

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 biostatistics), 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.

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Foundations		
F1 - Composition & Rhetoric		3-6
ENGL 101 & ENGL 102 or ENGL 103	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research Accelerated Academic Writing	
F2A/F2B - Science & Technology		4-6
F3 - Math & Quantitative Reasoning		3-4
F4 - Society & Connections		3
F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past		3
F6 - The Arts & Creativity		3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity		3
F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree)		9
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

Code	Title	Hours
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

Code	Title	Hours
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

Code	Title	Hours
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

Code	Title	Hours
A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required in all Public Health Major Requirements.		
Discipline-Specific Requirements		
PUBH 243	Issues in Environmental Health	3
PUBH 331	Introduction to Health Policy	3
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		9
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
Community Service Requirement **		
Total Hours		31

*

A maximum 3-credits of PUBH 491 and PUBH 497 can be used to fulfill this requirement.

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Undergraduate Public Health majors are required to complete a minimum of 25 hours of community service, documented through iServe in the WVU Office of Service and Learning.

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
PUBH 101		3 PUBH 201	3
PUBH 191		1 PUBH 202	3
ENGL 101 (GEF 1)		3 ENGL 102 (GEF 1)	3
GEF 4		3 BIOL 101 & 101L	4
GEF 5		3 GEF 7	3
GEF 6		3	
		16	16

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
PUBH 200		1 PUBH 211	3
PUBH 205		3 PUBH 233	3
PUBH 241		3 PUBH 331	3
STAT 211		3 GEF 8	3
PUBH Elective		3 General Elective	3
PUBH 243		3	
		16	15

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
PUBH 222		3 PUBH Research Elective	3
PUBH 352		3 PUBH Elective	3
GEF 8		3 GEF 8	3

General Elective	3 General Elective	3
General Elective	3 General Elective	3
		15

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
PUBH 353		3 PUBH 481	4
PUBH 400		1 PUBH 489	2
PUBH Elective		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3	
General Elective		2	
		15	12

Total credit hours: 120

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

Code	Title	Hours
A cumulative GPA of 2.5 is required for the Bachelor of Science in Public Health.		
University Requirements		51
School Core Requirements		25
Public Health Major Requirements		25
MPH Public Health Program Requirements		44
Total Hours		145

University Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
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 and 7		25
PUBH 191	First-Year Seminar	1
General Electives		25
Total Hours		51

School Core Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
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

Code	Title	Hours
A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required in all Public Health Major Requirements.		
Discipline-Specific Requirements		
PUBH 243	Issues in Environmental Health	3
PUBH 331	Introduction to Health Policy	3
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

Code	Title	Hours
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

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
PUBH 191		1 ENGL 102 (GEF 1)	3
PUBH 101		3 BIOL 101 & 101L (GEF 2)	4
ENGL 101 (GEF 1)		3 PUBH 201	3
GEF 4		3 PUBH 202	3
GEF 5		3 GEF 7	3
GEF 6		3	
		16	16

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
PUBH 241		3 PUBH 211	3
PUBH 205		3 PUBH 233	3
PUBH 200		1 PUBH 331	3
PUBH 243		3 PUBH 353	3
GEF 3		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3	
		16	15

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
PUBH 222		3 PUBH 481	4
PUBH 352		3 PUBH 489	2
PUBH 400		1 PUBH 311 or 454	3
PUBH Elective		3 General Electives	6
General Electives		6	
		16	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer	Hours
PUBH 510		2 PUBH 511		3 PUBH 630	3
PUBH 512		3 PUBH 540			3
PUBH 521		3 PUBH 595			1
PUBH 541		2 PUBH 520			2
General Elective		3 General Elective			4
		13			13
					3

Fifth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
AOE Course		3 PUBH 629	1
AOE Course		3 PUBH 613	3
AOE Course		3 AOE Course	3
General Elective		3 AOE Course	3
		12	10

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*)