

Bachelor of Science | Major in Public Health

What is a degree in Public Health?

Public health professionals use specialized knowledge and skills in major areas of public health, including epidemiology, behavior science, environmental health, health policy, and biostatistics, to promote population, community, and individual health. Whereas the medical model focuses on diagnosing and treating illnesses, public health aims to protect societal health through programs that focus on disease/injury prevention and health promotion. You can find an overview of the public health profession from the American Public Health Association [here](#).

A public health degree provides opportunities to work in diverse settings, including federal, state, and local public health organizations, private sector businesses, non-governmental organizations (e.g., non-profit, voluntary, professional), as well as hospitals, universities, and schools. In these settings, public health professionals may specialize in chronic or infectious disease prevention, global health, health economics, health communication, aging, food safety, maternal and child health, occupational safety, substance use, women’s health, emergency preparedness, and health equity/disparities, among others. Detailed explanations of major public health areas of study may be found [here](#).

The B.S. in Public Health degree provides coursework and experiential learning in the major areas of public health to prepare students for entry-level public health jobs. Students are also prepared for graduate education opportunities in specialized areas of public health, including epidemiology, behavior science, biostatistics, environmental health, health policy, as well as the previously mentioned specializations. Graduates may also pursue graduate programs in allied health, dental, and medical graduate programs if they meet the additional admission criteria required by these programs.

Will I be able to get a job after graduation?

The public health sector is one of the fastest growing job areas in the U.S., and the U.S. Department of Labor and Statistics predicts a significant increase in national public health jobs over the next 10 years. Texas currently ranks 4th in public health job jobs and growth, and the Texas Workforce Commission predicts job growth in the public health sector in Texas will be significantly greater than the national average.

What are my career options?	Where can I work?
Community Health Program Coordinator	Colleges and Universities
Disease Prevention Specialist	Community Health Organizations
Employee Safety Specialist	Federal Government Agencies
Environmental Science/Health Specialist	Health Clinics
Epidemiologist	Health Foundations
Health and Wellness Program Manager	Healthcare Organizations
Health Program Planner/Evaluator	Home Health Agencies
Health Program Project Manager	Hospitals
Occupational Health Specialist	Private Companies
Public Health Educator	Public Health Departments
Public Health Policy	Schools
Public Health Communications	State Government Agencies
Sanitarian	Voluntary/Nonprofit Organizations
Corporate Wellness Program Manager	Wellness Centers

Public Health Minor Options

Students declared with a Public Health major must choose a minor from the options in the [Undergraduate Catalog](#).

To help with narrowing down options by area of interest, see the department's recommendations below:

Areas of Interest	Available Minor(s)
Epidemiology	Biology Chemistry Geography (<i>focus on GIS coursework</i>) Health Communication Mass Communication Political Communication Public Administration
Health and Wellness Coaching	Coaching Exercise and Sports Science Psychology Recreation and Event Planning Sport Psychology
Other	African American Studies Aging and the Life Course Anthropology Criminal Justice Diversity Studies Geography Latino/a Studies Public Administration Social Work Sociology Women's Studies