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| **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  ***BSPH STUDENT HANDBOOK 2020/2021 ACADEMIC YEAR*** |  |

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**Department of Public Health**

Welcome to Western Kentucky and especially the Department of Public Health. The Department of Public Health offers academic programs which prepare students for a wide variety of health careers. In addition, the department provides a service to the University’s colonnade program through instruction to improve the health knowledge, attitudes and behavior of students. An equally important responsibility is to carry out research and other scholarly activities which provide opportunities for student engagement, maintain the academic strength of the faculty, and expand knowledge in various fields. The department also provides service to multiple agencies, institutions, and organizations in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and across the nation.

The Department of Public Health houses five undergraduate degree programs Environmental Health Science, Healthcare Administration, Health Information Management, Health Sciences and Public Health. Minors offered include: Environmental Health, Global Health Service, Health Education, Health Education & Health Promotion, Healthcare Administration, Occupational Safety & Health, Environmental Studies and Sustainability and Worksite Health Promotion. Certificate programs are: Environmental Health, Health Education & Health Promotion, Health Informatics, Long-Term Care Administration, Occupational Safety & Health, Public Health and Worksite Health Promotion.

There are also 3 graduate programs: Master of Environmental & Occupational Health Science, Master of Healthcare Administration, and the Master of Public Health.

**Bachelor of Science in Public Health** **Program**

**Accreditation**

The Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) program is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health ([CEPH](https://ceph.org/))

**Vision**

To be a regionally and nationally recognized institution contributing to the optimal well-being for all populations.

**Mission**

Prepare highly competent, public health practitioners to enhance the health status and quality of life of diverse populations.

**University Requirements:** Refer to the [WKU Undergraduate Catalog](http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/academic-information/) - Academic Information

**Degree Requirements:** Students must complete a minimum of 120 unduplicated undergraduate semester hours ([WKU Undergraduate Catalog](http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/academic-information/colonnade-requirements/)) for additional information (degree requirements).

**Colonnade Requirements:** Refer to the ([WKU Undergraduate Catalog](http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/academic-information/colonnade-requirements/))

**Residency and Upper Division Hours:** The minimum residence requirement is 25% of the minimum number of semester hours required in the students’ degree program. Students pursuing a baccalaureate degree must take at least 42 hours of upper division coursework. Students pursuing concurrent baccalaureate degrees must take at least 57 hours of upper division coursework.

**Departmental Academic Regulations:** Students who have completed a minimum of 30 semester hours, including the courses required for seeking admission status, with an overall GPA of 2.3 (an overall GPA of 2.5 for Health Care Administration majors), qualify for admission into a program in the Department of Public Health. Students whose grade point average fall below 2.3 for two successive semesters will be dropped from the program. Students who receive a grade below a “C” in two or more courses required in a major or minor will be dropped from the program. A student may be reinstated in the program when the overall grade point average is elevated to at least 2.3 and all courses in which a grade of less than “C” has been earned have been repeated and a grade of “C” or better was earned. Students must have an overall grade point average of at least 2.5 before enrolling in the internship. Grades below “C” in major or minor courses will not be counted toward meeting graduation requirements.

[**Program Description**](https://www.wku.edu/publichealth/documents_public_health/program_description.php)

The Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health ([CEPH](https://ceph.org/)). Graduates are prepared to use their skills in a variety of government agencies, hospitals and other facilities of the health care system, community mental health agencies, employee health programs in business and industry, student health services on college campuses, and many non-profit health agencies and communities. Many students choose to pursue advanced degrees in public health, and this is strongly encouraged.

