

PUBLIC HEALTH MAJOR

Bachelor of Science Curriculum

Core Curriculum

Public health students must complete the core curriculum that is required of all Fairfield undergraduates, with specific courses required to meet major and core curricular requirements.

Natural and Social Sciences

Students take two semesters of life science courses (Biology and/or Chemistry). Because communication and social sciences form an important part of the foundation for Public Health practice, students also take specific courses in these areas.

Public Health Courses

Classroom instruction in Public health theory begins in the first year and continues throughout the undergraduate program. Public Health courses include theoretical and field requirements. To insure that students obtain the breadth and depth of field experiences needed, the school has associations with a diverse range of health facilities, organizations, and public health departments. Students provide their own transportation to internship experiences, and all costs associated with these placements. Travel, parking, background checks, and health and professional requirements, are the responsibility of the student.

Electives

Free electives in the curriculum provide students with an opportunity to explore topics of interest including the liberal arts and sciences, advanced public health topics, and minor options.

Disability Statement

Consistent with its mission and philosophy, Fairfield University Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies does not discriminate on the basis of disability. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the University will assist students in making reasonable accommodations that allow an otherwise qualified student with a disability to meet essential eligibility requirements in order to participate in its programs. Candidates for the Public Health program must be able to meet minimum standards for internship placement, with or without reasonable accommodations. To receive accommodations on the basis of disability, the student must self-identify, provide documentation of the disability and request accommodations from the Office of Accessibility. The decision regarding appropriate accommodations will be determined on a case-by-case basis. An accommodation will not be made in those situations where the accommodation itself would fundamentally alter the nature of the program, cause hardship on the school, or jeopardize the health or safety of others. For further information refer to the Fairfield University website for "Policies for Students with Disabilities and Temporary Impairments."

Eligibility Requirements

The curricula leading to a degree in Public Health from Fairfield University requires students to possess essential non-academic skills and capabilities necessary for professional practice. It is within the sole determination of Fairfield University and the Egan School to assess and conclude whether a student has these skills and capabilities. Eligibility requirements for participation and completion of the Public Health program shall include, but are not limited to, the following six capabilities:

Critical Thinking

Critical thinking ability sufficient for professional judgement; student must be able to examine, interpret, analyze, and synthesize material for problem solving and evaluation of professional situations and their own performance.

Interpersonal and Communication

Relationship and communication abilities appropriate for interacting sensitively with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of professional, social, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds. Ability to accurately and clearly communicate appropriate information for lay and professional audiences, both orally and in writing.

Sensory Abilities

Ability to observe, identify, and obtain information in order to assess, plan, provide and evaluate public health situations and interventions; student must possess adequate sensory abilities or be able to demonstrate appropriate and safe compensation for deficits.

Motor Skills and Mobility

Sufficient mobility, including the gross and fine motor skills needed to function in professional public health environments.

Emotional Stability

Emotional stability sufficient to function within rapidly changing and often stressful professional environments; the ability to monitor and identify one's own and others' emotions, and use the information to guide thinking and actions.

- Integrity needed to make ethical decisions and honor the professional code of Public Health.
- Ability to adjust and respond appropriately to stressful situations in the classroom or internship setting.
- Ability to develop mature relationships with the other professionals and modify behavior in response to constructive feedback.
- Respect for diversity as well as regard and respect for others.
- Knowledge about and commitment to the values and ethics of the profession.
- Self-awareness and insight with sufficient capacity for self-evaluation and ability to take part in the supervisory process.

Physical Health and Abilities

Physical health and stamina sufficient to function in public health environments.

- Sufficient energy and ability to manage public health responsibilities in a variety of settings for a full internship day.
- Physical health necessary to interact with those who may be immunocompromised, incapacitated, and/or otherwise vulnerable populations.

Standards for Admission and Progression in the Public Health Curriculum

Students are required to successfully complete all core, required courses and internship experiences. By accepting admission in the Egan School, the student understands the program eligibility and progression requirements. Public Health students must follow all University educational policies and general regulations including those regarding academic progress.

Prerequisites

The science and math courses are sequential and are prerequisites to designated Public Health courses. Strong foundational knowledge in the science and math courses is critical to success in the Public Health program. Thus, students may not progress to the next semester with an incomplete in prerequisite courses. Biology, Chemistry, Math, and Public Health courses must be completed successfully with a minimum grade of C (73) for students to progress to the next semester in the course sequence for the Public Health major. The final grade for CHEM 1184 is calculated based from grades for both the lab and theory portion.

Students unable to complete these courses successfully are expected to repeat coursework in the next semester or the summer session immediately following or they will be dismissed from the Egan School. Students who do not obtain a grade of C or better in a prerequisite course (including a repeated course) may repeat the course once. A grade of less than C in three or more prerequisite courses will result in dismissal from the Egan School.

