

School of Public Health

Degree Offered

- Bachelor of Science

Nature of the Program

The School of Public Health offers a Bachelor of Science degree with a Public Health major, within which students select one of three Areas of Emphasis: 1) Community and Population Health, 2) Public Health Sciences, or 3) Patient Navigation.

This degree and its Areas of Emphasis prepare students for entry level jobs and certain graduate and professional programs, typically over four years with the Area of Emphasis typically completed during the last two 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.

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.

Students in the Patient Navigation Area of Emphasis will be prepared for positions in clinical and health insurance settings, as well as entry into graduate and professional programs.

In general, Public Health Program graduates 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 delivers 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

DEAN

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

SENIOR ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ACADEMIC, STUDENT, AND FACULTY AFFAIRS

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

SENIOR ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ADMINISTRATION

- Sarah Woodrum - DrPH (University of Illinois, Chicago)
Assistant Professor, Department of Health Policy, Management, and Leadership

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

- Erik Carlton - DrPH (University of Kentucky)
Associate Professor, Department of Health Policy, Management and Leadership

ASSISTANT DEAN FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

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

DIRECTOR OF DOCTORIAL PROGRAMS

- Alfgeir Kristjansson - PhD (Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden)
Associate Professor, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE AND SERVICE LEARNING

- Audra Hamrick - MA (West Virginia University)
Assistant Professor, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences

CHAIRS

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Professor, Department of Epidemiology, and Interim Chair for Biostatistics
- Snehalata Huzurbazar - PhD (Colorado State University, Fort Collins)
Professor, Department of Biostatistics
- Keith Zullig - PhD (University of South Carolina)
Professor, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Admissions

BS IN PUBLIC HEALTH

The WVU School of Public Health (SPH) admits students into the Bachelor of Science in Public Health program via direct admission for both first time freshmen and external transfers for fall and spring semesters. Additionally, WVU students may transfer into the public health major with a 2.5 GPA. Please see program catalog page for admission requirements.

Degree Designation Learning Outcomes

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:

- Discuss the historic milestones, core disciplines and core functions of public health.
- Appreciate 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.
- Apply critical and creative thinking, and analysis and synthesis of information processes to inform, assist and promote public health.
- Disseminate knowledge and information to address current public health issues effectively through both oral and written communications.
- Engage 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.

PATIENT NAVIGATION AREA OF EMPHASIS

- Attain productive and effective communication skills with all members of the patient care team, including those that may not traditionally be included in this team (e.g., social workers, food pantries, transportation, childcare)
- Recognize how to improve patient quality of life and care via multiple systems and processes.
- Apply chronic disease management techniques and constructs.

The WVU School of Public Health is fully accredited (<http://publichealth.wvu.edu/about/accreditation/>) by the Council on Education for Public Health (<https://ceph.org/>). The only accredited public health program in the state, the School is home to undergraduate and graduate programs in various public health disciplines at the BS, MPH, MS and PhD levels.