



Public Health Program Preparation at the University of Oregon

What is Public Health?

- Public health professionals aim to protect and improve the health of communities through outreach, education, and research.
- Public health has numerous areas of emphasis, such as nutrition, health administration, biostatistics, epidemiology, health promotion, environmental health, international health, biomedicine, and more.
- A multi-disciplinary field, public health draws professionals from a variety of backgrounds and undergraduate majors.
- Public health organizations tend to seek individuals who can employ strengths in creativity and critical thinking to solve problems in new ways.
- Although graduate study isn't required, an advanced degree in public health increases opportunities for career flexibility and advancement.
- Graduate programs tend to have an experiential component of the curriculum, allowing students to apply their knowledge and gain additional professional experience while earning their degrees.

Examples of Career Opportunities

- Epidemiologist
- Tropical disease specialist
- Communications specialist
- College health coordinator
- Community health activist
- Health administrator
- Public health educator
- Environmental health technician
- Public health inspector

Examples of Public Health Employers

- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Center for Disease Control (CDC)
- National Institute of Health (NIH)
- U.S. Agency for International Development
- Consumer Product Safety Commission
- Disaster relief organizations
- Academic institutions
- Not-for-profit organizations

Types of Public Health Degrees

- MHA: Master of Health Administration
- MHS: Master of Health Science
- MPH: Master of Public Health
- MPHE: Master of Public Health Education
- MS: Master of Science
- DrPH: Doctor of Public Health
- PhD: Doctor of Philosophy
- ScD: Doctor of Science
- Dual Degree Programs (MPH/MD, MPH/PA)

Possible Prerequisites

- Applicants must research individual programs to find prerequisite coursework. Health professions advisors are available to help develop an academic plan tailored to specific graduate study goals.
- Students interested in public health commonly take courses in biology, human physiology, math, statistics, sociology, psychology, international studies, anthropology, and environmental science.

Classes to Consider

- BI 309: Tropical Diseases in Africa
- HPHY 104: Underst Human Disease
- HPHY 105: Principles of Nutrition
- HPHY 112: The Science of Health
- INTL 340: Global Health & Development
- PPPM 202: Healthy Communities
- PSY 366: Culture and Mental Health
- SOC 399: Sp St Health & Medicine

**This list is a small snapshot of UO courses that would help prepare students for a career in public health.*

Public Health Program Application Preparation

- Admission requirements vary depending on the degree type, program, and focus area. Applicants should spend time researching different programs to help establish an academic plan.
- Nutrition, epidemiology, environmental health, and biomedical public health programs commonly require prerequisites in science and math.
- Completing the prerequisites (if any) is just one aspect of the process. Applicants must also have a well-rounded application consisting of experience (volunteer work, job shadowing, undergraduate research, life experience, etc.), letters of recommendation, GRE scores (program and degree type dependent), and a strong statement of purpose.
- Experience within the public health field, whether paid or volunteer, is a crucial component of a competitive application.

Online Resources

Health Professions Program Website
New Fall 2017: Global Health Minor
This Is Public Health
American Public Health Association
Centralized Application Service for Public Health
Exploring Health Careers

<http://healthprofessions.uoregon.edu>
<https://ghprogram.uoregon.edu>
<https://thisispublichealth.org>
<http://apha.org>
<http://sophas.org>
<http://explorehealthcareers.org>

Campus Resources

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Student organizations (Students for Global Health) | <input type="checkbox"/> Academic departments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Center for Undergraduate Research and Engagement | <input type="checkbox"/> Holden Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Duck Nest | <input type="checkbox"/> TLC study support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TLC GRE preparation | <input type="checkbox"/> HPP workshops |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Global Education Oregon | <input type="checkbox"/> Career Center |



Advising

For more information and individualized academic planning, call or visit the Teaching and Learning Center (541-346-3226, 68 PLC) to schedule an appointment with a health professions advisor.