

PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE MAJOR

Program Director: Tracy Zeeger, Ph.D.

The Bachelor of Science in Public Health Practice is an interdisciplinary public health degree program rooted in social and behavioral science and theory and focused on making meaningful contributions to impact health and quality of life at all levels of society. Students learn to address the complex individual, community, and societal factors impacting health through a highly-structured, professionally-focused program that culminates in a full-time, mentored internship during the final semester.

The program is designed to serve as a gateway to graduate studies or as a transition directly to the field as an engaged, prepared, and well-informed public health practitioner. During the program, students have opportunities to learn outside of the classroom through volunteer work, study abroad opportunities, collaboration with departmental faculty through independent study, work at the University Health Center for credit, and public health-related student groups.

Graduates of the Public Health Practice major pursue careers in research, advocacy, policy, health education, social work, community outreach, and other public health related areas. They work locally, nationally, and internationally primarily through foundations, non-profit organizations, and government services.

Program Learning Outcomes

As a result of the Bachelor of Science in Public Health Practice degree program, students will be able to:

1. Discuss the history and philosophy of public health as well as its core values, concepts, and functions across the globe and in society.
2. Use basic public health concepts, methods, and tools for data collection and analysis.
3. Identify the major health-related needs and concerns of populations and formulate basic processes, approaches, and interventions as possible solutions.
4. Describe the underlying science of human health and disease including opportunities for promoting and protecting health across the lifespan.
5. Examine the socio-economic, behavioral, biological, environmental, and other factors that impact human health and contribute to health disparities.
6. Demonstrate the fundamental concepts and features of project implementation, including planning, assessment, and evaluation.
7. Compare and contrast the fundamental characteristics and organizational structures of the health systems of the United States and other countries.
8. Characterize the basic concepts of legal, ethical, economic, and regulatory dimensions of health care and public policy.
9. Illustrate the basic concepts of public health-specific writing and communication.
10. Assess and communicate individual and community-level needs for health promotion and disease prevention.
11. Create and apply strategies that effectively incorporate cultural competences with health promotion and community health initiatives.

12. Synthesize and apply principles and theories of community health that are needed for the development of effective and evidence based health promotion and disease prevention strategies.
13. Promote and advocate for effective community health initiatives at the local, state, and federal levels.
14. Collaborate with community organizations to apply public health principles in a real-world setting.
15. Demonstrate requisite competencies in professional etiquette and career readiness to allow for a successful transition into the workplace (adapted from NACE).
16. Critically analyze the impact racism has on population health and reflect on what it means to be anti-racist.

REQUIREMENTS

The total number of credits required to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Health Practice is 120, and the number of Public Health Practice major-required course credits is 69. Students must earn a grade of C- or higher in all Public Health Practice major-required coursework. HLTH491, Community Health Internship, is completed during the final semester in the Public Health Practice major, after all other coursework has been successfully completed. Students can elect to complete an area of specialization in selected areas (Special Populations, Health Communication, Health Risk Behavior).

Course	Title	Credits
Public and Community Health Core		13
SPHL100	Foundations of Public Health	
HLTH124	Introduction to Behavioral and Community Health	
EPID301	Epidemiology for Public Health Practice	
EPID315	Biostatistics for Public Health Practice	
HLTH306	Macro Level Influences on Community Health	
Public and Community Health Foundational Science		8
BSCI170 & BSCI171	Principles of Molecular & Cellular Biology and Principles of Molecular & Cellular Biology Laboratory	
BSCI201	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	
Social and Behavioral Public Health		9
HLTH200	Introduction to Research in Community Health	
HLTH230	Introduction to Health Behavior	
HLTH364	Social Media & Digital Tools for Community & Public Health	
Community Public Health		9
HLTH140	Personal and Community Health	
HLTH302	Methods of Community Health Assessment	
HLTH391	Making a Difference: Applying Community Health	
Health Electives		12
Students can select from a pre-approved list of 3-credit health elective offerings		
Professional Preparation		18
HLTH420	Effective Strategies for Public Health Practice	
HLTH490	Professional Preparation in Community Health	
HLTH491	Community Health Internship	
Total Credits		69

GRADUATION PLANS

Click here (<http://sph.umd.edu/content/four-year-plans/>) for roadmaps for graduation plans in the School of Public Health.

Additional information on developing a graduation plan can be found on the following pages:

- <http://4yearplans.umd.edu>
- the Student Academic Success-Degree Completion Policy (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/registration-academic-requirements-regulations/academic-advising/#success>) section of this catalog