The BSPH program is guided by the following competencies:

Foundational Domains

Overview of Public Health: Address the history and philosophy of public health as well as its core values, concepts, and functions across the globe and in society

1. Public Health History

2. Public Health Philosophy

3. Core PH Values

4. Core PH Concepts

5. Global Functions of Public Health

6. Societal Functions of Public Health

Role and Importance of Data in Public Health: Address the basic concepts, methods, and tools of public health data collection, use, and analysis and why evidence-based approaches are an essential part of public health practice

7. Basic Concepts of Data Collection

8. Basic Methods of Data Collection

9. Basic Tools of Data Collection

10. Data Usage

11. Data Analysis

12. Evidence-based Approaches

Identifying and Addressing Population Health Challenges: Address the concepts of population health, and the basic processes, approaches, and interventions that identify and address the major health-related needs and concerns of populations

13. Population Health Concepts

14. Introduction to Processes and Approaches to Identify Needs and Concerns of Populations

15. Introduction to Approaches and Interventions to Address Needs and Concerns of Populations

16. Science of Human Health and Disease

17. Health Promotion

18. Health Protection

Determinants of Health: Address the socio-economic, behavioral, biological, environmental, and other factors that impact human health and contribute to health disparities

19. Socio-economic Impacts on Human Health and Health Disparities

20. Behavioral Factors Impacts on Human Health and Health Disparities

21. Biological Factors Impacts on Human Health and Health Disparities

22. Environmental Factors Impacts on Human Health and Health Disparities

Project Implementation: Address the fundamental concepts and features of project implementation, including planning, assessment, and evaluation

23. Introduction to Planning Concepts and Features

24. Introduction to Assessment Concepts and Features

25. Introduction to Evaluation Concepts and Features

Overview of the Health System: Address the fundamental characteristics and organizational structures of the U.S. health system as well as to the differences in systems in other countries

26. Characteristics and Structures of the U.S. Health System

27. Comparative Health Systems

Health Policy, Law, Ethics, and Economics: Address the basic concepts of legal, ethical, economic, and regulatory dimensions of health care and public health policy, and the roles, influences and responsibilities of the different agencies and branches of government

28. Legal dimensions of health care and public health policy

29. Ethical dimensions of health care and public health policy

30. Economical dimensions of health care and public health policy

31. Regulatory dimensions of health care and public health policy

32. Governmental dimensions of health care and public health policy

Health Communications: Address the basic concepts of public health-specific communication, including technical and professional writing and the use of mass media and electronic technology

33. Technical writing

34. Professional writing

35. Use of Mass Media

36. Use of electronic Technology

Cross Cutting Concepts

1. Advocacy for protection and promotion of the public’s health at all levels of society

2. Community dynamics

3. Critical thinking and creativity

4. Cultural contexts in which public health professionals work

5. Ethical decision making as related to self and society

6. Independent work and a personal work ethic

7. Networking

8. Organizational dynamics

9. Professionalism

10. Research methods

11. Systems thinking

12. Teamwork and leadership

**Program Requirements**

The Bachelor of Science in Public Health program consists of a total of 70 credit hours: 30 credit hours, 28 credit hours of other required courses and 12 hours of electives (six hours have to be upper division). Admission requirements into the program are: completion of a minimum of 30 semester hours, including COMM 145, PH 100, PSY 100, BIOL 131 and CHEM 109, with an overall GPA of 2.3. Equivalents of these courses from other accredited institutions will be accepted, but the minimum GPA requirements must be met.

**Pre-seeking admission:** 24 hours including COMM 145, PH 100 and PSY 100 / PSYS 100OR PSY/PSYS 220 OR SOCL 100**;** with an overall GPA of 2.0 or better.

**Public Health Major Requirement**: At least one half of the hours required for the major must be earned in courses numbered 300 and above.

