

PUBLIC HEALTH

FALL 2006

IS PUBLIC HEALTH THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR YOU?

What is public health?

Public health combines advances in health science, health education and health care practice with environmental and social policy to help promote good health practices and prevent disease among individuals and communities.

What work is done by people who have public health training?

Public health workers help improve the public's health throughout the world. They contribute to the three core functions of public health: identifying problems by assessing and monitoring the public's health; assuring that there is equal access to care, and evaluating the quality of that care; and creating programs and policies

to solve public health problems.

Where do people trained in public health work?

Public health workers can be found in hospitals, community-based health clinics, schools, rehabilitation and therapeutic outpatient care centers, County and State Departments of Health and Human Services, and many other settings. Professionals working in public health include physicians and physicians' assistants, nurses, health educators, social workers, various therapists and more.

Are there employment opportunities in public health?

Events related to bioterrorism, the emergence of new infectious diseases and

the reemergence of old ones, and the rise in chronic and preventable diseases among an aging U.S. population have created a high demand for people trained to identify and respond to public health priorities.

What is the salary range for people employed in public health?

The average salary for an entry-level public health worker varies nationally, however the range is between \$30,000 and \$35,000. Public health workers who have relevant work experience can expect a salary of \$40,000 to \$55,000, and those who have experience combined with advanced training can expect a salary above \$60,000.



“A public health professional is a person educated in public health or a related discipline who is employed to improve health through a population focus”

- Institute of Medicine, Committee on Educating Public Health Professionals for the 21st Century, 2003

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What are the requirements for the Public Health concentration?

Health Science students take the major's core courses during the fall semester of the senior year.

During the spring semester, those who choose the Public Health concentration will take specialized courses including:

• Introduction to Public Health:

Introduces principles and practices of public health, definitions and concepts, history and development, determinants of health, and ethical and legal aspects of public health. Orients students to local and state health departments, not-for-profit community organizations, and agencies for special populations. Provides basic knowledge and skills for conducting community needs as-

essment with diverse populations. Addresses infectious disease control, environmental health, chronic disease control, tobacco and drug control, maternal and child health, women's health, and injury control.

•Epidemiology and Biostatistics: Provides basic knowledge and skills for studying diseases of individuals and groups. Introduces biostatistical approaches and skills for collecting and organizing data of communities to meet health needs. Addresses epidemiological concepts, limitations and resources.

• Introduction to Community Health: Introduces the foundation of planning, implementing and evaluating community-based health education majors. Presents classic theories of health education including the social learning

theory, health belief model, and attribution theory.

• Research Methods in Public Health: Course concentrates on the details of public health research design. It is designed to guide students through a step-by-step approach to qualitative, comparative, and quantitative research designs and analysis methods.

•Behavioral and Social Aspects of Health: Explores social and behavioral factors as determinants of health. Reviews theories of human and group behavior and health behavior change models. Explores dynamics between health behaviors and culture, gender, age, and socio-economic status.

Advising sessions are conducted on both campuses, as early as possible, to assess student interest and provide information on prerequisites. For additional information about the major please contact:

Traci Thompson—Advising

HSC, Level 2, Room 453

Phone: 631.444.2407

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Phone: 631.632.4689

OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

www.uhmc.sunysb.edu/shtm



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING PUBLIC HEALTH, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND JOB LISTINGS, PLEASE VISIT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES

Professional Organizations

- Society for Public Health Education

www.sophe.org

- Guide to Community Preventive Services

www.thecommunityguide.org

- American Public Health Association

www.apha.org

Occupational and Employment Information

www.bls.gov

www.salary.com

www.salary.monster.com

www.labor.ny.us

How to Become a Health Science Student:

Students can declare the Health Science major at any time during their academic career. All major courses are taken during the senior year.

•In order to begin your senior year courses in the major, you must have a G.P.A. of at least 2.0 and have successfully completed 91 credits.

•You must also have met all D.E.C. requirements, including at least 16 credits in natural sciences (D.E.C. E), 21 credits of related electives, and 10 upper division credits.

•Successful completion of the following courses during the fall semester of your senior year is required:

Health Care Issues

Professional Ethics and Health Care

Communications

Professional Writing

Health Informatics

Medical Terminology (2 credit elective may be taken)

Additional pre-requisites based on your area of interest may be required.

PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATES

Graduates of the Health Science major who have completed the public health concentration are currently engaged in many graduate programs and employment settings.

Dental school, doctoral physical therapy programs, graduate social work programs, teacher education programs, physicians assistant programs, nursing school, and occupational therapy programs are just a few of

the educational opportunities our recent public health graduates are currently pursuing.

Other Health Science public health graduates are employed by county and state health departments, rehabilitation centers, hospitals, non-profit organizations, and insurance companies.