Prepare for a Public Health Program 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, etc)

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
- BI 140: Science, Policy and Biology
- 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 is just a small sample 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
- Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health
- American Public Health Association
- Centralized Application Service for Public Health
- Exploring Health Careers

http://healthprofessions.uoregon.edu
http://ghprogram.uoregon.edu
http://aspph.org
http://apha.org
http://sophas.org
http://explorehealthcareers.org

Campus Resources

- Student Organizations (Students for Global Health)
- Center for Undergraduate Research and Engagement
- Tutoring and Academic Engagement Center
- GRE Prep
- Global Education Oregon
- Academic Departments
- Holden Center
- Duck Nest
- HPP Workshops
- Career Center

Advising
Schedule an appointment with an HPP online at healthprofessions.uoregon.edu or call 541-346-3211. Visit us in Oregon Hall, 1st floor.