

Bachelor of Science in Public Health

Learn more about the Bachelor of Science in Public Health.

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<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 few 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.

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, Cognate Core courses, 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
Cognate Core ¹		
HIM 1055	IT Applications for Health	3
KINS 1223	Human Anatomy and Physiology I ²	3-4
or KINS 1221	Principles of Anatomy and Physiology I	
KINS 1224	Human Anatomy and Physiology II ²	3-4
or KINS 1222	Principles of Anatomy and Physiology II	
CSI 1111	Introduction to Public Speaking	3
HPM 2214	Politics and Payments in US Healthcare System	3
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		
Select two of the following:		6
SBS 1104	Nutrition and Health	
SBS 1105	Society, Drug, and Alcohol Perspectives	
SBS 1106	Human Sexuality	
2000 Level Courses		
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
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: ³		9
SBS 1201	Contemporary Health Issues	
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, Child, and Adolescent Health	
SBS 2304	HEART Peer Educator Training	
SBS 3103	Counseling Techniques for Health Professionals	
ENVH 1103	International Health	
or ENVH 1903	Honors International Health	
HPM 2202	Man-Made Disasters: Radiological, Chemical & Biological Terrorism	

HPM 2208	Natural Disasters: Response and Recovery
HPM 2209	
HPM 3207	Principles of Emergency Management: A Public Health Perspective
HPM 3215	Special Populations: Strategic Community Outreach
Cognate Elective	
Select two courses with approval of a departmental academic advisor	
AOD 1166	Interpersonal Processes through the Life Span
CSCD 1001	American Sign Language I
CSCD 1002	American Sign Language II
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	World Urban Patterns
or GUS 1961	Honors World Urban Patterns
GUS 1961	Honors World Urban Patterns
GUS 3062	Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems
HCM 3502	Healthcare Financing and Information Technology
HCM 4596	Healthcare Quality and Risk Management
HIM 1101	Medical Terminology
HRPR 1101	Contemporary Aspects of Disability
KINS 1444	Movement Injuries: Prevention and Care
KINS 2203	Physiology of Physical Activity
KINS 2362	Introduction to Exercise and Sport Science
LGBT 2400	Topics in LGBT Studies
PHIL 2157	Environmental Ethics
or PHIL 2957	Honors Environmental Ethics
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 3521	Global Health
SOC 3525	Urban Health
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	Vietnamese Elements II

- ¹ Students must successfully pass the Cognate Core courses and general electives with a minimum grade of C- or higher. Students not demonstrating the ability to meet this academic requirement will not be permitted to progress to the upper-division Public Health and related electives in the curriculum.
- ² Students should consult with their advisor for information on the distinctions between Anatomy and Physiology selection sequence and its implication for the degree and career goals. Satisfactory completion of the KINS 1221 and KINS 1222 sequence or the KINS 1223 and KINS 1224 sequence will meet the two-course GenEd Science and Technology requirement. The courses are similar, but not interchangeable, and must be taken in the correct sequence. Students choosing the KINS 1221 and KINS 1222 sequence may need to take an additional 2-credit elective to meet credit hours degree graduation requirement. Please see a departmental advisor for clarification.
- ³ Additional listings may be obtained from the academic advisor and approved for elective credit.

Suggested Academic Plan

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Requirements for New Students starting in the 2020-2021 Academic Year

Year 1		Credit Hours
Fall		
ENG 0802, 0812, or 0902	Analytical Reading and Writing [GW]	4
	GenEd Breadth Course	3
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HRPR 1001	Public Health: The Way We Live, Work and Play	3
	Select one of the following 1000 level SBS courses:	3
SBS 1104	Nutrition and Health	
SBS 1105	Society, Drug, and Alcohol Perspectives	
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
HIM 1055	IT Applications for Health	3
CSI 1111	Introduction to Public Speaking	3
	Select one of the following 1000 level SBS courses:	3
SBS 1104	Nutrition and Health	
SBS 1105	Society, Drug, and Alcohol Perspectives	
SBS 1106	Human Sexuality	
	Term Credit Hours	16
Year 2		
Fall		
KINS 1223 or 1221	Human Anatomy and Physiology I ¹	3-4
SBS 2101	Disease Prevention and Control	3
SBS 2201	Health Communication	3
HPM 2214	Politics and Payments in US Healthcare System	3
IH 0852 or 0952	Intellectual Heritage II: The Common Good [GZ]	3
	Term Credit Hours	16
Spring		
KINS 1224 or 1222	Human Anatomy and Physiology II ¹	3-4
EPBI 2219	Biostatistics and Public Health	3
SBS 2103	Health Psychology and Human Behavior	3
SBS 2216	Ethnicity, Culture and Health	3
ENVH 2102	Environmental Health	3
	Term Credit Hours	16
Year 3		
Fall		
SBS 3496	Community-Based Health Program Planning I [WI]	3

EPBI 3102	Introduction to Research Methods	3
Public Health Elective		3
GenEd Breadth Course		3-4
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
Cognate Elective		3
General Elective		3
Term Credit Hours		15
Year 4		
Fall		
SBS 3104	Professional Seminar	2
SBS 3105	Fundamentals of Health Education	3
Public Health Elective		3
Cognate Elective		3
GenEd Breadth Course		3
Term Credit Hours		14
Spring		
SBS 4185	Public Health Internship	6
GenEd Breadth Course		3
General Elective		3
Term Credit Hours		12
Total Credit Hours:		120

¹ Students should consult with their advisor for information on the distinctions between Anatomy and Physiology selection sequence and its implication for the degree and career goals. Satisfactory completion of KINS 1221 and KINS 1222 sequence or KINS 1223 and KINS 1224 sequence will meet the two-course GenEd Science and Technology requirement. Courses are similar, but not interchangeable and must be taken in the correct sequence. Students choosing KINS 1221 and KINS 1222 sequence may need to take an additional 2-credit elective to meet credit hours degree graduation requirement. Please see your advisor for clarification.