Public Health, B.S.

Degree Offered

• Bachelor of Science

Nature of the Program

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 in the US and from a global perspective.

Graduates of the public health program are prepared 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. Students can elect to take courses that will prepare them for graduate and professional programs such as public health sciences (specifically epidemiology, environmental and occupational health and biostatics), or other health sciences professional programs [with additional math/science courses].

The public health program allows students the flexibility to choose electives based on their professional goals or public health issues they’re most interested in solving. Students can elect to take courses that will prepare them to sit for the Community Health Education Certification (CHES) exam and for entry level positions in program management and community health education, or courses to prepare them to become members of health care teams assisting individuals in reducing and eliminating barriers to health care access and in negotiating complex health delivery systems. The public health program will also prepare students for entry into graduate programs in the social sciences, policy and administration, and public health graduate programs.

Admissions

GUIDELINES FOR THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

The WVU School of Public Health (SPH) admits students into the Bachelor of Science in Public Health program for fall and spring semesters.

New Freshman Admissions

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

• 2.75 Cumulative High School GPA

• Students who are admitted to the university but do not meet the minimum GPA for the School of Public Health, will be admitted into the Center for Learning, Advising, and Student Success and the Healthcare Guided Pathway until they are eligible for admission to the School of Public Health.

Internal (WVU) 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 and attend a public health information session:

• 2.5 Cumulative Undergraduate GPA

External transfer students who have completed undergraduate credits at another institution wishing to transfer into WVU who meet the transfer admission GPA should apply to WVU as transfer students and will be accepted directly into the program by WVU Admissions.

• 2.5 Cumulative Undergraduate GPA

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS 2023-2024

The Admission Requirements above will be the same for the 2023-2024 Academic Year.

Major Code: 8414

General Education Foundations

Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef/)
Public Health, B.S.

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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>F1 - Composition &amp; Rhetoric</th>
<th>3-6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 101</td>
<td>Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric</td>
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<tr>
<td>&amp; ENGL 102</td>
<td>and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>or ENGL 103</td>
<td>Accelerated Academic Writing</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>F2A/F2B - Science &amp; Technology</th>
<th>4-6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F3 - Math &amp; Quantitative Reasoning</td>
<td>3-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>F4 - Society &amp; Connections</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>F5 - Human Inquiry &amp; the Past</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F6 - The Arts &amp; Creativity</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>F7 - Global Studies &amp; Diversity</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**

A cumulative GPA of 2.5 is required for the Bachelor of Science in Public Health.

**University Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>64</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Core Requirements</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health Major Requirements</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 120

**University Requirements**

General Education Foundations (GEF) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 (31-37 Credits)

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding GEF Requirements 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 191</td>
<td>First-Year Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Electives</td>
<td>29</td>
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Total Hours: 64

**School Core Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 101</td>
<td>Introduction to Public and Community Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 200</td>
<td>Introduction to Public Health Careers and Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 201</td>
<td>Global Perspectives of Public Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 202</td>
<td>Social Determinants of Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 205</td>
<td>Writing for Public Health Audiences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 211</td>
<td>Biostatistics for Population Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 222</td>
<td>Epidemiology for Public Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 233</td>
<td>The US Healthcare System: Structures and Incentives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 241</td>
<td>Biological Basis of Public Health</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 25

**Public Health Major Requirements**

A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required in all Public Health Major Requirements.

**Discipline-Specific Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 243</td>
<td>Issues in Environmental Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 331</td>
<td>Introduction to Health Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 352</td>
<td>Introduction to Social and Behavioral Science and Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 353</td>
<td>Mastering Health and Wellness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Select one of the following:

- PUBH 311: Health Research Data Management and Reporting
- PUBH 423: Introduction to Modern Epidemiologic Research
- PUBH 454: Introduction to Public Health Research Methods

Public Health Electives

All remaining PUBH Courses (excluding PUBH 486)

Culminating Experience Coursework

- PUBH 400: Field Placement Preparation Seminar
- PUBH 489: School of Public Health Undergraduate Capstone (minimum grade of C-)
- PUBH 481: Public Health Field Experience

Community Service Requirement

A maximum 3-credits of PUBH 491 and PUBH 497 can be used to fulfill this requirement.

