

Public health as a field of study encompasses many academic disciplines – therefore careers in public health have something to offer to everyone.

The combined efforts of public health professionals make our world a safer place in which individuals live, work, and thrive.

Is the Health Education Track Right for You?

The Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Public Health Education track is a great choice for students who:

- ✓ Want to experience all of the features and benefits of the Public Health – General track program, AND
- ✓ Want to be involved in the planning and implementation of programs that improve the health status of individuals and communities.
- ✓ Want to complete an internship at a public health agency to gain practical experience in the field of health education and begin making professional connections.
- ✓ Want to be eligible to work in a variety of settings, including governmental and non-governmental agencies, hospitals/clinics, and corporate wellness, among others.
- ✓ Want the opportunity to become a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES), an internationally recognized credential indicating competency and a commitment to professional development in the field of health education.

The BS in Public Health

The BS in Public Health prepares students with knowledge of public health practice, principles and methods, and the skills necessary to utilize these to improve the health of the public.



The BS in Public Health at WPU is an internationally recognized high-quality undergraduate public health program fully accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).

The goal of the Health Education Track is to prepare public health educators with the skills and knowledge necessary to function effectively in a health education setting and to attain the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) credential.

Do You Want More Information?

Contact the department at 973-720-2394 to schedule an appointment to discuss your academic plans.

Program Overview

Designed to be completed in a minimum of four full-length semesters, students who major in Public Health take a variety of courses covering the core areas of public health, including health care systems, health research methods, environmental health, epidemiology, and public health practice.

All Public Health majors complete 53 credits in the major, including a specialized “track” that allows for further exploration of the field – either the General track or the Health Education track.

The **Health Education track** prepares entry-level health educators who are able to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate a broad range of health promotion and disease prevention programs designed for a community’s diverse population. Knowledge of health education is achieved through a multi-disciplinary study of physical and natural sciences, education, psychology, and public health.

Practice-based skills are integral components of our carefully designed program. Students become oriented to the profession of health education through the completion of a 12-credit full-time internship during their final semester, at which time they also take the national certification examination to become a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES).

Careers in Public Health Education

With a Bachelor’s degree in Public Health Education and CHES certification, graduates are eligible to pursue a wide variety of positions in the field of health education. Examples of positions held by graduates of the program include:

- Health educators for governmental departments of health
- HIV/AIDS educators and counselors
- Health educators for family service organizations
- Substance abuse prevention specialists
- Health education coordinators for non-profit agencies such as the American Cancer Society and the American Red Cross
- Health promotion specialists in corporations, employee wellness centers, and managed care organizations
- Health education coordinators for hospitals and nursing homes

Furthermore, graduates of the Health Education track are eligible to pursue the same opportunities in the field of public health for which the General track students are prepared. To learn what graduates from our program have achieved, visit our website and click on “Alumni Profiles.”

Bachelor of Science in Public Health – Health Education Track (updated July 2017)

Admissions Requirements: (all of the following courses with a grade of C- or better)

BIO 1140	Applied Anatomy & Physiology (or BIO 1120 & 1130; or BIO 1180 & 1190; or BIO 1200)
MATH 1300	Elementary Statistics (or MATH 2300)
PBHL 1100	Healthy U (or PBHL 1200 or PBHL 1300)

Core Courses: 24 credits

		CR	UCC	Prerequisite Courses and Restrictions
PBHL 2950	Disparities in Health	3	UCC 4	none
PBHL 3000	Introduction to Public Health	3	-	none
PBHL 3020	Health Care in the United States*	3	-	none
PBHL 3040	Health Research Methods I* (fall only)	3	WI	MATH 1300
PBHL 3042	Health Research Methods II* (spring only)	3	TI	PBHL 3040
PBHL 3110	Global Health Issues	3	UCC 6	none
PBHL 3400	Environmental Health*	3	-	PBHL 3000
PBHL 4000	Epidemiology*	3	-	PBHL 3000

General Track Courses: 22 credits

		CR	UCC*	Prerequisite Courses and Restrictions
PBHL 3010	Health Ed: Theory & Practice* (fall only)	3	-	PBHL 1100
PBHL 3610	Methods of PBHL Education* (spring only)	3	TI	PBHL 3010
PBHL 4610	Program Planning* (fall only)	3	-	PBHL 3610
PBHL 4962	Intro. to Internship in PBHL HED* (fall only)	1	-	PBHL 3042; Senior status
PBHL 4972	Internship in PBHL HED* (spring only)	12	-	C or better in all major and co-req courses

Major Electives: 3 credits (choose one of the following)

PBHL 2100	Women's Health	PBHL 3150	Food and Community (UCC 5)
PBHL 2150	Drugs and Health	PBHL 3170	Popular Literature in Public Health (UCC WI)
PBHL 2200	Stress Management	PBHL 3180	Tobacco as a Public Health Issue (UCC 5)
PBHL 2210	Nutrition	PBHL 3210	Lifespan Nutrition (fall only)
PBHL 2700	Concepts and Issues of Aging	PBHL 3220	Food and Social Issues (spring only)
PBHL 2900	Human Sexuality	PBHL 3750	Human Disease* (PBHL 1100 & BIO 1140)
PBHL 2920	LGBTQ Health	PBHL 4300	Counseling Skills for Health Professionals*
PBHL 3120	Ethics in Public Health	PBHL 4500	Health Administration* (PBHL 3020)
PBHL 3130	Violence as a Public Health Issue	PBHL 4950	Cultural Dimensions of Health* (UCC WI)
PBHL 3140	Reproductive Rights (UCC 5)		

Co-Requirement: 4 credits (choose one)

		CR	University Core Curriculum (UCC) Courses
BIO 1300	Field Biology	4	WI = Writing Intensive
BIO 1700	Basic Microbiology	4	TI = Technology Intensive
CHEM 1310	College Chemistry	4	UCC 4 = Diversity & Justice
ENV 1100	Environmental Sustainability	4	UCC 5 = Community & Civic Engagement
PHYS 1100	Introduction to Physics	4	UCC 6 = Global Awareness

* Courses marked with an asterisk (*) are open to declared Public Health majors only.