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 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.

At the conclusion of the program, students in the public health program will be able to:

• Provide a solid foundation of the historic milestones, core disciplines and core functions of public health.
• Increase appreciation of 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.
• Develop proficiency in critical and creative thinking, analysis and synthesis of information to inform, assist and promote public health.
• Enhance oral and written communication skills needed to effectively disseminate knowledge and information to address current public health issues.
• Engage students 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.

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
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. 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

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

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 GPA of 2.5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Education Foundations Requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WVUE 191 First Year Seminar</td>
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Required Major Courses

A minimum Grade of C- or higher required in Major and AoE Courses
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Introduction to Public and Community Health</td>
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<td>PUBH 199</td>
<td>Orientation to Public Health</td>
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<td>PUBH 201</td>
<td>Global Perspectives of Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>PUBH 202</td>
<td>Social Determinants of Health</td>
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<td>PUBH 211</td>
<td>Biostatistics for Population Health</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>PUBH 222</td>
<td>Epidemiology for Public Health</td>
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<td>PUBH 241</td>
<td>Biological Basis of Public Health</td>
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<td>PUBH 243</td>
<td>Issues in Environmental Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>PUBH 331</td>
<td>Introduction to Health Policy</td>
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<td>PUBH 491</td>
<td>Professional Field Experience</td>
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<tr>
<td>or PUBH 496</td>
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**Area of Emphasis Requirements**

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

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<tr>
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<td>Clinical Research Methods and Practice</td>
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<td>PUBH 311</td>
<td>Health Research Data Management and Reporting</td>
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<td>PUBH 423</td>
<td>Introduction to Modern Epidemiologic Research</td>
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<td>PUBH 442</td>
<td>Public Health in the Workplace</td>
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**Total Hours**

15

**SUGGESTED PLAN OF STUDY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES AREA OF EMPHASIS**

**First Year**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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Total: 14

**Second Year**

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Total: 15

**Third Year**

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<th>Spring</th>
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Total: 15

**TOTAL HOURS**

120
### COMMUNITY AND POPULATION HEALTH AREA OF EMPHASIS REQUIREMENTS

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

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<td>CHPR 305</td>
<td>Disease Across the Life Span</td>
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<td>PUBH 333</td>
<td>Comparative Health Systems and Policy</td>
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<td>PUBH 352</td>
<td>Introduction to Social and Behavioral Science and Practice</td>
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Total Hours: 15

### SUGGESTED PLAN OF STUDY FOR COMMUNITY AND POPULATION HEALTH AREA OF EMPHASIS

#### First Year

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<th>Hours</th>
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<td>WVUE 191</td>
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<td>PUBH 101</td>
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#### Second Year

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<tr>
<td>CHPR 305</td>
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<td>PUBH 222</td>
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#### Fourth Year

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<th>Hours</th>
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<td>PUBH 352</td>
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Total credit hours: 120
Major Learning Goals

PUBLIC HEALTH

The Public Health major will:

• Provide a solid foundation of the historic milestones, core disciplines and core functions of public health.
• Increase appreciation of 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.
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