Undergraduate Public Health majors are required to complete a minimum of 25 hours of community service, documented through iServe in the WVU Office of Service and Learning.

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall Hours</th>
<th>Spring Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 101</td>
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<td>ENGL 101 (GEF 1)</td>
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Second Year

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<td>PUBH 205</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 241</td>
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<tr>
<td>STAT 211</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH Elective</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 243</td>
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Third Year

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 222</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 352</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEF 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Elective</td>
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Fourth Year

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<tr>
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<th>Fall Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 353</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 400</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH Elective</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Elective</td>
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Total Hours 31
General Elective 3
General Elective 2

Total credit hours: 120

**Major Learning Outcomes**

**PUBLIC HEALTH MAJOR**

Upon completion of the program, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a strong foundation of knowledge about the history, philosophy, core values, concepts, and functions of public health in the US and globally. *(overview)*
2. Determine appropriate public health processes, approaches, and interventions needed to address health-related needs and concerns of specific populations. *(population health)*
3. Illustrate how socio-economic, behavioral, biological, and environmental factors impact human health, contribute to health disparities, and can be affected by promotion and protection programs. *(determinants of health)*
4. Communicate public health information to diverse audiences through a variety of mediums. *(communication)*
5. Apply evidence-based and ethical approaches to identifying, collecting, using, analyzing, and disseminating public health data and information. *(information)*
6. Differentiate the basic concepts of legal, ethical, economic, and regulatory dimensions of health and how they influence the US health system and public health policy. *(policy and US government)*

**COURSES**

**PUBH 101. Introduction to Public and Community Health. 3 Hours.**
This course will provide students with an overview of the principles and practice of public and community health. Students will learn about the history, core function and essential services of public health, as well as engage in discussions about current public health events and issues.

**PUBH 191. First-Year Seminar. 1-3 Hours.**
Engages students in active learning strategies that enable effective transition to college life at WVU. Students will explore school, college and university programs, policies and services relevant to academic success. Provides active learning activities that enable effective transition to the academic environment. Students examine school, college and university programs, policies and services.

**PUBH 199. Orientation to Public Health. 1-2 Hour.**
Orientation to degree programs and requirements, departmental resources, curriculum options, student responsibilities, and opportunities.

**PUBH 200. Introduction to Public Health Careers and Information. 1 Hour.**
Students will explore public health careers and popular public health websites, identify and present public health data, and develop information literacy skills.

**PUBH 201. Global Perspectives of Public Health. 3 Hours.**
This introduction to global public health will strengthen students’ perspectives and understanding of disease prevention and treatment issues in westernized and developing/underdeveloped countries. Topics include health disparities, economic/political structures/systems impacting health, maternal and child health (including family planning), socio-cultural factors affecting health care delivery and the global burden of infectious and chronic diseases, injuries and disasters.

**PUBH 202. Social Determinants of Health. 3 Hours.**
The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the social factors/determinants that influence health. Theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of social determinants will be discussed from a social ecological perspective. The course is designed to help students develop basic literacy regarding social concepts and processes that influence health status and health disparities.

**PUBH 205. Writing for Public Health Audiences. 3 Hours.**
PR: PUBH 101 and PUBH 202. Students will develop original written materials pertaining to current public health issues that target specific populations. They will also gain a basic understanding of health, information and functional literacy; and evaluate existing materials for literacy levels and readability.

**PUBH 211. Biostatistics for Population Health. 3 Hours.**
PR: MATH 121 or higher and PUBH 101. This course provides students with an introduction to statistical concepts that are important for solving real-world public health problems. This course will present statistical principles and associated scientific reasoning underlying public health practice and health policy decision-making. Topics include data visualization, summary statistics, statistical inference, and strategies for articulating and evaluating claims using statistical constructs.

**PUBH 222. Epidemiology for Public Health. 3 Hours.**
PR or CONC: PUBH 211 or STAT 211. This introductory course explores the historical roots of the practice of epidemiology. The course will provide students with a foundation in the study of the distributions of health-related states or events (including injury and disease) in human populations and the control of these health-related problems.
PUBH 230. Introduction to Health Administration. 3 Hours.
Introduces core concepts in health administration, addressing the organization of health services, administrative theories and applications, performance improvement, decision-making, managing change, and professionalism/communication in healthcare and public health administration.

