PUBLIC HEALTH

What can I do with this major?

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Health Services Administration:

Operations

Finance

Program Development

Program Evaluation

Management

Material Management

Human Resources

Medical Staff Relations

Information Technology

Marketing

Public Relations

Project Management

Facilities

Patient Care Services

Provider Relations

Government Relations

Strategic Planning

Health Policy:

Research

Analysis

Policy Development

Legislative Work

Lobbying

Hospitals

Health systems

Clinics

Medical practice groups

Home health agencies

Long-term care facilities

Mental health facilities

Managed care organizations

Health finance organizations

Insurance companies

Pharmaceutical companies

Academic medical centers

Federal government agencies:

Department of Health and Human Services

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Department of Veterans Affairs

Food and Drug Administration

Office of the Surgeon General

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National Institutes of Health

Military

Legislative offices

State government agencies

Public health departments (state and local)

Advocacy groups

Health foundations

Professional associations

Nonprofit organizations

For health services administration, choose an undergraduate major in business, accounting, finance, or management. For policy-related careers, consider public administration or political science.

Gain experience through internships or jobs in a healthcare setting.

Develop strong oral and written communication, analytical, and technological skills.

Learn how to use database and spreadsheet software.

Develop problem-solving skills for finding creative solutions to problems.

Learn to work well on teams and cultivate leadership skills.

Get involved in student government or campus organizations related to health issues.

Earn a master's degree in public health, health administration, public administration, business, or a related field.

To prepare for positions in lobbying and legislation, some will earn a law degree.

Join related professional organizations and build a network of contacts.

Stay abreast of new laws and regulatory changes in the healthcare industry.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Quantitative Research Behavioral Research Program Planning Program Implementation Program Evaluation Advocacy Policy Federal government agencies:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Department of Health and Human Services

Office of the Surgeon General

State government agencies

Public health departments (state and local)

Nonprofit organizations:

American Red Cross

American Heart Association

Colleges and universities

Hospitals

Private research foundations

Research and development firms

International health agencies

Pursue research experience at the undergraduate level.

Become involved in health programming or peer education on campus.

Volunteer in the community to gain experience and develop expertise in a particular area or organization.

Develop strong public speaking and presentation skills. Prepare to communicate effectively with both groups and individuals.

Learn to work well with diverse populations and people of varying ages.

Become familiar with grant writing techniques and grant submission procedures.

Earn a graduate degree for advanced research positions.

HEALTH PROMOTION AND COMMUNICATION

Intervention:

Planning and Development

Implementation

Evaluation

Health Education:

Prevention

Promotion

Social Marketing:

Mass media

Web-based

Organizational Communication

Project Management

Federal government agencies:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Department of Health and Human Services

Office of the Surgeon General

State government agencies

Public health departments (state and local)

Wellness centers

Community mental health centers

Corporate wellness programs

Fitness facilities

Schools

Colleges and universities

Become involved in health programming or peer education on campus.

Volunteer in the community to gain experience and develop expertise in a particular area or organization.

Obtain a part-time or summer job with a campus health center or wellness coordinator.

Learn to work well with diverse populations and people of varying ages.

Develop strong communication skills for building and delivering effective interventions.

Gain knowledge of funding sources, grant writing techniques and submission procedures.

Research the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) credential.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

BIOSTATISTICS

Research

Public Health Surveillance:

Data Collection

Analysis

Interpretation

Clinical Trials

Data Interpretation and Presentation

Federal government agencies:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National Center for Health Statistics

State government agencies

Public health departments (state and local)

Pharmaceutical industry

Biotechnology firms

Nonprofit organizations

Colleges and universities

Research institutions

Hospitals

International health agencies:

World Health Organization

Choose an undergraduate major in mathematics, statistics, or basic science. Develop strong quantitative and computing skills.

Assist with faculty research projects or apply to a summer research program.

Gain experience through related internships. Learn to work well on an interdisciplinary team.

Develop strong written and verbal communication skills, as statisticians in this field write technical reports to share findings.

Earn a graduate degree in public health/biostatistics.