**Program Layout**

**Course Number** **Title** **Hours**

**Core Courses**

PH 261 Foundations of Public Health Education 3

PH 381 Public & Community Health 3

PH 384 Introduction to Epidemiology 3

PH 385 Environmental Health 3

PH 483 Administration of Health Programs 3

PH 484 Community Organization for Health Education 3

PH 485 Fundamentals of Public Health Planning 3

PH 490 Internship 6

**Other Required Courses**

BIOL 131 Human Anatomy & Physiology 4

BIOL 207 & 208 General Microbiology & General Microbiology Lab 4

CHEM 109 Chemistry for the Health Sciences 4

MATH 109, 115 or higher 3

PH 100 Personal Health 3

PH 383 Biostatistics in the Health Sciences 3

SFTY 171 Safety & First Aid 1

COMM 145 Fundamentals of Public Speaking 3

Select **one** of the following: 3

PSY/PSYS 100 Introduction to Psychology OR

PSY/PSYS 220 Introduction to Lifespan Development Psychology OR

SOCL 100 Introductory Sociology

**Electives**

**Select 12 hours of the following courses (6 of these hours must be upper division)**

BIOL 315 Ecology

CHEM 314 Introductory Organic Chemistry

CHEM 330 Quantitative Analysis

ENV 280 Introduction to Environmental Science

ENV 321 Fundamentals of Industrial Hygiene

ENV 323 Fundamentals of Industrial Hygiene Laboratory

ENV 360 Air Pollution

ENV 365 Air Pollution Laboratory

ENV 375 Introduction to Water Resources

ENV 380 Principles of Environmental Toxicology

ENV 410 Water treatment processes

ENV 411 Water Treatment Processes Laboratory

ENV 430 Radiological Health

ENV 460 Environmental Management

ENV 474 Environmental Risk Assessment

ENV 480 Hazardous and Solid Waste Management

ENV 490 Food Safety

GEOG 310 Global Hydrology

AH/HIM 290 Medical Terminology

SFTY 270 General Safety

HMD 211 Human Nutrition

HCA 340 Health care Organization & management

HCA 347 International Comparisons of Health Care Systems

HCA 459 Global Health Service-Learning Practicum

LEAD 200 Introduction to Leadership Studies

LEAD 300 Leadership Theory & Application

LEAD 325 Leading Change

LEAD 330 Leadership Ethics & Decision-Making

PH 365 Human Sexuality

PH 382 Peer Health Education

PH 390 Wellness & Fitness Assessment

PH 402 Worksite Health Promotion

PH 443 Health & Aging

PH 444 Death, Dying & Bereavement

PH 456 Independent Study in Health & Safety

PH 464 Women’s Health

PH 467 Drug Abuse Education

PH 468 Sexuality Education

PS 338 Government & Ethics

SOCL 260 Race & Ethnic Relations

SOCL 270 Introduction to Community, Environment, & Development

SOCL 350 Systems of Social Inequality

SOCL 360 The Community in Rural and Urban Settings

SOCL 362 Social Institutions: Race, Class, and Gender

SOCL 375 Diversity in American Society

SOCL 376 Sociology of Globalization

STAT 330 Introduction to Statistical Software

SWRK 101 Foundations of Human Services

**Total Hours 70**

**Advising**: Students are encouraged to schedule at least one advising appointment with their advisor each semester. Advising can be provided over the phone, email or on Zoom. Remember to schedule your advising appointment early.

**Graduation Requirements:** Students must have completed all degree/program requirements.

**Internship:** Supervised, 400-hour field experience planned with various agencies, organizations, facilities, industries, and businesses with health related missions or programs, and approved by the Department of Public Health. Off-campus travel required, and students are responsible for their own transportation. Note: Permission of instructor is required.

Students will participate in a pre-internship orientation and the agency selection. A portfolio will be submitted at the end of the internship experience.

**Certifications**

CPR/First Aid

Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) – Optional. CHES Examination information can be found at: <https://www.nchec.org/>

**Certificate/Minor Programs**

* Minor, Health Care Administration
* Minor, Health Education
* Minor, Gender and Women’s Studies
* Minor, Gerontology
* Minor, Nutrition
* Minor, Non-Profit Administration
* Minor, Sexuality Studies
* Minor, Sociology
* Minor, Social Work
* Certificate, Environmental Health
* Certificate, Health Education and Promotion
* Certificate, Health Informatics
* Certificate, Long-Term Care Administration
* Certificate, Occupational Health and Safety
* Certificate, Public Health
* Certificate, Worksite Health Promotion

**Student Organizations**

**PHUGAS**

This is the student governance organization for all BSPH and MPH public health students. Students discuss and vote on different things relating to the programs, including policy,

procedure, diversity, inclusion, and curriculum within PHUGAS. Let your voice be heard.

**KPHA**

This organization seeks to promote and create awareness of public health issues both on campus and in our community. Through community partnerships and campus activities, members develop interpersonal and networking skills that will translate into their public health profession. The organization also aims at providing platform for our members to participate in the community and help to make our society a better place to live.