PUBH 233. The US Healthcare System: Structures and Incentives. 3 Hours.
Exploration of the multifaceted US healthcare system, including its structure, delivery, and financing. Students will learn about key stakeholders within the healthcare system and how they interact with each other. Further, they will gain insight into how these interactions can inform health policy, within the state of WV and beyond.

PUBH 241. Biological Basis of Public Health. 3 Hours.
PR: PUBH 101 and ((BIOL 101 and BIOL 103) or (BIOL 102 and BIOL 104) or higher). Provides a basic understanding of human changes associated with or resulting from those chronic or infectious diseases or injuries that are of public health importance in the US and globally. Students will: 1) understand core concepts of health and disease, 2) recognize common infectious diseases and their influence on public health, and 3) identify chronic disease burden.

PUBH 243. Issues in Environmental Health. 3 Hours.
PR: PUBH 101. Provides an overview of environmental and occupational issues relating to air, water, and solid waste as they relate to human health. Basic environmental health concepts, technologies and underlying data will be examined to better understand local, national and global solutions to environmental health problems.

PUBH 258. Terminology and Communication for Health Professionals. 3 Hours.
Reviews essential skills needed for communicating with a variety of health-related professionals and lay persons, and applies these in professional, clinical, and administrative settings. The student will also become familiar with the basics of medical terminology and the fundamentals of pronunciation, and the structure of medical language and medical terms.

PUBH 260. Principles of Patient Navigation. 3 Hours.
Reviews roles and responsibilities of Patient Navigators. Provides overview of Patient Navigator competencies, comprising: the basics of health services delivery and health insurance; health of the individual; accessing and analyzing health information; approaches to communication, including motivational interviewing and group dynamics; healthcare ethics. Includes required shadowing experience.

PUBH 293. . 1-6 Hours.
Investigation of topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

PUBH 311. Health Research Data Management and Reporting. 3 Hours.
PR: PUBH 211. This course will provide an introduction to data management and reporting principles, and the associated tools that are instrumental in public health research. Topics include data documentation, data structure, relational database theory, data manipulation, basic logic for programming, literate programming, and reporting.

PUBH 325. Introduction to Injury Prevention. 3 Hours.
Students gain understanding of overarching topics in injury including assessing the public health impact of injuries, their causes and risk factors, and the development and assessment of appropriate interventions. Topics covered include falls, pedestrian safety, motor vehicles accidents, drug overdose, suicide, intimate partner violence, and adverse childhood experiences, all relevant to the key public health challenges affecting the United States.

PUBH 331. Introduction to Health Policy. 3 Hours.
PR: PUBH 101. This course provides an overview of the inner workings of health care policy making, from the legislative process to socioeconomic impacts, with both historical and modern perspectives. Students will explore factors that shape the United States health care system and policy, such as values, models, and stakeholders, and compare them to other countries for international context.

PUBH 333. Comparative Health Systems and Policy. 3 Hours.
PR: PUBH 331. In this course, students will examine the structure of healthcare systems in selected countries worldwide. Specific attention is paid to the developmental history of the national healthcare systems, financing, and delivery infrastructure. The impact of international relations is also examined.

PUBH 334. Emergency Preparedness for Public Health. 3 Hours.
This course provides an overview of the dimensions of disasters and emergencies through the lens of Public Health professionals with special focus on the rural environment and uses the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP) model for the final exercise. Students completing this course will also complete several FEMA certifications during the course.

PUBH 337. Climate Change and Public Health. 3 Hours.
Anticipated changes from biodiversity loss, ozone depletion, the incidence of infectious diseases, extreme weather and climate events, ocean acidification, and sea level rise, among other concerns, will all have impacts on a wide range of human systems that affect health. Also addresses policies and technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the need for strategies for mitigation and adaptation.

