

PUBLIC HEALTH MAJOR
Bachelor of Science
Professor Kristi Barnett, Program Director

Public Health Program Mission

The mission of the Public Health program is to prepare graduates to promote healthy lifestyles and disease prevention, model life-long learning through continuing education, and are engaged in their profession and community.

Program Description

Public Health is defined as, “promoting and protecting the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work and play. This is achieved by healthy lifestyle promotion, researching disease and injury prevention, and detecting, preventing, and responding to diseases. The goal of public health is to protect the health of entire populations in our local communities, countries, and regions of the world. Public health majors keep communities safe and healthy, protect workers, pursue social justice, assist and/or lead with disaster relief, ensure healthcare access, and so much more.

Public Health at the University of Charleston is a baccalaureate degree program, that prepares graduates as public health professionals. Graduates can be employed in settings such as government, state and local health departments, health insurance agencies, corporate wellness programs, non-profit organizations, hospitals, and rehabilitation clinics. Graduates will also have the education required for further study in graduate programs.

Students will engage in a multidisciplinary curriculum with a strong health science emphasis that provides a robust health care foundation. In addition, there are offerings of complementary courses in natural sciences, psychology, and exercise science. The public health program can be completed in either 3 or 4 years, depending on the courseload the student takes. The 3-year track may require summer semesters. A public health internship is required as part of the course requirements. It is a chance for the public health major to gain real-world skills in their discipline's professional environment. Students will refine their ability to perform comprehensive program development in areas such as assessing health needs, planning, implementation, evaluation, and management.

Public Health Program Learning Outcomes

The graduate will be able to:

1. Demonstrate cultural sensitivity and respect of individual differences within the healthcare profession.
2. Plan and implement health education and promotion.
3. Conduct and evaluate research related to health and health related fields.
4. Model professional behaviors and attitudes that reflect the expectations of the healthcare profession and the community.
5. Communicate and advocate for changing lifestyles progressing towards optimal health.

What You Will Study

The Public Health major consists of 120 credit hours that include a combination of major courses and related disciplines (57 credits), core courses (26 credits), and elective credit courses (19 credits). Elective credits can be utilized for a minor completion, pre-professional courses, and/or internship opportunities.

The following is a guide based on a 4-year completion period. **Students may accelerate their experience and complete the program in 3 or 3 ½ years if desired.** Every student is assigned an academic advisor who will assist with degree completion planning and career exploration.

Public Health Required Courses		
Course	Title	Credit Hours
PUBH 100	Introduction to Public Health	3
PUBH 220	Introduction to Epidemiology	3
PUBH 235	US Healthcare Systems	3
PUBH 250	Public Health Policy	3
PUBH 310	Public and Global Health	3
PUBH 320	Social Determinants of Health	3
PUBH 325	Environmental Health	3
PUBH 340	Exercise and the Psychological Mind	3
PUBH 350	Appalachian Health and Wellness	3

PUBH 475	Public Health Capstone	3
PUBH 497	Public Health Internship	3
Required Credit Hours in Major		33

Health Science Required Courses in Public Health Major

Course	Title		Credit Hours
HSCI 110	History of Health Sciences		3
HSCI 204	Nutrition		3
HSCI 230	Interprofessional Practice and Collaboration		3
HSCI 302	Health Ethics and Policy		3
HSCI 310	Health Informatics		3
HSCI 312	Statistics for Evidence Based Practice		3
HSCI 401	Health Leadership and Management		3
HSCI 402	Research		3
HSCI Total Credit Hours			24

Public Health –Required Courses Outside the Major

Course	Title	Credit Hours
PSYC 101	Introduction to Psychology	3
PYSC 212	Life Span and Development	3
EXER 225	Medical Terminology	3
BIOL 130/130L	Biology for Majors with Lab	4
BIOL 212/212L or BIOL 251/251L BIOL 252/252L	Intro to Human Anatomy and Physiology with Lab Or Anatomy and Physiology I with Lab Anatomy and Physiology II with Lab	4
MATH 120	Intermediate Algebra	3
ICOM 225	Introduction to Public Relations	3
ICOMM 362	Public Relations Writing	3
Total Credit Hours Outside of Major		26

Immersed Internship -- Ready for the Real World!

Public Health majors have the opportunity to complete two internships while in the program. One is in the junior year and the other is the final semester before graduation. Students can apply and/or arrange to complete this experience in any location pending university approval. The opportunity to gain real world skills in the professional environment of their discipline equips graduates with the work experience that employers and graduate schools desire. Students will refine their ability to perform comprehensive program development in areas such as assessing health needs, planning, implementation, evaluation, and management.

Admission Requirements

Students must gain general admission to the University of Charleston and declare public Health as their major. Students must have a 2.2 GPA for admittance.

Additional Requirements and Successful Progression

To progress in the program and graduate, students must pass their required courses, including a 3 or 12 credit immersed internship, with a C or better and meet the institutional academic requirement of maintaining a minimum cumulative 2.0 GPA to remain in good academic standing.

PUBLIC HEALTH MINOR

Public health covers a broad range of health-related disciplines and issues, such as environmental health, social justice, substance abuse, infectious disease, bioterrorism, obesity, disaster relief, health care access, and so much more. The Public Health minor will provide undergraduate students an opportunity to protect and improve the health of all people and their communities. The minor is desirable to students preparing for a health-related career and can serve as a precursor to other professions in which the health of persons and populations is a concern. The public health minor will consist of 21 credit hours.

List of Required Courses with Credit Hours & Total Required Credits (21 hours)

Public Health Minor Courses	
Course	Credit Hours
PUBH 100-Introduction to Public Health	3
PUBH 220 Introduction to Epidemiology	3
PUBH 250 Public Health Policy	3
PUBH 320 Social Determinants of Health	3
PUBH 350 Appalachian Health and Wellness	3
PUBH 475 Public Health Capstone	3
PUBH 497 Public Health Internship or PUBH 499 Independent Study in Public Health	3
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS	21