What is public health?
Public health combines advances in health science, health education and health care practice with environmen-
tal and social policy to help promote optimal health practices and prevent
disease among individuals and com-
munities.

What work is done by people who
have public health training?
Public health professionals work to
prevent illness and injury among pop-
ulations 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, physi-
cians’ assistants, nurses, health educa-
tors, 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 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 be-
tween $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 administra-
tion.

“A public
health profes-
sional is a per-
sion educated in
public health or
a related disci-
pline who is
employed to
improve health
through a popu-
lation focus”
- Institute of Medi-
cine, Committee on
Educating Public
Health Professionals
for the 21st Century, 2003
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

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.

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

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