

What is Public Health?

- Public health professionals aim to protect and improve the health of communities through outreach, education, and research.
- Public health has numerous areas of emphasis, such as nutrition, health administration, biostatistics, epidemiology, health promotion, environmental health, international health, biomedicine, and more.
- A multi-disciplinary field, public health draws professionals from a variety of backgrounds and undergraduate majors.
- Public health organizations tend to seek individuals who can employ strengths in creativity and critical thinking to solve problems in new ways.
- Although graduate study isn't required, an advanced degree in public health increases opportunities for career flexibility and advancement.
- Graduate programs tend to have an experiential component of the curriculum, allowing students to apply their knowledge and gain additional professional experience while earning their degrees.

Examples of Career Opportunities

- Epidemiologist
- Tropical disease specialist
- Communications specialist
- College health coordinator
- Community health activist
- Health administrator
- Public health educator
- Environmental health technician
- Public health inspector

Examples of Public Health Employers

- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Center for Disease Control (CDC)
- National Institute of Health (NIH)
- U.S. Agency for International Development
- Consumer Product Safety Commission
- Disaster relief organizations
- Academic institutions
- Not-for-profit organizations

Types of Public Health Degrees

- MHA: Master of Health Administration
- MHS: Master of Health Science
- MPH: Master of Public Health
- MPHE: Master of Public Health Education
- MS: Master of Science
- DrPH: Doctor of Public Health
- PhD: Doctor of Philosophy
- ScD: Doctor of Science
- Dual Degree Programs (MPH/MD, MPH/PA)

Possible Prerequisites

- Applicants must research individual programs to find prerequisite coursework. Health professions advisors are available to help develop an academic plan tailored to specific graduate study goals.
- Students interested in public health commonly take courses in biology, human physiology, math, statistics, sociology, psychology, international studies, anthropology, and environmental science.

Classes to Consider

- BI 309: Tropical Diseases in Africa
- HPHY 104: Underst Human Disease
- HPHY 105: Principles of Nutrition
- HPHY 112: The Science of Health
- INTL 340: Global Health & Development
- PPPM 202: Healthy Communities
- PSY 366: Culture and Mental Health
- SOC 399: Sp St Health & Medicine

**This list is a small snapshot of UO courses that would help prepare students for a career in public health.*

Public Health Program Application Preparation

- Admission requirements vary depending on the degree type, program, and focus area. Applicants should spend time researching different programs to help establish an academic plan.
- Nutrition, epidemiology, environmental health, and biomedical public health programs commonly require prerequisites in science and math.
- Completing the prerequisites (if any) is just one aspect of the process. Applicants must also have a well-rounded application consisting of applicable experience (volunteer work, job shadowing, undergraduate research, life experience, etc.), letters of recommendation, GRE scores (program and degree type dependent), and a strong statement of purpose.
- Experience within the public health field, whether paid or volunteer, is a crucial component of a competitive application.

Online Resources

Health Professions Program Website
Global Health Minor
This Is Public Health
American Public Health Association
Centralized Application Service for Public Health
Exploring Health Careers

healthprofessions.uoregon.edu
ghprogram.uoregon.edu
thisispublichealth.org
apha.org
sophas.org
explorehealthcareers.org

Campus Resources

- [Student organizations](#) (Students for Global Health)
- [Center for Undergraduate Research and Engagement](#)
- [Duck Nest](#)
- [Tykeson College and Career Advising](#)
- [Global Education Oregon](#)
- [HPP workshops](#)
- [Holden Center](#)
- [TAEC study support](#)
- [University Career Center](#)

Advising

Call 541-346-9200 and ask to schedule an appointment with an HPP advisor.
Or visit us in Tykeson Hall, 2nd floor, health@uoregon.edu