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
• 2.5 Cumulative High School GPA with ACT Composite of 19 or higher

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 2024-2025
The Admission Requirements above will be the same for the 2024-2025 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/)

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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F3 - Math &amp; Quantitative Reasoning</td>
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<tr>
<td>F4 - Society &amp; Connections</td>
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<tr>
<td>F5 - Human Inquiry &amp; the Past</td>
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<tr>
<td>F6 - The Arts &amp; Creativity</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>F7 - Global Studies &amp; Diversity</td>
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<tr>
<td>F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree)</td>
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</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 64
School Core Requirements 25
Public Health Major Requirements 31
Total Hours 120

University Requirements

General Education Foundations (GEF) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 (31-37 Credits)
Outstanding GEF Requirements 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 34
PUBH 191 First-Year Seminar 1
General Electives 29
Total Hours 64

School Core Requirements

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 211 Biostatistics for Population Health 3
PUBH 222 Epidemiology for Public Health 3
PUBH 233 The US Healthcare System: Structures and Incentives 3
PUBH 241 Biological Basis of Public Health 3
Total Hours 25

Public Health Major Requirements

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

Discipline-Specific Requirements

PUBH 243 Issues in Environmental Health 3
Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<td>PUBH 201</td>
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<td>PUBH 191</td>
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<td>GEF 4</td>
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<td>BIOL 101 &amp; 101L</td>
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<td>GEF 6</td>
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Second Year

Fall

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<td>PUBH 205</td>
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<td>PUBH 233</td>
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<td>PUBH 331</td>
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<td>GEF 8</td>
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<td>General Elective</td>
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<td>PUBH 243</td>
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Third Year

Fall

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<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<td>PUBH Research Elective</td>
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<td>PUBH 352</td>
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<td>GEF 8</td>
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Fourth Year

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<tr>
<td>PUBH 353</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PUBH 481</td>
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</table>
### Accelerated Program
In order to be admitted to this ABM program, applicants must:

- be enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) program.
- have a minimum GPA of 3.5.
- complete a minimum of 60 credit-hours, but not more than 92 credit-hours, as prescribed in the BSPH Plan of Study.
- Transfer students (internal or external) are not eligible for the ABM program at this time.
- earn a minimum grade of "B+" in PUBH 205: Writing for Public Health Audiences.
- schedule one meeting with their WVU School of Public Health undergraduate advisor to ensure they are eligible to apply for the program.
- not be enrolled in a dual degree or certificate program.
- not have any documented infractions with the WVU Office of Student Conduct or any external law enforcement agencies.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University Requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Core Requirements</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Health Major Requirements</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>MPH Public Health Program Requirements</td>
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<td>Total Hours</td>
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### University Requirements
General Education Foundations (GEF) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 (31-37 Credits)

<table>
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<th>Requirement</th>
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<td>Outstanding GEF Requirements 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7</td>
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### School Core Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 101 Introduction to Public and Community Health</td>
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<td>PUBH 200 Introduction to Public Health Careers and Information</td>
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<td>PUBH 201 Global Perspectives of Public Health</td>
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<td>PUBH 233 The US Healthcare System: Structures and Incentives</td>
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### Public Health Major Requirements
A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required in all Public Health Major Requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 243 Issues in Environmental Health</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 331 Introduction to Health Policy</td>
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</table>
PUBH 352  Introduction to Social and Behavioral Science and Practice 3  
PUBH 353  Mastering Health and Wellness 3  

Select one of the following: 3  
- 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** 3  
- All remaining PUBH Courses (excluding PUBH 486) *  

**Culminating Experience Coursework**  
PUBH 400  Field Placement Preparation Seminar 1  
PUBH 489  School of Public Health Undergraduate Capstone (minimum grade of C-) 2  
PUBH 481  Public Health Field Experience 4  
Total Hours 25  

**MPH Program Requirements**  
A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required.  
Students must earn a minimum grade of "C-" in all PUBH and emphasis coursework.  

PUBH 510  Contemporary Foundations of Public Health Practice 2  
PUBH 511  Epidemiology for Public Health Practice 3  
PUBH 512  Research Translation and Evaluation in Public Health Practice 3  
PUBH 613  Public Health Program Evaluation 3  
PUBH 520  Building and Sustaining Public Health Capacity 2  
PUBH 521  Public Health Prevention and Intervention 3  
PUBH 629  MPH Capstone 1  
PUBH 630  MPH Field Practicum 3  
PUBH 540  Health Systems Leadership 3  
PUBH 541  Systems Thinking in Public Health Practice 2  
PUBH 596  Graduate Seminar 1  

**General Elective** 3  
Approved Elective Courses available from MPH Director and/or MPH Advisor  

**Required Area of Emphasis** 15  
- Applied Epidemiology and Biostatistics  
- Public Health Practice and Leadership  
- Social and Behavioral Sciences  

Total Hours 44  

**Suggested Plan of Study**  

**First Year**  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<td>3 PUBH 201</td>
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<td>3 PUBH 202</td>
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<td>GEF 6</td>
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**Second Year**  

<table>
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<th>Semester</th>
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<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>PUBH 241</td>
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<td>3 PUBH 211</td>
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<td>PUBH 205</td>
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<td>1 PUBH 331</td>
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<td>PUBH 243</td>
<td>3 PUBH 353</td>
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**Third Year**

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<th>Spring Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 222</td>
<td>3 PUBH 481</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 352</td>
<td>3 PUBH 489</td>
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<td>PUBH 400</td>
<td>1 PUBH 311 or 454</td>
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**Fourth Year**

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<td>PUBH 510</td>
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<td>PUBH 512</td>
<td>3 PUBH 540</td>
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<td>PUBH 521</td>
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**Fifth Year**

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Total credit hours: 145

**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)*