

PUBLIC HEALTH, BS

Do you want to be a change agent for the public's health? Public health at UWM is your home to learn, connect, and make a difference.

Public health improves the health of people and the communities where they grow, live, work, play, and age. Instead of treating individual patients, public health practitioners work in and with communities to prevent disease before it starts. We strive to ensure that every person and community can reach their highest level of health and well-being.

Find yourself in public health! When you choose the Public Health major at UWM, you will:

- **Learn and live** public health in Milwaukee's diverse and dynamic communities.
- **Jumpstart your career** with 120 hours of field placement with our community partners.
- **Learn** from top instructors at Wisconsin's only accredited school dedicated to public health.
- **Create** a world that is **socially just and a healthy** place for all.

The BS in Public Health at UWM provides students with real-world knowledge, skills, and experiences – both in the classroom and the community – to be a positive force for change. With the Public Health major, you will learn how to diagnose, analyze, and solve a range of public health challenges.

Job prospects for public health graduates are **excellent**. Trained public health professionals are needed in Wisconsin and nationally to address a shortage of skilled public health workers.

Our graduates are equipped to enter public health and related careers in a wide variety of settings, including local and state government agencies, healthcare organizations, for-profit organizations, academic institutions, and non-profits.

What's your passion? There is a public health career for you!

- **Sociology and psychology?** You'll excel in community health and health promotion.
- **Political science and government?** Pursue a career in policy and advocacy.
- **Math and numbers?** You'll find your niche in data analysis and biostatistics.
- **Discovering causes of disease?** Your perfect career path could be epidemiology and disease prevention.
- **Biology and ecology?** Make an impact in environmental health.

Our 120-credit program includes general education foundations, Public Health major courses, **and 27-33 elective credits tailored to your interests and career goals**. The electives allow you to combine the BS in Public Health degree with specialization in one of UWM's many certificates (https://catalog.uwm.edu/programs/#filter=filter_26&filter_19) or minors (https://catalog.uwm.edu/programs/#filter=filter_46) of your choice.

We welcome transfer students! To learn how to transfer credits from another university to UWM and the BS in Public Health program, reach out to the Zilber College of Public Health undergraduate advising (<https://uwm.edu/publichealth/students/undergraduate-advising/>).

We also offer an accelerated Master of Public Health (MPH) degree (p. 4) with four areas of specialization. This program allows high

achieving undergraduates to save time and money by **completing their bachelor's and master's degree in public health in only 5 years!**

We want to hear from you! Email bs-ph@uwm.edu to learn more about the BS in Public Health degree.

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

University General Education Requirements (GER)

Most of the University General Education Requirements (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/archive/2023-2024/policies/undergraduate-policies/#bachelorsdegreegeneraleducation>) 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.

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 102, 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

New freshmen may require additional prerequisite coursework as a result of their English and math placement levels (<https://uwm.edu/onestop/enrolling/before-you-enroll/freshman-placement-testing/>). Credit for prerequisite academic work may not count towards the BS in Public Health degree.

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:	

Arts and Cultural Diversity (all courses listed satisfy GER-A and GER-CD)

Select one of the following: 3

ART 100	American Art and Culture
ART 150	Multicultural America ^{1,2}
ART 309	Issues in Contemporary Art: (prereq soph st)
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	

Communication/Public Speaking (satisfies GER-HU)

COMMUN 103 Public Speaking 3

Humanities (all courses listed satisfy GER-HU; some also satisfy GER-CD)

Select one of the following: 3

AFRIC 100	Black Reality: Survey of African-American Society (HU, CD)
AFRIC 102	Survey of African-American Literature (HU, CD)
ENGLISH 150	Multicultural America (HU, CD) ²
ED POL 460	The Chicano Experience (HU, CD)
ETHNIC 101	The Multi-Racial Origins of American Cultures (HU, CD)
ETHNIC 275	Queer Migrations (HU, CD)
HIST 150	Multicultural America (HU, CD) ²
HIST 229	History of Race, Science, and Medicine in the United States (HU, CD) ³
LGBT 200	Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies (HU)
WGS 150	Multicultural America (HU, CD) ^{1,2}
WGS 201	Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies: A Humanities Perspective (HU)
Any other 3 credit course that meets both GER-HU and GER-CD	
Other humanities course approved by Zilber School academic advisor	

Historical Perspectives (satisfy GER-HU, GER-SS, and/or GER-CD)

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

Ethics

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	

Natural Science

BIO SCI 102 Elements of Biology (satisfies GER-NS with lab) 3

Other biology course approved by Zilber School academic advisor

Political Science (all courses listed satisfy GER-SS)

