PUBLIC HEALTH MAJOR

Public Health is a school-wide liberal arts major, leading to a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science, which uses public health questions, concepts, and tools to help students develop competencies in assessment & measurement, communication, environment, ethics & social justice, natural science, population health, policy & politics, and social science with particular emphasis on collaboration and critical thinking across these domains. Graduates move on to a range of career and educational options in business, economics, education, health sciences, law, public health, and social and behavioral sciences.

ADMISSION

Admission to this major is capacity constrained and offered twice a year for autumn and winter quarters. Applications are evaluated on overall academic record, grades in relevant coursework, selection of and preparation for the BA or BS, ability to make satisfactory progress towards degree, and understanding of and potential fit with the major.

Upper Division Admission

Complete the following by the deadline to be considered:

1. Min. 60 college credits
2. Min. 2.5 cumulative GPA
3. 5 credits of English composition
4. Min. grade of 2.5 in one intro public health course from the following: ENV H 111, EPI 201, EPI 220, G H 101, HSERV 100, NUTR 200, PHG 200 or one 5-credit course from ANTH, GEOG, POL S, PSYCH, SOC
5A. For BA path students, min. grade of 2.5 in one intro science. See D at right for options
5B. For BS path students, min. grades of 2.5 in at least two courses of the same year-long sequence of biology or chemistry. See E2 at right for acceptable biology and chemistry options

Upper division admission is typical for most students at the UW and transferring from other institutions. The major takes two years to complete following upper division admission. An early admission option is available for a select group of students already enrolled at the UW. The major takes three years to complete following early admission. Consult a Public Health Adviser for more information.

OUR VALUES

We are committed to developing a more diverse student body in order to increase the cultural competence of our graduates as they go on to make a difference in a range of communities locally, nationally, and globally. Diversity is a priority in admissions, advising and student programming. We appreciate the benefits that cultural and socioeconomic diversity have on the health of communities and the learning of our students.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS 180 credits

In addition to the major requirements below, students complete general education requirements for the School of Public Health.

A. Integrated Core Sequence 20 credits

SPH 380 History & Practice of Public Health (5)
SPH 381 Science & Public Health (5)
SPH 480 Research Methods in Public Health (5)
SPH 481 Ethics, Social Justice & Policy in Public Health (5)

B. Public Health Foundation 8 credits

BIOST 310 Biostatistics for the Health Sciences (4)
EPI 320 Introduction to Epidemiology (4)

C. Social & Behavioral Sciences Breadth 25 credits

One 5-credit course from EACH: ANTH, GEOG, POL S, PSYCH and SOC

D. Natural Science 10 credits

At least one introductory chemistry and biology course from among: BIOL 118, BIOL 180, CHEM 120, CHEM 142, CHEM 145, MICROM 301/302

E1. BA Selectives 20 credits

20 credits from approved list identified to address competency areas in advocacy, community dynamics, communication, economics, education, ethics, health promotion, law, policy, and social justice

E2. BS Selectives 30-32 credits

Two year-long sequences, taken for graded credit, of introductory science with labs chosen from biology (BIOL 180, 200, 220); chemistry (CHEM 142, 152, 162); organic chemistry (CHEM 237, 238, 239, 241, 242); physics (PHYS 114/117, 115/118, 116/119 or PHYS 121, 122, 123); or mathematics (MATH 124, 125, 126)

F. Public Health Electives 20 credits

20 credits of 300 and 400-level courses from approved list

G. Capstone 5 credits

SPH 491 + SPH 492 Public Health Capstone is a two-quarter experience in which students engage in service learning with a community-based agency

CONTACT INFORMATION

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