School of Public Health

The School of Public Health (SPH) offers a Bachelor of Science degree with a Public Health major, within which students select one of two Areas of Emphasis: 1) Community and Population Health or 2) Public Health Sciences. The undergraduate program provides two paths to a broad pre-professional degree, typically over four years. Students in the Community and Population Health Area of Emphasis will be prepared for entry into social science-based and public health graduate programs, while students in the Public Health Sciences Area of Emphasis will be prepared for entry into graduate programs in public health sciences or clinical professional degree programs. In addition, graduates of this program will be eligible 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.

The program will provide an undergraduate education that:

1. Provides a strong foundation of knowledge about public health history, principles and current issues;
2. Requires a broad liberal education with exposure to multiple disciplines and develops intellectual and civic capabilities;
3. Instills a strong sense of values and ethics; and
4. Builds capacity to adapt and apply acquired knowledge and abilities to address new challenges.

ADMINISTRATION

FOUNDING DEAN
- Gregory A. Hand - Ph.D. (University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas)
  Professor, Department of Epidemiology

INTERIM ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- Lillian U. Smith - Dr.PH. (University of South Carolina)
  Associate Professor, Department of Health Policy, Management, and Leadership

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
- Linda J. Rudy - MBA (West Virginia University)
  Business and Operations

ASSISTANT DEAN FOR PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONS
- Janet B. Hunt - MPH (University of Tennessee)
  Teaching Assistant Professor, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences

DIRECTOR OF PRACTICE-BASED LEARNING
- Bobbi Sykes - MS (West Virginia University)
  Instructor, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDENT SERVICES
- Sherry Kuhl - MS (Walden University)
  Ruth E. Kershner Office of Graduate Student Services

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISOR
- Shay Daily - MPH (student, West Virginia University)
  Office of Undergraduate Programs

CHAIRS
- Robert Duval - Ph.D. (Florida State University)
  Associate Professor, Department of Health Policy, Management and Leadership
- Matthew J. Gurka - Ph.D. (University of North Carolina)
  Associate Professor, Department of Biostatistics
- Thomas Hulsey (Interim) - Sc.D. (Johns Hopkins University)
  Professor, Department of Epidemiology
- Michael McCawley - Ph.D. (New York University)
  Research Professor, Department of Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences
- Keith Zullig - Ph.D. (University of South Carolina)
  Associate Professor, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Degree Designation Learning Goals

The Bachelor of Science in Public Health program provides an undergraduate education that provides a strong foundation of knowledge about public health history, principles and current issues; requires a broad liberal education with exposure to multiple disciplines and develops intellectual and civic capabilities; instills a strong sense of values and ethics; and builds capacity to adapt and apply acquired knowledge and abilities to address new challenges.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS)

At the conclusion of the program students 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.

SPH Admissions for BS in Public Health

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

Direct admissions will apply to students applying upon graduation from high school and those with no previous undergraduate credits. Applicants who meet SPH BSPH minimum standards (see below) will be accepted directly into the program by WVU Admissions. Students who do not meet our minimum standards, but who are interested in pursuing a degree in public health, will be able to apply to transfer into the program once they establish their viability in undergraduate education. The SPH reserves the right to limit student enrollment in the program but cutting off admissions based on SPH capacity for new students.

Internal transfer students who meet our minimum standards may complete a WVU Academic Status Update form to transfer into the BS program.

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

Admission Standards

# Students are eligible for direct freshman admission if they meet the following minimal guidelines: a cumulative 3.0 high school GPA and either SAT Critical Reading and Math combined score of 1000 (superscored) or ACT Composite score of 22.

#Students who have completed undergraduate coursework at WVU or another institution of higher education prior to applying to the Public Health major must have a minimum cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 2.5.