

PUBLIC HEALTH, BS

Do you want to be a force for change to improve community health for all? Are you interested in many disciplines, from biology and environmental sciences, to history and ethics, to social sciences and public policy? Then Public Health may be the major for you!

The BS in Public Health is an exciting new interdisciplinary program in the Zilber School (<https://uwm.edu/publichealth>). The program provides students with transferable knowledge, skills, and experiences – both in the classroom and in communities. Students learn to effectively, ethically, and creatively diagnose, analyze, and solve a range of public health problems across diverse social and cultural contexts. This new undergraduate degree program in public health gives students access to one of the nation's top universities for research and community engagement, and to Wisconsin's only accredited school dedicated to public health.

Job prospects for public health graduates are excellent. Trained public health professionals are essential to ensuring the health of communities and societies. In Wisconsin and nationally there is a shortage of skilled public health workers, and this shortage is projected to increase over time due to an aging public health workforce. Graduates will be equipped to enter public health and related careers in a wide variety of settings, including healthcare organizations, for-profit organizations, government agencies, non-profits, and academic institutions.

Our 120 credit program includes 39 credits of general education foundations coursework, 54 credits of Public Health major requirements, and 27 elective credits tailored to each student's interests and career goals. The elective credits give all students the flexibility to combine their BS in Public Health degree with specialization in one of UW-Milwaukee's many certificates (http://catalog.uwm.edu/programs/#filter=filter_26&filter_19) or minors (http://catalog.uwm.edu/programs/#filter=filter_46) of their choice.

Please email applyph@uwm.edu to learn more about the BS in Public Health degree.

For **admissions** information, see the Undergraduate Admission (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/admission-costs/undergraduate-admission/#text>) section of this catalog.

Requirements

Students must earn a minimum of 120 credits to complete the BS in Public Health degree.

Code	Title	Credits
	University General Education Requirements (GER)	0-20
	Foundations	33
	Public Health Major Requirements	54
	Electives, including certificate or minor	27-33
	Minimum credits to degree	120

Most of the University General Education Requirements (<http://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/#generaleducationtext>) are more than satisfied through the foundations coursework and the public health major requirements. All students should work with their public health advisor to ensure they meet all GER.

University General Education Requirements (GER)

Code	Title	Credits
Competency Requirements		
	Oral and Written Communication (OWC) Part A	0-3
	Oral and Written Communication (OWC) Part B (satisfied through foundations coursework)	3
	Quantitative Literacy (QL) Part A (Math 105 or Math 108 recommended)	0-3
	Quantitative Literacy (QL) Part B (satisfied through major coursework)	3
	Foreign Language	0-8
Distribution Requirements (satisfied through foundations and major coursework)		
	Arts (GER-A)	3
	Humanities (GER-HU)	6
	Natural Sciences (GER-NS and GER-NS+)	6
	Social Sciences (GER-SS)	6
	Cultural Diversity (GER-CD)	3

Most new freshmen are required to take **placement exams** in English and mathematics. Additional prerequisite coursework may be required as a result of these placement tests. Credit for prerequisite academic work may not count towards the BS in Public Health degree. Entering students are urged to take their placement exams when scheduled.

Foundations

Code	Title	Credits
<i>Academic and Professional Writing</i>		
ENGLISH 201	Strategies for Academic Writing (satisfies OWCB)	3
	Select one of the following:	3
ENGLISH 207	Health Science Writing ¹	
ENGLISH 214	Writing in the Professions:	
<i>Arts and Cultural Diversity (all courses listed satisfy GER-A and GER-CD)</i>		
	Select one of the following:	3
ART 100	American Art and Culture	
ART 150	Multicultural America ^{1,2}	
ART 309	Issues in Contemporary Art: (prerequisite)	
DANCE 122	African Dance & Diaspora Technique I	
FILM 150	Multicultural America ^{1,2}	
THEATRE 150	Multicultural America: ^{1,2}	
	Other GER-A course approved by Zilber School academic advisor	
<i>Communication/Public Speaking (satisfies GER-HU)</i>		
COMMUN 103	Public Speaking	3
<i>Humanities (all courses listed satisfy GER-HU and GER-CD)</i>		
	Select one of the following:	3
AFRIC 100	Black Reality: Survey of African-American Society	
AFRIC 102	Survey of African-American Literature	
ENGLISH 150	Multicultural America ²	
ED POL 460	The Chicano Experience	