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	

Behavioral Science (all courses listed satisfy GER-SS)

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	

Social Inequality (nearly all courses satisfy GER-SS; some also satisfy GER-CD)

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
LATINX 101	Introduction to Latino Studies (SS, CD)
SOCIOL 102	Solving Social Problems (SS)
SOCIOL 224	Race and Ethnicity in the United States (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}
URBPLAN 350	Social Justice, Urban Planning and the New Multicultural America (CD)
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
or SOCIOL 261	Introduction to Statistical Thinking in Sociology	
PH 302	Health and Disease: Concepts and Contexts	3
PH 304	Foundations of Epidemiology	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 College by completing any minor (https://catalog.uwm.edu/archive/2023-2024/programs/#filter=filter_46) or interdisciplinary certificate (https://catalog.uwm.edu/archive/2023-2024/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 College of Public Health.

Plan of Study

Year 1		Credits
Semester 1		
PH 101	Introduction to Public Health	3
Select one of the following:		3
MATH 102	Mathematical Literacy for College Students II	
MATH 105	Introduction to College Algebra (QLA)	
MATH 108	Algebraic Literacy II (QLA)	
ENGLISH 102	College Writing and Research	3
BIO SCI 102	Elements of Biology (NS+)	3
COMMUN 103	Public Speaking	3
Credits		15

Semester 2		
PH 142	Exploring Global Environmental Health	3
ENGLISH 201	Strategies for Academic Writing	3
PSYCH 101	Introduction to Psychology (Behavioral Science Foundations*, SS)	3
Elective (Certificate/Minor)		3
Social Inequality Foundations*		3
Credits		15
Year 2		
Semester 3		
PH 201	Public Health from Cells to Society I	3
ENGLISH 207 or ENGLISH 214	Health Science Writing (OWCB) or Writing in the Professions:	3
Historical Perspectives Foundations*		3
Political Science Foundations*		3
Elective (Certificate/Minor)		3
Credits		15
Semester 4		
PH 202	Public Health from Cells to Society II	3
Humanities Foundations* (HU/CD)		3
KIN 270 or SOCIOL 261	Statistics in the Health Professions: Theory and Practice or Introduction to Statistical Thinking in Sociology	3
Elective (Certificate/Minor)		3
Elective (Certificate/Minor)		3
Credits		15
Year 3		
Semester 5		
PH 327	Foundations for Action in Public Health	3
PH 355	Public Health Research Methods I	3
Elective (Certificate/Minor)		3
PH 304	Foundations of Epidemiology	3
Ethics Foundations		3
Credits		15
Semester 6		
PH 319	Introduction to Health Disparities	3
PH 427	Strategies for Action in Public Health	3
PH 455	Public Health Research Methods II	3
Elective (Certificate/Minor)		3
PH 410	True Lies: Consuming and Communicating Quantitative Information	3
Credits		15
Year 4		
Semester 7		
PH 408	Comparative Health Systems: A Social Determinants Approach	3
PH 303	Climate Change, the Environment and Human Health	3
PH 428	Program Implementation & Evaluation for a Healthy Society	3
Elective (Certificate/Minor)		3
Elective (Certificate/Minor)		3
Credits		15
Semester 8		
PH 302	Health and Disease: Concepts and Contexts	3
PH 346	Environmental Health and Disease	3
PH 600	Public Health Integrative Experience (Service Learning)	3
Arts and Cultural Diversity Foundations* (ART/CD)		3
Elective (Certificate/Minor)		3
Credits		15
Total Credits		120

*Course options for BSPH Foundations (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/archive/2023-2024/public-health/public-health-bs/#requirementstext>)

Core Competencies

The BS in Public Health program has 15 core competencies designed to meet Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) accreditation requirements. Graduates of the Public Health major 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 College of Public Health. For undergraduate admission requirements, see the Admission (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/archive/2023-2024/admission-costs/undergraduate-admission/>) section of this catalog.

Accelerated Program Option

This program is offered as part of an accelerated graduate program. For more information, see Accelerated Graduate Degrees (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/archive/2023-2024/opportunities-resources/accelerated-graduate-degrees/>).

Zilber College of Public Health Dean's Honor List

GPA of 3.750 or above, earned on a full-time student's GPA on 12 or more graded credits in a given semester.

Honors College Degree and Honors College Degree with Distinction

Granted to graduating seniors who complete Honors College requirements, as listed in the Honors College (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/archive/2023-2024/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. 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.