

Bachelor of Science in Public Health

Learn more about the Bachelor of Science in Public Health.

Caite Wolak, M.P.H., Instructor and Undergraduate Program Director
Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Ritter Annex, 9th Floor
215-204-9111
caite.wolak@temple.edu

<https://cph.temple.edu/departments-research/departments/department-social-and-behavioral-sciences>

The Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Public Health is housed within the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences of the College of Public Health. The undergraduate curriculum prepares students for diverse careers in the public health field that focus on creating, implementing, and evaluating interventions and programs designed to improve the health status and quality of life for all individuals.

As one of the earliest accredited undergraduate public health programs in the country, the department offers a Bachelor of Science degree in public health that serves as a national model in which students study the broad range of public health concerns, including individual disease prevention and injury/harm reduction behaviors, distribution and development of disease through epidemiological assessment and community program development, implementation, and evaluation. Students learn to use educational interventions to provide health information, gain experience in assessing the needs of target populations, clarify program goals and objectives, and develop strategies to motivate and involve their clients/patients in educational interventions.

All Public Health majors take a set of common theoretical courses designed to promote an understanding of health, wellness, and disease prevention. After completing university-required General Education courses, Public Health students complete courses in the core disciplines of public health within the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences as well as courses in other important and related disciplines, such as epidemiology, environmental health, and health services. Students also participate in 300 hours of fieldwork experience in public health agencies, organizations, or other entities to gain invaluable real-world experience in the field.

The Public Health major trains entry-level public health workers to provide frontline preventive health information, services, and health behavior interventions at the community level, particularly in communities with high-risk populations. Majors receive intensive pre-professional training and direct public health work experience through their internship experience available throughout the city of Philadelphia and surrounding area. There are also opportunities to work alongside faculty members in one of the many research labs and centers in the Department. Graduates typically work in voluntary health agencies, public health departments, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, corporate work sites, community health organizations, family planning clinics, and managed-care facilities.

Some graduates also go on to graduate public health programs (Master of Public Health or Master of Science in Epidemiology) or programs in other health-related professions. Eligible students in the Public Health BS Program also can apply for the +1 BS-MPH accelerated program, in which they can earn a Master of Public Health degree at Temple typically in one additional year after completing the BS in Public Health.

+1 Bachelor of Science in Public Health and Master of Public Health Accelerated Program

The College of Public Health has developed a rigorous five-year (4+1) program in which outstanding Public Health majors can earn a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Public Health and a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree in five years, rather than six.

This combined degree program offers exceptional students an opportunity to work closely with faculty, while developing critical skills in public health and completing graduate work for professional careers in research, policy, administration, or real-world public health practice.

The public health curriculum at Temple University is diverse, offering both undergraduate and graduate students access to faculty from a broad range of public health areas. The MPH requirements will be satisfied by the end of the fifth year of study. The accelerated degree program will consist of a minimum of 108 semester hours of undergraduate course work, a maximum of 12 (twelve) semester hours of graduate coursework to count towards both the undergraduate and the graduate degrees, and a minimum of 30 semester hours of additional graduate coursework to count towards the graduate degree.

The +1 Accelerated BS in Public Health/MPH program is currently available with our MPH in Epidemiology (<https://www.temple.edu/academics/degree-programs/epidemiology-mph-hp-epid-mph>), MPH in Health Policy and Management (<https://www.temple.edu/academics/degree-programs/health-policy-and-management-mph-hp-hpam-mph>) and MPH in Social and Behavioral Sciences (<https://www.temple.edu/academics/degree-programs/social-and-behavioral-sciences-mph-hp-sbsc-mph>) programs.

Mission of the Department

The Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences aims to address social and behavioral determinants of health through scientific discovery and the creation of innovative, evidence-based programs and interventions that serve the health needs of diverse, vulnerable, and underserved populations.

Valuing an inclusive environment, we promote healthy communities by training professionals and scholars who will excel in public health research and practice.

The Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences follows the requirements set forth by Temple University regarding General Education. The department has also established additional Core and Cognate requirements for all Public Health majors.

Summary of Requirements

University Requirements

All students are required to complete the university's General Education (GenEd) curriculum.

All Temple students must take a minimum of two writing-intensive courses as part of the major. The specific writing-intensive courses required for this major are SBS 3496 and SBS 3596.

College Requirement

All College of Public Health undergraduates must successfully complete the College Core Course, HRPR 1001 Public Health: The Way We Live, Work and Play.