ETHNIC 101	The Making of American Cultures: Africans, Europeans, and Indian Nations	
ETHNIC 275	Queer Migrations	
HIST 150	Multicultural America ²	
HIST 229	History of Race, Science, and Medicine in the United States ³	
LGBT 200	Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies	
WGS 150	Multicultural America ^{1,2}	
WGS 201	Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies: A Humanities Perspective	
Any other 3 credit course that meets both GER-HU and GER-CD		
Other humanities course approved by Zilber School academic advisor		
<i>Historical Perspectives (satisfy GER-HU, GER-SS, and/or GER-CD)</i>		
Select one of the following:		3
AFRIC 112	Introduction to African-American History, 1865 to the Present (HU, CD)	
AIS 203	Western Great Lakes American Indian Community Life of the Past (SS, CD)	
AIS 262	North American Indian History to 1887 (SS, CD)	
AIS 263	North American Indian History Since 1887 (SS, CD)	
HIST 132	World History Since 1500 (HU)	
HIST 151	American History: 1607 to 1877 (SS)	
HIST 152	American History: 1877 to the Present (SS)	
HIST 176	East Asian Civilization Since 1600 (HU)	
HIST 229	History of Race, Science, and Medicine in the United States (HU, CD) ^{1,3}	
HIST 282	The Modern Middle East in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries (HU)	
HMONG 265	Hmong Americans: History, Culture, and Contemporary Life (SS, CD)	
Other history course approved by Zilber School academic advisor		
<i>Ethics</i>		
Select one of the following:		3
PHILOS 241	Introductory Ethics (HU)	
PHILOS 243	Moral Problems: (HU - Must take 3 topics; topics include Abortion, Bioethics, Contemporary Problems, Drugs and Addiction, Euthanasia, Immigration and Citizenship) ⁴	
PHILOS 244	Ethical Issues in Health Care: (HU)	
PHILOS 337	Environmental Ethics (prereq jr st)	
Other ethics course approved by Zilber School academic advisor		
<i>Natural Science</i>		
BIO SCI 102	Elements of Biology (satisfies GER-NS with lab)	3
Other biology course approved by Zilber School academic advisor		
<i>Political Science (all courses listed satisfy GER-SS)</i>		

Select one of the following:		3
POL SCI 104	Introduction to American Government and Politics	
POL SCI 175	Introduction to International Relations	
POL SCI 210	American Public Policy ¹	
Other political science course approved by Zilber School academic advisor		
<i>Behavioral Science (all courses listed satisfy GER-SS)</i>		
Select one of the following:		3
HCA 203	Human Life Cycle (prereq soph st)	
PH 306	Adolescent Health & Development (see prereqs)	
PSYCH 101	Introduction to Psychology	
SOCIOL 104	Introduction to Social Psychology	
Other behavioral science course approved by Zilber School academic advisor		
<i>Social Inequality (all courses satisfy GER-SS; some also satisfy GER-CD)</i>		
Select one of the following:		3
AIS 101	Introduction to American Indian Studies (SS, CD)	
GEOG 114	Geography of Race in the United States (SS, CD) ¹	
LATINO 101	Introduction to Latino Studies (SS, CD)	
SOCIOL 224	American Minority Groups (SS, CD; prereq soph st)	
SOCIOL 233	Social Inequality in the United States (SS; prereq soph st)	
SOCIOL 250	Sex and Gender (SS; prereq soph st)	
SOCIOL 255	Sociology of Sexuality (SS; prereq soph st)	
URBPLAN 141	Urban Planning Solutions to Contemporary Urban Problems (SS)	
URB STD 150	Multicultural America (SS, CD) ^{1,2}	
WGS 200	Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies: A Social Science Perspective (SS)	
Other social inequality course approved by Zilber School academic advisor		
Total Credits		33

¹ Recommended selection.

² Has service learning component.

³ HIST 229 may only count for one Foundations category.

⁴ 1 credit course; must take three separate topics for 3 credits total.

