

PUBLIC HEALTH - BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

The Public Health Program at the University of Colorado Boulder is pleased to be offering a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Health. According to the Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health (ASPPH), public health is the science and art of protecting and improving the health of communities through education, promotion of healthy lifestyles and research for disease and injury prevention. Public health helps improve the health and well-being of people in local communities and around the globe. Public health works to prevent health problems before they occur.

As the world becomes more interconnected, our communities and populations face increasingly complex health challenges emerging through the interaction of individual vulnerability and behavior, cultural and social factors, environmental and geographic influences, as well as economic and political dynamics. Addressing these public health challenges requires innovative approaches arising from multiple disciplines.

Core Areas of Public Health

While public health is defined in many ways, the following is a list of core areas that are often associated with public health.

- **Biostatistics:** Statistical science applied to health and biomedical data.
- **Environmental health:** The impact of air, water and the built environment on health.
- **Epidemiology:** The study of the frequency, distribution and determinants of disease.
- **Health administration and management:** Managing human and fiscal resources to deliver public health services.
- **Global health:** Addressing health challenges across the world.
- **Maternal and child health:** Improving the health of women, children and their families.
- **Nutrition:** How food and nutrients impact the health of populations.
- **Public health laboratory practice:** Diagnose, prevent, treat and control infectious disease.
- **Public health policy:** The role of policy and policy decisions on public health.
- **Public health practice:** Incorporating public health principles into clinical practice.
- **Social and behavioral science:** The study of social and behavioral determinants of health.

Requirements

Graduating with a BA in Public Health will require meeting the Arts & Sciences requirements (<https://catalog.colorado.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/policies-requirements/#degreerequirementstext>) as well as the curriculum presented below, consisting of at least 40 credit hours, with a minimum of 22 at the upper division level, passed with a cumulative GPA of 2.000 or higher. Grades of C- or better will be required in all courses a student is using to satisfy the requirements for the major. Additionally, students must meet the requirements for graduation from their other school or college, if doing

a double degree. Students should take note of when and if courses have prerequisites that are not part of the public health major.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Fundamentals of Public Health		
GEOG/IPHY/PBHL 2692	Foundations in Public Health	3
GEOG 3692	Introduction to Global Public Health	4
IPHY 3490	Introduction to Epidemiology	3
Bioethics		
Choose one of the following:		3
PHIL 1160	Introduction to Medical Ethics	
PHIL 3160	Bioethics	
Introduction to Biology		
Choose one of the following:		3
EBIO 1100	Biology and Society	
EBIO 1210	General Biology 1	
MCDB 1150	Introduction to Cellular and Molecular Biology	
Introductory Statistics		
Choose one of the following courses in statistics:		3-4
ANTH 4000	Quantitative Methods in Anthropology	
ECON 3818	Introduction to Statistics with Computer Applications	
GEOG 3023	Statistics and Geographic Data	
IPHY 3280	Intro to Data Science and Biostatistics	
MATH 2510	Introduction to Statistics	
PSCI 2075	Quantitative Research Methods	
PSYC 2111	Psychological Science I: Statistics	
SOCY 2061	Introduction to Social Statistics	
STAT 2600	Introduction to Data Science	
Capstone Course		
Choose one of the following courses		3
PBHL 4142	Public Health Capstone in Public Health Practice: Internships	
PBHL 4242	Capstone in Public Health: Career Exploration in Public Health	
PBHL 4342	Public Health Capstone: Honors Thesis	
PBHL 4542	Public Health Capstone Research Methods: Environmental Interventions to the Mental Health Epidemic	
Electives in Public Health		
Students must complete an additional minimum of 6 courses (4 of which must be at the 3000 or 4000 level). One elective must be from Social and Behavioral Health and one from Environmental Health. The other 4 electives can come from either of those lists or from the list of Other Public Health Courses.		
<i>Social and Behavioral Health Courses</i>		3
ANTH 4605	Anthropology of Neuroscience	
ANTH 4610	Medical Anthropology	
ECON 4646	Topics in Health Economics (only certain topics)	