Clearance Requirements

Please note the Public Health program requires students to complete clinical/field education experiences at facilities both on and off the University campus. These placements may require criminal background checks, Act 33/34 clearances and perhaps a drug screen. Placements may also require the student to maintain personal health insurance. The results of these requirements may limit and potentially eliminate placement options which can, in turn, result in an inability to meet graduation requirements. See www.nchec.org for information about credentialing in public health.

Public Health Program Requirements

Students must complete a set of specific courses in the major, including the College Core course and Public Health Major courses, including one credit-earning internship (SBS 4185). Also required are three public health electives, two Cognate electives and three general (free) electives. The major requires a minimum of 120 total credits.

All Public Health College and Major Core course work (those courses with an ENVH, EPBI, HPM, or SBS designation and courses approved as a cognate elective) must be completed with a grade of C or higher.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
General Electives		
Three courses are required. These may be the choice of the student.		9
College Core Requirement		
HRPR 1001	Public Health: The Way We Live, Work and Play	3
Public Health Major Core		
Lower-Division Public Health Coursework		
1000 Level Courses		
SBS 1003	Public Health Careers	1
HIM 1055	IT Applications for Health	3
Select two of the following:		6
SBS 1104	Nutrition and Health	
SBS 1105	Substance Use and Society	
SBS 1106	Human Sexuality	
2000 Level Courses		
SBS 2001	Biological Foundations of Population Health	3
SBS 2003	Introduction to Public Health Writing	1
SBS 2101	Disease Prevention and Control	3
ENVH 2102	Environmental Health	3
SBS 2103	Health Psychology and Human Behavior	3
SBS 2201	Health Communication	3
HPM 2214	Politics and Payments in US Healthcare System	3
SBS 2216	Ethnicity, Culture and Health	3
EPBI 2219	Biostatistics and Public Health	3

Upper-Division Public Health Coursework

3000+ Level Courses

EPBI 3101	Introduction to Epidemiology	3
EPBI 3102	Introduction to Research Methods	3
SBS 3104	Professional Seminar	2
SBS 3105	Fundamentals of Health Education	3
SBS 3496	Community-Based Health Program Planning I (WI)	3
SBS 3596	Community-Based Health Program Planning II (WI)	3
SBS 4185	Public Health Internship	6

Public Health Electives

Select three of the following: ¹ 9

SBS 1114	Cultural Nutrition	
SBS 1201	Contemporary Health Issues	
SBS 2104	Nutrition in the Lifecycle	
SBS 2203	AIDS and Society	
SBS 2204	Diet and Weight Management	
SBS 2205	Coping with Life Stress Workshop	
SBS 2301	Contemporary Slavery and Public Health	
SBS 2302	Maternal and Child Health	
SBS 2304	HEART Peer Educator Training	
SBS 3001	Community-Based Participatory Research I	
SBS 3103	Counseling Techniques for Health Professionals	
ENVH 1103 or ENVH 1903	International Health Honors International Health	
EPBI 2301	Public Health Beyond Borders	
EPBI 2361	Epidemiology 360: Determinants, Disease and Health-related Outcomes	
EPBI 3203	Applied Survey Methods	
EPBI 3205	Introduction to Statistical Computing	
HPM 2202	Man-Made Disasters: Radiological, Chemical & Biological Terrorism	
HPM 2208	Natural Disasters: Response and Recovery	
HPM 3207	Principles of Emergency Management: A Public Health Perspective	
HPM 3215	Special Populations: Strategic Community Outreach	
HRPR 1005	Introduction to Mindfulness	

Cognate Electives

Select two courses with approval of a departmental academic advisor: 6

AAAS 2248	Public Policy and the Black Community	
AOD 1016	Introduction to Adult Learning and Training	
AOD 1166	Interpersonal Processes through the Life Span	
CDEV 2255	Environmental Justice in Communities	
CDEV 3113	Nonprofit Management	
CDEV 3155	Healthy Community Design and Development	
CJ 3406	Youth and Crime	
CSCD 1002	American Sign Language II	
CSCD 1003	American Sign Language III	
CSCD 2011	American Deaf Culture	
CTRP 2251	Sustainable Food Systems Planning	
EES 2096	Climate Change: Oceans To Atmosphere	
ENST 2051	The Urban Environment	
ENST 2157	Environmental Ethics	
GUS 1021	Urban Society: Race, Class, and Community	
GUS 1025 or GUS 1961	World Urban Patterns Honors World Urban Patterns	