PUBH 338. Public Health Project Management. 3 Hours.
Introduces students to the basics of project management: the process of initiating, planning, executing, controlling and closing out a project. Project leadership is explored in the context of building effective project teams and maintaining stakeholder relationships. Concepts include developing and monitoring budgets, developing Gantt charts, reporting, working with stakeholders, flow charts and more.
PUBH 352. Introduction to Social and Behavioral Science and Practice. 3 Hours.
PR: PUBH 101 and PUBH 202. Introduces the historical and philosophical background of the social and behavioral sciences, covering theories of behavioral science applied to health behaviors; socio-cultural factors of disease etiology, prevention and population health; individual, group, community, and technology-based strategies for health behavior change; and current issues in behavioral sciences for health promotion including its application to achieving the Healthy People 2020 goals.

PUBH 353. Mastering Health and Wellness. 3 Hours.
This course will provide students with information about current health and wellness issues, diseases and disorders across the lifespan and how to prevent them and improve their health outcomes. Students will examine biological, psychological, and social aspects that affect and can assist in achievement of optimal health. Lecture, discussion, films, and experimental learning activities will be utilized.

PUBH 356. Worksite Wellness. 3 Hours.
Designed to be a comprehensive introduction to the field, integrating health promotion with a primary focus on population health management in a worksite setting. Covers topics such as rationale statements, programmatic models, program components addressing specific wellness topical areas, effectiveness design, implementation, reporting, and evaluation, as well as strategies to maximize employer support.

PUBH 360. Health Navigation: Prevention and Community Health. 3 Hours.
PR: PUBH 260. Students will explore the relationship between psychosocial, behavioral and biological risk factors as they affect chronic conditions; learn about screening, prevention, diagnosis and treatment for the most common chronic diseases, and discuss proven methods and strategies (including immunizations, health screenings, educational programs, behavior change programs and health policies) to promote prevention among targeted communities.

PUBH 361. Health Insurance for Patient Navigators. 3 Hours.
PR: PUBH 260. Covers basic concepts, terminology and processes pertaining to Medicaid, Medicare, worker’s compensation, major insurers, and disability insurance, including eligibility, billing, claims and reimbursement. Provides the skills needed to communicate sometimes complex health insurance information to patients and facilitate patient decision making.

PUBH 393. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
Investigation of topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

PUBH 400. Field Placement Preparation Seminar. 1 Hour.
Students will coordinate plans for their field placement assignments by completing all on-boarding requirements, developing an up-to-date resume and preparing materials for field practice agencies, job searches and/or graduate school application.

PUBH 423. Introduction to Modern Epidemiologic Research. 3 Hours.
PR: PUBH 222. This intermediate course will provide students with a foundation in the research tools utilized to explore the determinants of health-related states or events (including injury and disease) in human populations.

PUBH 427. Introduction to Outbreak Investigation. 3 Hours.
Introduces the investigation of outbreaks and issues related to epidemiologic methods, surveillance, detection, and risk communication. Covers basic epidemiologic methods used to quantify and monitor potential outbreaks, data collection and management, coordination with community partners and communication to health service providers and members of the general community as part of a coordinated response.

PUBH 438. Managing Quality Improvement in Healthcare. 3 Hours.
Introduces students to the latest healthcare quality and patient safety improvement thinking through didactic sessions, interactive exercises and case studies with direct relevance for public health practitioners, healthcare administrators or clinicians. Examines healthcare quality and patient safety from a strategic viewpoint to make healthcare administrators effective decision makers.

PUBH 439. Financials Tools for Health Administration. 3 Hours.
This course introduces core concepts and tools for the financial management of healthcare organizations, including: financial management, operating revenue, working capital, and resource allocation. The critical context of health systems and health reform provides the guiding lens for the course.

PUBH 440. Health Systems Leadership. 3 Hours.
This course addresses the foundational principles of leadership, management, and collaboration for public health and healthcare settings. Topics addressed include situational and transformational leadership, leadership ethics, team leadership and self-leadership. Prepares students for entry-level leadership roles in health services and public health organizations.

PUBH 442. Public Health in the Workplace. 3 Hours.
PR: PUBH 222 and PUBH 243. Overview of workplace health issues as they affect human health, including exposure to chemical, physical, biological and mechanical hazards. Basic occupational safety and health concepts, technologies and underlying data will be examined to better understand the potential solutions for workplace safety and human health issues.

