

# PUBLIC HEALTH

What can I do with this major?

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## STRATEGIES

### BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE AND HEALTH EDUCATION

Programming  
Disease Prevention  
Community Outreach  
Grant Writing  
Fundraising  
Volunteer Coordination  
Social Marketing  
Public Relations  
Teaching  
Assessment  
Research

Local, state, and federal government  
Nonprofit organizations such as:  
    American Red Cross  
    American Heart Association  
    American Cancer Society  
    American Lung Association  
Community mental health centers  
Local health departments  
Corporate wellness programs  
Fitness facilities  
Schools  
Colleges and universities  
Hospitals  
Research and development firms  
International health agencies

Become familiar with grant writing techniques and grant submission procedures.  
Supplement curriculum with relevant coursework in social work, sociology, psychology, English, journalism, or public relations.  
Volunteer to gain experience and develop expertise in a particular area or organization.  
Learn to work well with diverse populations.  
Get credentialed as a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES).  
Become involved in health programming on campus.  
Obtain part-time or summer job with campus health center or wellness coordinator.  
Develop strong public speaking and presentation skills.

### HEALTH POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

Operations  
Finance  
Program Management  
Human Resources  
Information Technology  
Marketing  
Public Relations  
Facilities  
Patient Care  
Provider Relations  
Policy Analysis  
Policy Development

Hospitals  
Health systems  
Clinics  
Medical groups  
Hospices  
Home health agencies  
Long-term care facilities  
Mental health facilities  
Health maintenance organizations (HMOs)  
Academic medical centers  
Public health departments  
Government programs such as:  
    Medicare  
    Medicaid

Supplement undergraduate curriculum with courses in business.  
Earn a master's degree in Public Health, Business, or a related field.  
Gain experience through internships and other work experiences.  
Develop strong computer and technology skills.  
For positions in lobbying and legislation, some will earn a law degree.  
Join related professional organizations and build a network of contacts.

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### ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Air Quality  
Food Protection  
Radiation Protection  
Solid Waste Management  
Water Quality  
Noise Control  
Housing Quality  
Vector Control  
Risk Assessment  
Management  
Policy Development  
Consulting

Government agencies such as:  
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  
Local and state health departments  
Armed services  
Private research facilities  
Environmental agencies  
Consulting firms

Plan to take courses in chemistry, biology, geology and other related sciences.  
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.

### EPIDEMIOLOGY

Research  
Teaching  
Program Design  
Program Evaluation  
Incident/Disease Investigation  
Risk Assessment  
Surveillance

Local, state, and federal public health departments  
Government agencies such as:  
National Institutes of Health  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Armed services  
World Health Organization (WHO)  
Private research foundations  
Pharmaceutical industry  
Nonprofit organizations

Develop a solid background in the biological sciences and mathematics.  
Gain experience with research. Volunteer to assist professors with research or apply for summer research programs.  
Find a topic of interest and gain as much knowledge and experience in that area.  
Earn a master's or doctoral degree in public health, epidemiology, microbiology, or a related field.

### BIOSTATISTICS

Research Methodology  
Data Analysis  
Clinical trials  
Teaching

Local, state, and federal government  
Public health departments  
Centers for Disease Control  
Pharmaceutical industry  
Biotechnology firms  
Nonprofit organizations  
Colleges and universities  
Research institutions  
Hospitals  
International health agencies

Hone skills and interest in mathematics and statistics.  
Develop strong computing and technology skills.  
Get involved with research and gain as much experience as possible.

## AREAS

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### INTERNATIONAL HEALTH

Social and Economic Development  
Health Policy  
Demography  
Women's Health  
Children's Health  
Design of Healthcare Systems  
Disease Prevention and Control

International organizations such as:  
World Health Organization (WHO)  
United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)  
World Bank  
Bilateral government development agencies such as:  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Public Health Service  
Office of International Health  
Peace Corps  
Nonprofit organizations such as:  
International Red Cross  
CARE  
Doctors Without Borders

Learn one or more foreign languages.  
Study or intern abroad.  
Learn to adapt to cultural and racial diversity.  
Be willing to live and work in third world nations.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

- Public health is a broad, multi-disciplinary field. Other specialties within public health include areas such as: women's health, children's health, nutrition, bioterrorism, gerontology, and veterinary public health.
- 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.
- Many opportunities in public health exist with government agencies especially: 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.
- Cultivate personal characteristics such as enthusiasm, dedication, and a positive attitude. Maintain and demonstrate a personal commitment to healthy living.
- 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.