GUS 1961	Honors World Urban Patterns
GUS 3062	Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems
GSWS 3259	Women and Poverty
GSWS 3722	Women and Political Violence
HCM 3502	Healthcare Financing and Information Technology
HCM 4596	Healthcare Quality and Risk Management
HIM 1101	Medical Terminology
HRPR 1101	Contemporary Aspects of Disability
HRPR 1444	Movement Injuries: Prevention and Care
KINS 2203	Physiology of Physical Activity
KINS 2362	
LGBT 2400	Topics in LGBT Studies
PHIL 2157	Environmental Ethics
or PHIL 2957	Honors Environmental Ethics
PHIL 3249	Ethics in Medicine
POLS 3124	Politics of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
PSY 2301	Foundations of Developmental Psychology
REL 2006	Death and Dying
or REL 2996	Honors Death and Dying
SSWU 4302	Emotional Disorders in Children and Adolescents
SSWU 4309	Societal Responses to Aging
SSWU 4312	Loss and Grief
SOC 2553	
SOC 2565	Race, Science, Health, and Medicine
SOC 3249	Social Inequality
SOC 3511	Environmental Sociology: The End of the World as We Know It?
SOC 3525	Urban Health
SPAN 3601	Spanish for Health Professions
RCTH 1102	Inclusive Recreation and Sports Services
RCTH 2103	Foundations of Recreational Therapy Practice
ARBC 1002	Arabic Elements II
CHI 1002	Chinese Elements II
FREN 1003	Introduction to French III
GER 1002	Introduction to German II
HEBR 1002	Elements II
HIN 1002	Hindi Elements II
ITAL 1002	Italian Language II
JPNS 1002	Japanese Elements II
KRN 1002	Korean Elements II
LAT 1002	Latin 2
PORT 1002	Basic II
RUS 1002	First-Year Russian II
SPAN 1003	Intermediate
VTNM 1002	

Total Credit Hours**85**

¹ Additional listings may be obtained from the academic advisor and approved for elective credit.

Suggested Academic Plan

Bachelor of Science in Public Health

Requirements for New Students starting in the 2022-2023 Academic Year

Year 1		Credit Hours
Fall		
ENG 0802, 0812, or 0902	Analytical Reading and Writing [GW]	4
GenEd Breadth Course		3
HRPR 1001	Public Health: The Way We Live, Work and Play	3
HIM 1055	IT Applications for Health	3
Select one of the following 1000 level SBS courses:		3
SBS 1104	Nutrition and Health	
SBS 1105	Substance Use and Society	
SBS 1106	Human Sexuality	
Term Credit Hours		16
Spring		
IH 0851 or 0951	Intellectual Heritage I: The Good Life [GY]	3
GenEd Quantitative Literacy Course [GQ]		4
GenEd Breadth Course		3
SBS 1003	Public Health Careers	1
Select one of the following 1000 level SBS courses:		3
SBS 1104	Nutrition and Health	
SBS 1105	Substance Use and Society	
SBS 1106	Human Sexuality	
ENVH 2102	Environmental Health	3
Term Credit Hours		17
Year 2		
Fall		
IH 0852 or 0952	Intellectual Heritage II: The Common Good [GZ]	3
SBS 2001	Biological Foundations of Population Health	3
SBS 2003	Introduction to Public Health Writing	1
SBS 2201	Health Communication	3
HPM 2214	Politics and Payments in US Healthcare System	3
General Elective		3
Term Credit Hours		16
Spring		
EPBI 2219	Biostatistics and Public Health	3
SBS 2101	Disease Prevention and Control	3
SBS 2103	Health Psychology and Human Behavior	3
SBS 2216	Ethnicity, Culture and Health	3
GenEd Breadth Course		3
Term Credit Hours		15
Year 3		
Fall		
SBS 3105	Fundamentals of Health Education	3
SBS 3496	Community-Based Health Program Planning I [WI]	3
EPBI 3102	Introduction to Research Methods	3
GenEd Breadth Course		3
General Elective		3
Term Credit Hours		15
Spring		
EPBI 3101	Introduction to Epidemiology	3

SBS 3596	Community-Based Health Program Planning II [WI]	3
Public Health Elective		3
Public Health Cognate Elective		3
GenEd Breadth Course		3-4
Term Credit Hours		15-16
Year 4		
Fall		
SBS 3104	Professional Seminar	2
Public Health Elective		3
Public Health Cognate Elective		3
General Elective		3
GenEd Breadth Course		3
Term Credit Hours		14
Spring		
SBS 4185	Public Health Internship	6
GenEd Breadth Course		3
Public Health Elective		3
Term Credit Hours		12
Total Credit Hours:		120-121