Health

The WVU School of Public Health (SPH) will admit students for fall and spring semesters.

Direct admissions relates to students applying upon graduation from high school and those with no previous undergraduate credits. Applicants who meet the minimum standards (see below) will be accepted directly into the program by WVU Admissions.

Students who do not meet direct admit minimum standards, but who are interested in pursuing a degree in public health, have two options:

- 1) apply to transfer into the program via a WVU Academic Status Update form once a college GPA of 2.5 is established.
- 2) apply for pre-public health status by meeting those guidelines listed below. Students in Pre-Public Health can take the same courses and can request access to the same academic advising as majors do. However, these students will have to meet internal transfer requirements of a 2.5 college GPA within 2 semesters of entering this program.

External transfer students (those who have completed undergraduate credits at another institution) who meet the transfer admission guidelines (see below) should apply to WVU as transfer students and will be accepted directly into the program by WVU Admissions.

Admission Guidelines

2 Public Health

Students are eligible for **direct freshman admission** if they meet these minimum guidelines:

- 3.0 Cumulative High School GPA

OR

- ACT of 21 (superscored) and 2.75 Cumulative High School GPA

OR

- SAT of 990 (superscored) and 2.75 Cumulative High School GPA

Students are eligible for admission into **pre-public health** if they meet these minimum guidelines:

- 2.75 Cumulative High School GPA

OR

- ACT of 19 (superscored) and 2.5 Cumulative High School GPA

OR

- SAT of 910 (superscored) and 2.5 Cumulative High School GPA

Internal (WVU) and External transfer students who have completed undergraduate coursework at WVU or another institution of higher education prior to applying to the Public Health major are eligible if they meet the following minimum guidelines:

- 2.5 Cumulative Undergraduate GPA

Please note, the School of Public Health reserves the right to limit student enrollment in the program but cutting off admissions based on school-wide capacity for new students.

Click the link below to view the corresponding AOE requirements and Suggested Plans of Study.

- Community and Population Health (p. 5)
- Patient Navigation (p. 4)
- Public Health Sciences (p. 3)

General Education Foundations

Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (<http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef>)

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

General Education Foundations

F1 - Composition & Rhetoric		3-6
ENGL 101 & ENGL 102 or ENGL 103	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research Accelerated Academic Writing	
F2A/F2B - Science & Technology		4-6
F3 - Math & Quantitative Skills		3-4
F4 - Society & Connections		3
F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past		3
F6 - The Arts & Creativity		3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity		3
F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree)		9
Total Hours		31-37

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

Degree Requirements

Students are required to maintain a cumulative and major GPA of 2.5

General Education Foundations Requirements		25
Core Foundational Coursework		
PUBH 191	First-Year Seminar	1
PUBH 101	Introduction to Public and Community Health	3
PUBH 200	Introduction to Public Health Careers and Information	1
PUBH 201	Global Perspectives of Public Health	3
PUBH 202	Social Determinants of Health	3
PUBH 205	Writing for Public Health Audiences	3
PUBH 241	Biological Basis of Public Health	3
Discipline-Specific Coursework		
PUBH 211	Biostatistics for Population Health	3
PUBH 222	Epidemiology for Public Health	3
PUBH 243	Issues in Environmental Health	3
PUBH 331	Introduction to Health Policy	3
PUBH 352	Introduction to Social and Behavioral Science and Practice	3
Culminating Experience Coursework		
PUBH 400	Field Placement and Capstone Preparation Seminar	1
Select one of the following: *		6
PUBH 481	Public Health Field Experience and Capstone	
PUBH 486	Patient Navigator Experiential Agency Rotations and Capstone	
Area of Emphasis Requirements		15
Required Minor		15
Electives		26
Community Service Requirement **		
Total Hours		120

* Students in Community and Population Health or Public Health Sciences AoEs must complete PUBH 481. Students in the Patient Navigation AoE must complete PUBH 486.

** Undergraduate Public Health majors are required to complete a minimum of 50 hours of community service, documented through iServe in the WVU Office of Service and Learning.

PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES AREA OF EMPHASIS REQUIREMENTS

Minimum grade of C- or higher required in all AoE courses

CHPR 440	Clinical Research Methods and Practice	3
PUBH 311	Health Research Data Management and Reporting	3
PUBH 423	Introduction to Modern Epidemiologic Research	3
PUBH 442	Public Health in the Workplace	3
PUBH/CHPR Elective		3
Total Hours		15

SUGGESTED PLAN OF STUDY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES AREA OF EMPHASIS

First Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
PUBH 200	1 PUBH 201	3
PUBH 191	1 PUBH 202	3
PUBH 101	3 GEF 3	3
GEF 2	4 GEF	3
GEF	3 GEF	3

GEF	3		
	15		15
Second Year			
Fall		Hours Spring	Hours
PUBH 211		3 PUBH 205	3
PUBH 241		3 PUBH 222	3
ENGL 101 (GEF 1)		3 ENGL 102 (GEF 1)	3
Minor/Elective		3 Minor/Elective	3
Minor/Elective		3 Minor/Elective	3
	15		15
Third Year			
Fall		Hours Spring	Hours
PUBH 243		3 PUBH 311	3
PUBH 352		3 PUBH 331	3
PUBH 423		3 Minor/Elective	3
Minor/Elective		3 Minor/Elective	3
Minor/Elective		3 Minor/Elective	3
	15		15
Fourth Year			
Fall		Hours Spring	Hours
PUBH Elective		3 CHPR 440	3
PUBH 400		1 PUBH 481	6
PUBH 442		3 Minor/Elective	3
Minor/Elective		3 Minor/Elective	3
Minor/Elective		3	
Minor/Elective		2	
	15		15

Total credit hours: 120

PATIENT NAVIGATION AREA OF EMPHASIS REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 2.5 GPA in all courses.

