

School of Public Health

Degree Offered

- Bachelor of Science

Nature of Program

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. This 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. Ensures a broad liberal education that incorporates multiple disciplines and develops both 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

INTERIM DEAN

- Jeff Coben - MD (University of Pittsburgh)
Professor, Department of Health Policy, Management and Leadership

INTERIM ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR OPERATIONS

- Robert Duval - PhD (Florida State University)
Chair and Professor, Department of Health Policy, Management and Leadership

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

- Linda Alexander - EdD (University of Virginia)
Professor, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences

ASSISTANT DEAN FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

- Janet B. Hunt - MPH (University of Tennessee)
Teaching Assistant Professor, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences

DIRECTOR OF PHD PROGRAMS

- Kimberly Rauscher - ScD, MA (Univ. of MA Lowell)
Associate Professor, Department of Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences

DIRECTOR OF MPH PROGRAMS

- Michael Mann - PhD (University of Florida)
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

CHAIRS

- Robert Duval - Ph.D. (Florida State University)
Associate Professor, Department of Health Policy, Management and Leadership
- Thomas Hulsey - Sc.D. (Johns Hopkins University)
Professor, Department of Epidemiology, and Interim Chair for Biostatistics
- Michael McCawley - Ph.D. (New York University)
Associate Professor, Department of Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences
- Keith Zullig - Ph.D. (University of South Carolina)
Professor, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences

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

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.

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.

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.