EPIDEMIOLOGY

Research:

Design

Data Collection

Analysis

Interpretation

Grant Writing

Incident/Disease Investigation

Risk Assessment

Surveillance

Technical Writing

Federal government agencies:

National Institutes of Health

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Military

State government agencies

Public health departments (state and local)

World Health Organization (WHO)

Private research foundations

Pharmaceutical industry

Research and development service firms

Nonprofit organizations

Hospitals

Colleges and universities

Medical schools

Develop a solid background in the biological sciences, statistics, mathematics, and the software utilized for statistical analyses.

Gain experience with research. Volunteer to assist professors with research or apply for summer research programs.

Find a topic of interest and seek as much knowledge and experience in that area as possible.

Develop strong communication skills for grant and report writing.

Plan to work collaboratively with other professionals who study risk factors and disease distribution.

Earn a master's or doctoral degree in public health, epidemiology, or related field. Some clinical epidemiologists are also MDs.

AREAS

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Research

Field Research

Air Quality

Food Protection

Radiation Protection

Solid Waste Management

Water Quality

Noise Control

Housing Quality

Vector Control

Toxicology

Occupational Safety

Risk Assessment

Management

Policy Development

Consulting

EMPLOYERS

Federal government agencies:

CDC's National Center for Environmental Health

National Institute for Occupational Safety and

Health

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease

Registry

Environmental Protection Agency Food and Drug Administration

Military

Department of Energy

State government agencies

Public health departments (state and local)

Private research facilities

Nonprofit organizations

Environmental agencies

Consulting firms

STRATEGIES

Major in biology, chemistry, or other science area.

Develop strong research skills and the ability to manage data.

Become involved with environmental-related organizations on campus.

Learn to work well with a team of other professionals such as physicians, engineers, and scientists.

Read related journals to stay abreast of new trends and legislation in the field.

Plan to earn a graduate degree in public health or related field.

Research the many specialties to determine interest areas in which to gain experience.

GLOBAL HEALTH and EPIDEMICS

Social and Economic Development

Health Policy

Demography

Women's Health

Children's Health

Nutrition

Design of Healthcare Systems

Disease Prevention and Control:

Education/Medication

Distribution

Disaster Relief

International organizations:

World Health Organization (WHO)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) United Nations Development Programme

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

World Bank

USAID

Bilateral government development agencies:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Public Health Service

Office of International Health

Nonprofit organizations:

Peace Corps

International Red Cross

CARE

Doctors Without Borders

Major in a social science and plan to continue education in public health.

Learn one or more foreign languages.

Study, volunteer, or intern abroad as much as possible.

Participate in international service learning trips or missions.

Volunteer in the local community with health-related issues.

Develop excellent research, writing, communication, and organizational skills.

Learn to adapt to cultural and racial diversity. Be willing to live and work in third world nations.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

- Public health is a broad, multi-disciplinary field, and most professionals specialize at the graduate level. Other specialities within public health include
 maternal and child health, nutrition, health disparities, and veterinary public health. Additionally, some professionals choose interdisciplinary career paths
 that involve public health, such as MPH/RN, MPH/JD, MPH/MD, etc. Learn about all the options through the Association of Schools and Programs of
 Public Health (ASPPH).
- Seek involvement in undergraduate and community-based public health programs. Some higher education institutions have peer health educators trained to provide education and support to fellow students.
- A bachelor's degree opens the door for entry level opportunities in areas such as health education and promotion and environmental health.
- A master's degree is typically required for management, administration, research, policy development, biostatistics, and epidemiology.
- A doctoral degree is required to reach the highest levels of administration or research and for university teaching positions.
- Students planning to apply to a public health graduate program will do so through the Schools of Public Health Application Service (SOPHAS).
- Research the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) and Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) offered by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc., as these certifications may be preferred or required for some positions.
- Many opportunities in public health exist with government agencies including: The Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service,
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Health Resources and Services Administration,
 Indian Health Service, National Institutes of Health, and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Become familiar with government hiring procedures. Obtain a government internship in area of interest.
- Develop a specialty area of interest via supplemental coursework and/or work experience for greater marketability within that specific career field.
- Writing, research, and presentation skills are critical in most career fields related to public health.
- Gain experience working with diverse populations across diverse settings. Learn to work well with others individually and in groups.
- Technology skills are integrated and demanded across all areas.