

PUBLIC / COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION

REV. 2015

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 optimal health practices and prevent disease among individuals and communities.

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

Public health professionals work to prevent illness and injury among populations as well as to promote wellness through encouraging healthy behaviors.

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, physicians' assistants, nurses, health educators, social workers, occupational health and safety professionals, researchers, epidemiologist and others.

Are there employment opportunities in public health?

Events related to bio-terrorism, the emergence of new infectious diseases, the reemergence of old ones, 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?

Salaries for public health professionals vary by industry, occupation, level of education and experience. According to

the BLS, the median annual wages of health educators were \$44,340 in May 2009 (www.bls.gov). Salaries also vary considerably within each specialty area of public health. According to the Association of Schools of Public Health's latest survey of graduates, the starting salaries of individuals working in epidemiology ranged between \$38,175-\$136,237 within one year of graduating (www.asph.org). Individuals working in environmental health had salaries ranging between \$44,550-\$143,700, also within one year of graduating.

What else should I know?

Many universities offer opportunities to pursue post-graduate studies in public health and related disciplines such as community health, health care management, healthcare administration.



“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

PUBLIC HEALTH

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:

HAN 440 Introduction to Community Health:

Introduces students to the foundation of planning, implementing and evaluating community-based health education programs. Presents classic theories of health education including the social learning theory, health belief model, and the attribution theory. Reviews relevant health education programs. Examines various learning styles and skills. Basic health education models are introduced and critiqued through individual and group projects. Reviews health education professional organizations and associations. Each student is required to design a health education program for a selected population. Restricted to students approved for appropriate senior year track in the Health Science major.

HAN 450 Introduction to Public Health: Introduces the principles and practices of public health, including definitions

and concepts, history and development, determinants of health, and ethical and legal aspects of public health. Orients students to various public health settings such as local and state health departments, not-for-profit community organizations, and agencies for special populations. Provides students with basic knowledge and skills for conducting community needs assessment 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 topics. Restricted to students approved for appropriate senior year track in the Health Science major.

HAN 452 Epidemiology and Biostatistics:

Provides students with the basic knowledge and skills for studying diseases of individuals and groups. Introduced biostatistical approaches and skills for collecting and organizing data of communities to meet health needs. Addresses epidemiological concepts, limitations and resources. Through the use of case studies, students study various epidemiological models used regionally, nationally and internationally. Includes discussions about ethical situations related to research and statistical studies. Restricted to students approved for appropriate senior year track in the Health Science major.

HAN 455 Health Literacy for Public Health Research Methods in Public Health:

Explores the ways in which health literacy impacts patient care and the delivery of community health/public health services. Students will learn the skills needed to relay, process, and explain basic health information and services to assist patients and their families to make appropriate health decisions. Examines and analyzes issues of low health literacy, including population at risk, research, measurement tools, writing in plain language and health communication techniques. Prerequisite: Restricted to students approved for appropriate senior year track in the Health Science major.

HAN 456 Behavioral and Social Aspects of Health:

Introduces social and behavioral factors as determinants of health. Explores theories of human and group behavior and health behavior change models through lecture and case study. Explores the dynamics between behaviors and culture, gender, age and socioeconomic status. Students study various inventory tools for measuring health-related knowledge and methods for measuring behavior change. Restricted to students approved for appropriate senior year track in the Health Science major.

To declare Health Science as your major, you are required to attend an Advising Workshop. To schedule an appointment, please email Jennifer Jimenez at jennifer.jimenez.1@stonybrook.edu

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OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

<http://healthtechnology.stonybrookmedicine.edu/programs/hs>



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.

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 and have met all D.E.C/S.B.C requirements
- * except TECH SBC requirement which will be satisfied during the senior year
- * at least 16 credits in sciences, which must include HAN 200 and HAN 202 sequence, or equivalent sequence (ask advisor for information)
- * 21 credits of related electives, which must include HAN 251 and HAN 312
- * 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
- Communication Skills
- Professional Writing
- Health Informatics

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