Public Health Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
PH 101	Introduction to Public Health (GER-SS)	3
PH 142	Exploring Global Environmental Health	3
PH 201	Public Health from Cells to Society I	3
PH 202	Public Health from Cells to Society II	3
KIN 270	Statistics in the Health Professions: Theory and Practice (QLB) ⁵	3
HCA 307	Epidemiology for the Health Sciences	3

PH 302	Health and Disease: Concepts and Contexts	3
PH 303	Climate Change, the Environment and Human Health (GER-NS)	3
PH 319	Introduction to Health Disparities	3
PH 327	Foundations for Action in Public Health	3
PH 346	Environmental Health and Disease	3
PH 355	Public Health Research Methods I	3
PH 408	Comparative Health Systems: A Social Determinants Approach	3
PH 410	True Lies: Consuming and Communicating Quantitative Information	3
PH 427	Strategies for Action in Public Health	3
PH 428	Program Implementation & Evaluation for a Healthy Society	3
PH 455	Public Health Research Methods II	3
PH 600	Public Health Integrative Experience (Service Learning)	3
Total Credits		54

⁵ Select QLB course substitutions allowed - please see your public health academic advisor.

Electives

With the help of their academic advisor, students will select electives to complete the 120 total credits required for the degree. Electives are tailored to each student's interests and career goals. Students may choose a related area of specialization outside of the Zilber School by completing any minor (http://catalog.uwm.edu/programs/#filter=filter_46) or interdisciplinary certificate (http://catalog.uwm.edu/programs/#filter=filter_26&filter_19) offered by UWM, typically comprised of 18-22 credits. In some cases, students may choose to study two related areas, or they may complement a certificate or minor with other courses of interest.

Certificates or Minors

Certificates of potential interest to public health students include, but are not limited to: Community Arts, Community Engagement Strategies, Community Leadership, Comparative Ethnic Studies, Cultures and Communities, Food Studies, Global Health, Healthy Aging, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Studies, Quantitative Social Data Analysis, Spanish for Health Professionals, Urban Planning, and Urban Studies.

Minors of potential interest to public health students include, but are not limited to: Community Engagement, Geographic Information Science, Geography, Global Studies, Health Care Administration, International Studies, Mathematics (Statistics), Nutritional Sciences, and Women's and Gender Studies.

Degree and Graduation Requirements

A minimum of 120 semester credits is required to complete the BS in Public Health degree. A cumulative GPA of 2.25 or greater, including transferable credits and all credits earned at UWM, is required for graduation. Students must also maintain an average GPA of 2.5 in all public health major courses required for graduation (54 credits total).

If, during the program, a student falls below these minimum GPA requirements, the student will be placed on academic probation. A

student who remains on probation for more than two consecutive semesters will be dismissed from the major.

Students who earn a D+ or lower in any public health major course required for graduation (54 credits) must repeat the course and earn at least a C. Courses required for the BS in Public Health degree may be repeated only **once**. Students who twice earn a grade lower than these requirements will be dismissed from the public health major.

Students who are struggling in their courses for any reason are encouraged to access retention services available in the Zilber School of Public Health.

Year 1		Credits
Semester 1		
PH 101	Introduction to Public Health	3
Select one of the following:		3
MATH 105	Introduction to College Algebra (QLA)	
MATH 108	Algebraic Literacy II (QLA)	
ENGLISH 102	College Writing and Research	3
ART 150	Multicultural America (ART/CD; C&C Area 1)	3
BIO SCI 102	Elements of Biology (NS+)	3
Credits		15
Semester 2		
PH 142	Exploring Global Environmental Health	3
COMMUN 101	Introduction to Interpersonal Communication (HU)	3
ENGLISH 201	Strategies for Academic Writing	3
Political Science Foundations (SS)		3
Historical Foundations		3
Credits		15
Year 2		
Semester 3		
PH 201	Public Health from Cells to Society I	3
KIN 270	Statistics in the Health Professions: Theory and Practice (QLB)	3
Behavioral Sciences Foundations (SS)		3
Humanities Foundations (HU/CD; C&C AREA 2)		3
Select one of the following:		3
ENGLISH 207	Health Science Writing (OWCB)	
ENGLISH 214	Writing in the Professions:	
Credits		15
Semester 4		
PH 202	Public Health from Cells to Society II	3
HCA 307	Epidemiology for the Health Sciences	3
Social Inequality Foundations (SS; can meet C&C Area 2)		3
Global Perspectives on Cultures and Communities Electives (C&C Area 3)		3
PHILOS 244	Ethical Issues in Health Care: (Ethics Foundations; HU, C&C Area 5)	3
Credits		15
Year 3		
Semester 5		
PH 302	Health and Disease: Concepts and Contexts	3
PH 303	Climate Change, the Environment and Human Health	3
PH 327	Foundations for Action in Public Health	3
PH 355	Public Health Research Methods I	3
Elective (Certificate/Minor)		3
Credits		15
Semester 6		
PH 319	Introduction to Health Disparities	3
PH 346	Environmental Health and Disease	3
PH 427	Strategies for Action in Public Health	3
PH 455	Public Health Research Methods II	3