PSYC 4021	Psychology and Neuroscience of Exercise
PSYC 4541	Special Topics in Psychology - Social Science (only certain topics)
PSYC 4606	Advanced Topics in Social Psychology (only certain topics)
SOCY 1022	Ethics and Social Issues in U.S. Health and Medicine
SOCY 3032	Social Epidemiology
SOCY 3045	Sociology of Death and Dying
SOCY 3052	Medical Sociology
SOCY 4052	Social Inequalities in Health
SOCY 4062	Suffering and Care in Society
<i>Environmental Health Courses</i> 3	
EBIO 3400	Microbiology
ECON 4646	Topics in Health Economics (only certain topics)
ENVS 3034	Foundations of Environmental Justice
or HONR 4075	Environmental Justice
or PHIL 2140	Environmental Justice
or GEOG 3782	Environmentalism, Race, and Justice
ENVS 3525	Intermediate Environmental Problem Analysis: Topical Cornerstones (only certain topics)
GEOG 4692	Climate Change and Health
GEOG 4772	Food and Power
GEOG 4852	Health and Medical Geography
HIST 2830	Disease and Public Health in Global History
SOCY 4007	Global Human Ecology
<i>Other Public Health Courses</i> 12	
ANTH 4060	Nutrition and Anthropology
EBIO 3630	Parasitology
HUMN 3200	Fictions of Illness: Modern Medicine and the Literary Imagination
IPHY 2420	Introduction to Nutrition
or IPHY 3440	Clinical Nutrition
IPHY 4420	Nutrition and Human Performance
IPHY 4780	Sleep, Circadian Rhythms, and Health
NRSC 4420	Genetics of Brain and Behavior
PSYC 2012	Biological Psychology
SLHS 1010	Disabilities in Contemporary American Society
SLHS 3014	Hearing Loss Epidemiology
SPAN 3080	Spanish Health Professions
WGST/JWST 4200	Religion and Reproductive Politics in the United States

Total Credit Hours 40-41

Plan(s) of Study

Through the required coursework for the major, students will complete at least 3 credit hours in the Arts & Humanities area, 6 credit hours in the Social Sciences area and a minimum of 6 credit hours in the Natural Sciences area of the Gen Ed Distribution Requirement, the

Global Perspective category of the Gen Ed Diversity Requirement and the Quantitative Reasoning and Mathematical Skills category of the Gen Ed Skills requirement. Depending on elective courses selected within the major, students can complete most of the Natural Sciences area and Social Sciences area in the Gen Ed Distribution Requirement and the US Perspective component of the Gen Ed Diversity Requirement.

Year One

Fall Semester		Credit Hours
GEOG 2692	Foundations in Public Health	3
EBIO 1210	General Biology 1 (Biology major requirement)	3
EBIO 1230	General Biology Laboratory 1	1
Gen. Ed. Skills course (example: Lower-division Written Communication)		3
Elective		3
Elective		3
Credit Hours		16

Spring Semester

PHIL 1160	Introduction to Medical Ethics (Bioethics major requirement)	3
Gen. Ed. Skills course (example: QRMS, if needed)		3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Arts & Humanities)		3
Elective		3
Elective		3
Credit Hours		15

Year Two

Fall Semester		
SOCY 2061	Introduction to Social Statistics (Or another course that fulfills the statistics major requirement)	3
GEOG 3692	Introduction to Global Public Health	4
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Social Sciences)		3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Natural Sciences, if necessary)		3
Elective		3
Credit Hours		16

Spring Semester

IPHY 3490	Introduction to Epidemiology	3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Social Sciences)		3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Arts & Humanities)		3
Elective		3
Elective		3
Credit Hours		15

Year Three

Fall Semester		
Upper-Division Public Health major Elective		3
Public Health major Elective		3
Gen. Ed. Skills course (example: Upper-division Written Communication)		3
Gen. Ed. Distribution/Diversity course (example: Arts & Humanities/Diversity: US Perspective)		3
Elective		3
Credit Hours		15

Spring Semester

Upper-Division Public Health major Elective	3
Gen. Ed. Distribution/Diversity course (example: Natural Sciences)	3
Upper-Division Elective	3
Upper-Division Elective	3
Elective	3
Credit Hours	15

Year Four**Fall Semester**

Public Health major Elective	3
Upper-Division Public Health major Elective	3
Upper-Division Elective	3
Upper-Division Elective	3
Elective	3
Credit Hours	15

Spring Semester

PBHL Capstone Course	
Upper-Division Public Health major Elective	3
Upper-Division Elective	3
Upper-Division Elective	3
Elective	3
Credit Hours	12
Total Credit Hours	119

Learning Outcomes

By the completion of the program, students will be able to:

- Describe and apply the public health approach to understanding the natural history of communicable and noncommunicable diseases.
- Examine the biological, behavioral, social, cultural and environmental factors that contribute to the distribution of disease and health indicators in different geographic contexts and across the life course.
- Articulate the importance of data, data literacy and statistics in public health research and practice.
- Describe analytic methodologies, research strategies and study designs used in public health to study the distribution, underlying causes and impact of communicable and noncommunicable disease.
- Identify and examine multidisciplinary public health strategies for the prevention, treatment and control of communicable and noncommunicable diseases.
- Identify and recognize different ethical features and considerations in relation to public health.