PUBH 260	Principles of Patient Navigation	3
PUBH 360	Health Navigation: Prevention and Community Health	3
PUBH 361	Health Insurance for Patient Navigators	3
PUBH 460	The US Healthcare System: Structures and Incentives	3
PUBH 461	Legal and Ethical Issues for Patient Navigators	3
Total Hours		15

SUGGESTED PLAN OF STUDY FOR PATIENT NAVIGATION AREA OF EMPHASIS

First Year

Fall		Hours Spring	Hours
PUBH 101		3 PUBH 201	3
PUBH 191		1 PUBH 202	3
PUBH 200		1 GEF 3	3
GEF 2		4 GEF	3
GEF		3 GEF	3
GEF		3	
	15		15

Second Year

Fall		Hours Spring	Hours
PUBH 211		3 PUBH 205	3

PUBH 241	3 PUBH 222	3
ENGL 101 (GEF 1)	3 ENGL 102 (GEF 1)	3
Minor/Elective	3 Minor/Elective	3
Minor/Elective	3 Minor/Elective	3
15		15

Third Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
PUBH 243	3 PUBH 331	3
PUBH 260	3 PUBH 360	3
PUBH 352	3 PUBH 361	3
Minor/Elective	3 Minor/Elective	3
Minor/Elective	3 Minor/Elective	3
15		15

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
PUBH 460	3 PUBH 486	6
PUBH 461	3 Minor/Elective	3
PUBH 480	1 Minor/Elective	3
Minor/Elective	3 Minor/Elective	3
Minor/Elective	3	
Minor/Elective	2	
15		15

Total credit hours: 120

COMMUNITY AND POPULATION HEALTH AREA OF EMPHASIS REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 2.5 GPA in all courses.

CHPR 305	Disease Across the Life Span	3
PUBH 338	Public Health Project Management	3
PUBH 454	Introduction to Public Health Research Methods	3
PUBH 460	The US Healthcare System: Structures and Incentives	3
PUBH or CHPR Elective		3
Total Hours		15

SUGGESTED PLAN OF STUDY FOR COMMUNITY AND POPULATION HEALTH AREA OF EMPHASIS**First Year**

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
PUBH 101	3 PUBH 201	3
PUBH 191	1 PUBH 202	3
PUBH 200	1 GEF 3	3
GEF 2	4 GEF	3
GEF	3 GEF	3
GEF	3	
15		15

Second Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
PUBH 211	3 PUBH 205	3
PUBH 241	3 PUBH 222	3
ENGL 101 (GEF 1)	3 ENGL 102 (GEF 1)	3
Minor/Elective	3 Minor/Elective	3

Minor/Elective	3 Minor/Elective	3
	15	15
Third Year		
Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
CHPR 305	3 PUBH 331	3
PUBH 243	3 PUBH 338	3
PUBH 352	3 Minor/Elective	3
PUBH/CHPR Elective	3 Minor/Elective	3
Minor/Elective	3 Minor/Elective	3
	15	15
Fourth Year		
Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
PUBH 400	1 PUBH 454	3
PUBH 460	3 PUBH 481	6
Minor/Elective	3 Minor/Elective	3
Minor/Elective	3 Minor/Elective	3
Minor/Elective	3	
Minor/Elective	2	
	15	15

Total credit hours: 120

Major Learning Outcomes

PUBLIC HEALTH MAJOR

At the conclusion of the program students will be able to:

- Discuss the historic milestones, core disciplines and core functions of public health.
- Appreciate human cultures and social determinants of health as they relate to individual and population health.
- Explain the impact of natural processes and systems on health and patterns of disease and injury among diverse populations.
- Apply critical and creative thinking, and analysis and synthesis of information processes to inform, assist and promote public health.
- Disseminate knowledge and information to address current public health issues effectively through both oral and written communications.
- Engage in public health-related activities with local, regional, national and/or global organizations.

PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE AREA OF EMPHASIS

- Recognize how environmental and occupational factors impact the health status of individuals and populations.
- Apply skills in biostatistical and epidemiologic methods in public health practice and research.

COMMUNITY AND POPULATION HEALTH AREA OF EMPHASIS

- Recognize how social and behavioral factors impact the health status of individuals and populations.
- Identify appropriate theories, methods, strategies and policies to address the public health needs of communities and populations.

PATIENT NAVIGATION AREA OF EMPHASIS

- Attain productive and effective communication skills with all members of the patient care team, including those that may not traditionally be included in this team (e.g., social workers, food pantries, transportation, childcare)
- Recognize how to improve patient quality of life and care via multiple systems and processes.
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