Public Health Courses

Public Health courses are sequential, beginning with foundational courses and progressing to increasing levels of complexity and challenge throughout the program. As students move through the curriculum, new content is integrated and builds upon previously learned material. Thus, all students must earn the minimum grade of C (73) in all Public health courses to progress to the next semester and continue in the program.

Further, students may not progress to the next semester with an incomplete in any Public Health course. Students who do not obtain a grade of C or better in a Public Health course may repeat the course once. A grade of less than C in two Public health courses (including a repeated course) will result in dismissal from the Egan School. The internship component of the Public Health program is graded on a pass/fail basis. Students must pass the theory component. Students who fail to earn the minimum grade in either component of a course must repeat the entire course.

Health and Professional Requirements

Some public health internship agencies and community engaged learning partners may require documentation of professional and health information. This may include: a criminal background check, drug screening, physical examination, and/or proof of immunization or immunity for selected infectious diseases. All Public Health students are expected to comply with all requirements of their internship/ experiential learning agencies. Noncompliance with agency requirements (e.g. vaccination mandates) may result in the student being unable to complete the program requirements for graduation. All costs associated with these requirements including transportation to and from internships are the responsibility of the student. A criminal, drug, or immunization history that prevents a student from entering an internship or experiential learning course may also prevent the student from progressing in the program. Fairfield University and the Egan School have no obligation to refund tuition or otherwise accommodate students in the event that a criminal, drug, or immunization history renders the student ineligible to complete required courses or internships.

Entry into Public Health major after Matriculation

Fairfield University students enrolled in a different major may change their major to Public Health if they have completed at least 12 credits and have earned a minimum GPA of 2.50.

Seamless Progression to Graduate Study
Master of Public Health (MPH)

Graduates of the Bachelor of Science in Public Health will have some requirements of the online Master of Public Health (MPH) program waived and may complete the Master's degree in 15 months or less. The MPH prepares students for a wide range of careers in public health, ensuring that they develop a broad base of knowledge and skills that can be applied to a variety of settings. The curriculum includes intermediate- and advanced-level coursework in epidemiology, biostatistics, program planning and evaluation, and health policy. Like the undergraduate program, the MPH also maintains an emphasis on social justice and interdisciplinary education.

Master of Public Administration (MPA)

Graduates of the Bachelor of Science in Public Health are provided with the opportunity for advanced placement in the Health Track of Fairfield's Master of Public Administration (MPA) program. In as little as sixteen months, students can complete an MPA degree program designed to examine pressing social, ethical, and professional health issues, while developing strong leadership abilities for career advancement. Pursuing advanced coursework in administration and management, students will learn theory, research, and application for future roles in local, state, and federal healthcare organizations. Students are also able to work with dedicated faculty from across the University with a wide range of healthcare backgrounds to tailor their curriculum to their personal, professional, and academic goals.

Requirements

The major in Public Health includes required courses in epidemiology and public health, environmental studies, communication, applied ethics, biostatistics, management, and psychology. These are complemented by related electives and foundational courses in biology and chemistry. In addition, the major requires a four credit public health field internship that may be done locally, elsewhere in the U.S., or in the setting of a developing country.

For a major in Public Health, students will complete the following:

Code	Title	Credits
AETH 2285	Ethics of Health Care	3
BIOL 1076	Environmental Science	3
Choose one life science sequence from the following:		6
BIOL 1107 & BIOL 1108	Human Anatomy and Physiology I and Human Anatomy and Physiology II	
BIOL 1171 & BIOL 1172	General Biology I and General Biology II	
Any two courses from:		
BIOL 1015	Fundamentals of Biology I	
BIOL 1016	Fundamentals of Biology II	
BIOL 1018	Human Biology: Form and Function	
CHEM 1184 or CHEM 1171	General Chemistry for Health Science or General Chemistry I	
Choose one health communication course from the following:		3
COMM 3248	Health Communication	
COMM 3347	Communication in Healthcare Organizations	

COMM 3348	Health Risk Communication	
HLST 3201	Health Communication for Healthcare Professionals	
HLST 3310	Global Health: A Social Justice Perspective	3
MATH 1016	Concepts of Calculus	3
MATH 1017	Elementary Probability and Statistics	3
NURS 1112	Healthcare Delivery Systems	3
NURS 3310	Foundations of Research for Evidence Based Practice	3
PSYC 1010	General Psychology	3
PUBH 1101	Public Health and Social Justice	3
PUBH 1105	Biological Foundations of Public Health	3
PUBH 2201	Public Health, Disease, and Injury	3
PUBH 2216	Introductory Principles of Epidemiology	3
PUBH 2217	Biostatistics for Health Research	3
PUBH 3303	Public Health Program Planning and Evaluation	3
PUBH 3980	Public Health Internship	4
PUBH 4301	Leadership for Interdisciplinary Health Professionals	3
PUBH 4305	Public Health Seminar	3
PUBH 4999	Public Health Capstone	3
Select three Public Health electives from the list below		9
Total Credits		73