PUBH 451. Program Evaluation in Public Health. 3 Hours.
Covers program evaluation in public health including needs assessments, formative research, process or implementation evaluation, outcomes, and impact assessments. Students will complete exercises involving the design of a logic model and an evaluation plan. The course will cover experimental, quasi-experimental, and non-experimental study designs and the use of interviews, focus groups, and survey assessments.
PUBH 454. Introduction to Public Health Research Methods. 3 Hours.
PR: PUBH 222 and PUBH 352. This course provides an overview of public and community health research methods. Content includes the purpose and foundations of research, identifying and framing topic of interest and formulating research questions, ethical standards and reviews, study populations and samples, study designs, question construction and questionnaire development, data collection and analyses approaches, and the reporting and dissemination of findings.

PUBH 458. Public Mental Health. 3 Hours.
Students apply principles and methods of general epidemiology to the study of mental disorders. Provides updated scientific information regarding the epidemiology and risk factors of major psychiatric disorders such as anxiety, mood, psychotic, personality, drug and alcohol use disorders and the increased prevalence of mental disorders, cost of mental health care, and its burden on society. (co-list with 658).

PUBH 461. Legal and Ethical Issues for Patient Navigators. 3 Hours.
PR: PUBH 360 and PUBH 361. Covers the rights, responsibilities and concerns of patient navigators in the context of their roles with healthcare consumers and healthcare providers. Focuses on the social, legal, and ethical issues when interacting with patients and how to promote patient-healthcare team partnerships via improved communication and problem solving techniques. Prepares students for Patient Navigator Experiential Agency Rotations.

PUBH 462. Clinical Research Methods and Practice. 3 Hours.
Students learn research methods and techniques for application to a wide variety of cardiovascular, neurological, trauma and social services emergency care topics. Students also participate in real-time clinical research and interact with patients/potential study subjects. Also listed as PUBH 662; only one of which can be counted toward degree requirements.

PUBH 464. Ethical, Legal and Financial Issues in Healthcare. 3 Hours.
Covers the rights, responsibilities and concerns of professionals working in the healthcare arena who are not providing direct patient care but who interact with both patients and other healthcare professionals. Focuses on the social, legal, ethical, and financial issues from the patient context. Includes basic information on concepts, terminology and processes pertaining to major forms of insurance.

PUBH 465. Patient Navigation Strategies: Case Planning. 3 Hours.
PR: PUBH 360. This interactive course is designed to enable students to translate theoretical knowledge about patient navigation into practical strategies. The course is centered on modules that emphasize specific functional domains of patient navigation using a case-based approach and case scenarios. This course is intended for students with previous patient navigation courses work or experience.

PUBH 468. Patient Navigation Agency Rotation. 4 Hours.
PR: PUBH 400. Students complete a 75 hour prearranged experiential learning placement that is planned, supervised, and evaluated for credit with a local public or community health agency. Students will develop and complete outcomes and an output or product that is detailed in an affiliation agreement. Reflective journal essays and meetings to discuss observations, successes and challenges are scheduled at strategic times.

PUBH 469. Teaching Practicum. 1-3 Hours.
PR: Consent. Teaching practice such as a tutor or assistant.

PUBH 470. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation of topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

PUBH 471. Professional Field Experience. 1-18 Hours.
PR: Consent. (May be repeated up to a maximum of 18 hours.) Prearranged experiential learning program to be planned, supervised, and evaluated for credit by faculty and field supervisors. Involves temporary placement with public or private enterprise for professional competence development.

PUBH 472. Health Management Internship. 6 Hours.
PR: PUBH 400. Students complete a 125 hour prearranged internship that is planned, supervised, and evaluated for credit with a health-related agency or office. Students will develop and complete outcomes that are detailed in an affiliation agreement. Reflective journal essays and meetings to discuss observations, successes and challenges are scheduled at strategic times during the semester.

PUBH 473. School of Public Health Undergraduate Capstone. 2 Hours.
PR or CONC: (PUBH 481 or PUBH 482 or PUBH 486) with a minimum grade of C-. Students demonstrate attainment of knowledge and skills in their major and area of emphasis (where applicable) through the development, practice and presentation of a poster comprising their field experience, outcomes and outputs, and reflective journal essays. The poster is presented to and evaluated by SPH stakeholders.

PUBH 474. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Faculty supervised study of topics not available through regular course offerings.

PUBH 475. Research. 1-6 Hours.
Independent research projects.