Art, Culture and Community Elective (C&C Area 4)	3	
Credits	15	
Year 4		
Semester 7		
PH 408	Comparative Health Systems: A Social Determinants Approach	3
PH 410	True Lies: Consuming and Communicating Quantitative Information	3
PH 428	Program Implementation & Evaluation for a Healthy Society	3
Elective (Certificate/Minor)	3	
Elective (Certificate/Minor)	3	
Credits	15	
Semester 8		
PH 600	Public Health Integrative Experience (Service Learning)	3
Elective (Certificate/Minor)	3	
Elective (Certificate/Minor)	3	
Elective (Certificate/Minor)	3	
Elective (Certificate/Minor)	3	
Credits	15	
Total Credits	120	

*Course options for BSPH Foundations (p. 1)

Core Competencies

The B.S. in Public Health program has 15 core competencies designed to meet Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) accreditation requirements. Graduates of the BS in Public Health program will be able to:

1. Explain the importance of respect for diverse values, beliefs, cultures, and the dignity of individuals and communities in public health practice;
2. Explain the history and philosophy of public health, including its core values, theories, concepts, and functions in society;
3. Collect and analyze public health data using fundamental quantitative and qualitative methods and instruments;
4. Locate and evaluate primary scientific literature and other information sources (e.g., media) to inform evidence-based public health approaches;
5. Outline evidence-based approaches—using data, assessment, and evaluation—to address public health problems;
6. Explain why and how public health professionals should ethically engage in interactions with study/program participants, community (partners and stakeholders), and others to address population health and health equity;
7. Develop advocacy strategies for multi-level social policies and interventions to promote population health;
8. Assess the advantages and disadvantages of health promotion interventions for specific populations;
9. Discuss ethical social, ecological, political, and community approaches to public health dilemmas;
10. Explain the natural history of human health and disease, their biological and environmental origins, distribution among populations, and strategies for their prevention, management, and control;
11. Explain the interrelationship between hazards in the natural and built environment, and human and population health;
12. Explain multilevel and ecosocial pathways through which social, economic, legal, and political structures and systems affect population health and health inequities across the lifecourse;

13. Interpret environmental, regulatory, legal, and economic structures, as well as their interactions, within communities and health systems from the perspective of social justice and human rights;
14. Apply fundamental concepts and features of public health interventions and programs, including their planning, implementation, assessment, and evaluation; and
15. Communicate public health evidence and concepts to diverse audiences using a variety of modalities and media.

Admission to the School of Public Health

Students who meet the standard University admission requirements are admissible to the School of Public Health. For undergraduate admission requirements, see the Admission (<http://catalog.uwm.edu/admission-costs/undergraduate-admission>) section of this catalog.

Honors in the Zilber School of Public Health

Dean's Honor List

GPA of 3.500 or above, earned on a full-time student's GPA on 12 or more graded credits in a given semester.

Honors Degree and Honors Degree with Thesis

Granted to graduating seniors who complete Honors College requirements, as listed in the Honors College (<http://catalog.uwm.edu/opportunities-resources/honors-college>) section of this site.

Commencement Honors

Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.500 or above, based on a minimum of 40 graded UWM credits earned prior to the final semester, will receive all-university commencement honors and be awarded the traditional gold cord at the December or May Honors Convocation. In schools and colleges in which fewer than 15% of the traditional students have a 3.500 GPA, all-university honors will be awarded to approximately the top 15% of graduating students. A criterion GPA (not lower than 3.200) for this 15% will be calculated based on statistics from the previous comparable semester. Please note that for honors calculation, the GPA is **not** rounded and is truncated at the third decimal (e.g., 3.499).

Final Honors

Earned on a minimum of 60 graded UWM credits: Cum Laude - 3.500 or above; Magna Cum Laude - 3.650 or above; Summa Cum Laude - 3.800 or above.