Public Health Electives

Code	Title	Credits
AETH 2262	Ethics and the Community	3
AETH 2283	Environmental Justice	3
AETH 2284	Environmental Ethics	3
AETH 2295	Ethics in Law and Society	3
ANTH 1100	Introduction to Four-Field Anthropology	3
ANTH 1210	Biomedical Anthropology	3
ANTH 1510	Anthropology of Food	3
ANTH 3700	Grant Writing for the Social Sciences	3
ANTH 3710	Theory and Practice in Anthropology	3
COMM 1101	Argument and Advocacy	3
COMM 2201	Persuasion	3
COMM 2220	Introduction to Organizational Communication	3
COMM 2240	Intercultural Communication	3
COMM 2242	Alcohol, Addiction, and Culture	3
COMM 3245	Identities, Discourse, and Social Change	3
COMM 3322	Leadership Communication	3
COMM 3325	Organizational Communication and Advertising	3
COMM 3336	Media Infrastructures	3
ECON 2140	Health Economics	3
ECON 3244	Behavioral Economics	3
ECON 3278	Economic Statistics	3
ECON 4380	Econometrics	3
EDUC 3241	Educational Psychology	3
ENGL 1839	Grant and Proposal Writing	3

ENGL 3201	Persuasive Writing	3
HIST 2202	Health and Healing in America, 1650-1980: History of Western Medicine	3
HIST 2270	History of Global Humanitarian Action	3
INTL 1050	People, Places, and Global Issues	3
INTL 2150	International Operations of Non-Profits	3
LCST 3301	Justice and the Developing World	3
MGMT 4370	Managing Non-Profit Organizations	3
MKTG 1101	Principles of Marketing	3
POLI 2109	American Public Policy	3
PSYC 1110	Lifespan Development	3
PSYC 2120	Adult Development and Aging	3
PSYC 2210	Social Psychology	3
PSYC 2310	Psychopathology and Clinical Science	3
PSYC 2330	Gender and Mental Health	3
PUBH 2205	Fundamentals of Nutrition	3
PUBH 2250	Community Nutrition	3
SOCI 2110	Race, Cities, and Poverty	3
SOCI 3600	Methods of Research Design	4
SOCI 3610	Statistics: Social and Political Data Analysis	4

¹ only to be taken by students in Pre-Health Professions program

Plan of Study

The plan of study below presents a typical four year schedule of courses in the program.

All undergraduate students are required to complete the *Magis* Core Curriculum, which is woven into this plan. Please refer to the Curricula section of this undergraduate catalog for detailed explanation of the *Magis* Core.

Course	Title	Credits
First Year		
Fall		
ENGL 1001	Introduction to Rhetoric and Composition	3
MATH 1016	Concepts of Calculus	3
PUBH 1101	Public Health and Social Justice	3
HIST or PHIL or RLST Orientation Tier		3
Language Orientation Tier		3
Credits		15
Spring		
MATH 1017	Elementary Probability and Statistics	3
PUBH 2201	Public Health, Disease, and Injury	3
PUBH 1105	Biological Foundations of Public Health	3
HIST or PHIL or RLST Orientation Tier		3
Free Elective ²		3
Credits		15
Second Year		
Fall		
NURS 1112	Healthcare Delivery Systems	3
PSYC 1010	General Psychology	3

PUBH 2216	Introductory Principles of Epidemiology	3
HIST or PHIL or RLST Exploration Tier		3
Life Science Course ¹		3
Credits		15
Spring		
NURS 3310	Foundations of Research for Evidence Based Practice	3
PUBH 2217	Biostatistics for Health Research	3
Behavioral and Social Science Exploration Tier		3
HIST or PHIL or RLST Exploration Tier		3
Life Science Course ¹		3
Credits		15
Third Year		
Fall		
AETH 2285	Ethics of Health Care	3
BIOL 1076	Environmental Science	3
PUBH 3303	Public Health Program Planning and Evaluation	3
Visual and Performing Arts Exploration Tier		3
Free Elective ²		3
Credits		15
Spring		
HLST 3201	Health Communication for Healthcare Professionals	3
HLST 3310	Global Health: A Social Justice Perspective	3
Literature Exploration Tier		3
Free Elective ²		3
Free Elective		3
Credits		15
Fourth Year		
Fall		
PUBH 4305	Public Health Seminar	3
HLST or PHIL or RLST Exploration Tier		3
Free Elective ²		3
Free Elective		3
Credits		12
Spring		
PUBH 3980	Public Health Internship	4
PUBH 4301	Leadership for Interdisciplinary Health Professionals	3
PUBH 4999	Public Health Capstone	3
Free Elective ²		3
Free Elective		3
Credits		16
Total Credits		118

¹ Students will complete one Life Science sequence from the following:
 BIOL 1107 and BIOL 1108 or BIOL 1171 and BIOL 1172
 or 2 courses from the following:

BIOL 1015, BIOL 1016, BIOL 1018, CHEM 1184 OR CHEM 1171

² At least three electives must be Public Health Electives.