Public Health Major

The Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in Public Health is a school-wide liberal arts degree that uses public health questions, concepts, and tools to teach critical thinking skills. Students learn to ask questions, challenge assumptions, and explore answers to promote the health and well-being of communities, locally, nationally, and globally. By integrating the diverse areas of public health, students are introduced to the determinants of health, emerging diseases, access to health care and modes of health care delivery, the geography of health, and the effects of environment on health and disease. Empowered with problem solving skills, graduates use the degree as a foundation for 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 competitive and offered twice a year for autumn and winter quarters. Beyond the requirements below, students are selected based on their overall academic record, grades in major relevant coursework, selection of and preparation for the appropriate BA or BS option, a personal statement, and ability to make satisfactory progress towards the degree.

Requirements at time of application
- Minimum 45 college credits
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5
- Minimum grade of 2.0 in one introductory public health course from the following list: ENV H 111, HSERV 100, G H 101, PHG 200
  A 5-credit course from one of these areas is also acceptable: ANTH, GEOG, POL S, PSYCH or SOC
- Minimum grade of 2.0 in one introductory science course from the following list: BIOL 118, BIOL 180, CHEM 120, CHEM 142, CHEM 145, PHYS 114/PHYS 117

Application Deadline

Autumn Quarter Entry
3rd Friday of the previous Spring Quarter

Winter Quarter Entry
3rd Friday of the previous Autumn Quarter

Notification Period
3–5 weeks after the application deadline

Contact Us
phmajor@uw.edu
206-221-4561
Health Sciences F-332
http://sph.washington.edu/uph

Degree Requirements

Complete General Education Requirements for the School of Public Health

A. Public Health Foundation Courses—ALL of the following
   - ENV H 311 (3) Introduction to Environmental Health
   - EPI 320 (3) Introduction to Epidemiology
   - G H 101 (5) Introduction to Global Health
   - HSERV 480 (3) Introduction to Public Health
   - HSERV 481 (3) Issues in Public Health
   - NUTR 300 (3) Nutrition for Today

B. Statistics Course—ONE course
   - BIOST 310 (4) Biostatistics for the Health Sciences
   - BIOST 310 is the preferred course to meet this requirement. These courses are also acceptable: QMETH 201, Q SCI 381, STAT 220, STAT 221, and STAT 311.

C. Social Science Courses—ONE 5-credit course from EACH Anthropology, Geography, Political Science, Psychology and Sociology
   - At least 4 of the 5 must be 200-level and above

D. Science Coursework and Degree Option—ONE of the following Bachelor of Arts (10 credits)
   - 5 credits of biology: BIOL 118, BIOL 180, or MICROM 301/302
   - 5 credits of chemistry: CHEM 120, CHEM 142 or CHEM 145

Bachelor of Science (30 credits)
   - At least 15 credits must come from one full year sequence of introductory science with labs, from biology, chemistry or physics
   - At least 5 credits must come from biology: BIOL or MICROM
   - At least 5 credits must come from chemistry: CHEM
   - Remaining credits from a range of relevant sciences: BIOL, CHEM, PHYS, MICROM, B STR, NBIO or BIOC

E. Public Health Electives
   Choose 15 credits from the list of electives at http://sph.washington.edu/uph/requirements/electives.asp.
   Other courses by approval.

F. Public Health Capstone
   - SPH 491 + SPH 492: PH Capstone I and II (5 credits) is a two-course integrative experience in which students bring together much of the knowledge and skills acquired during their time in the public health major while engaging in service learning with a community based agency.
   - The capstone counts towards the writing requirement, and a minimum grade of 2.0 is required.