Nebraska Wesleyan University

Public Health (B.S.)

Catalog

2026-2027

Program Description

Public Health is the field of study focused on preventing illness and promoting health in individuals, communities and society as a whole. The Bachelor of Science in Public Health degree is designed to be flexible, and yet provide disciplinary breadth for students interested in an entry-level career or graduate studies in public health. Students will take courses from a core program, and are suggested to select electives which best complement their specific area of interest in Public Health. Additionally, a minor might be recommended for students based on their specific area of interest.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Public Health major is to promote the health of populations locally, nationally and globally through an interdisciplinary education program. This program will ensure that the next generation of public health practitioners, researchers and leaders possess the diverse range of knowledge, skills and values necessary to advance the field the public health.

Learning Outcomes

1. Gain factual knowledge, analyze, and apply concepts in systems and services, biological and environment influences, promotion and protection of health, and policies and legislation.
2. Apply the basic concepts of public health communication, including effective interpersonal, written, and oral presentation skills.
3. Apply knowledge and ethical decision making in an appropriately supervised organizational setting.
4. Engage in diverse and inclusive conversations that demonstrate knowledge of the intersectionality of environmental, social, cultural, economic, behavioral, biological and political factors influencing human health and identify opportunities for change.
5. Demonstrate purpose and contribution in their personal, professional, and civic lives.

3+2 Accelerated Public Health Program

NWU and the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) College of Public Health have partnered to offer an accelerated path to a Master of Public Health (MPH). Through the 3+2 Undergraduate-to-MPH (U2MPH) program, students earn both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in five years, saving time and gaining a competitive edge in the public health field.

How the U2MPH Program Works

NWU undergraduate public health majors may apply to the U2MPH program after completing at least 81 undergraduate credits and earning a minimum GPA of 3.3.

Once admitted, students take up to 18 credit hours of graduate-level MPH courses online during their senior year. These credits apply toward both their NWU bachelor's degree and the 42-credit MPH program.

MPH Concentration Areas

Choose from seven in-demand specialties:

- Biostatistics
- Emergency Preparedness
- Epidemiology
- Environmental and Occupational Health
- Health Promotion
- Maternal and Child Health
- Public Health Administration and Policy

Departments

1. Health and Human Performance (Undergraduate)

Public Health Major (50-54 hours)

Public Health Core	17 hours
HHP 1320 Introduction to Allied Health	1 hour
HHP 2250 The History of Public Health*	3 hours
HHP 3250 Health Services*	3 hours
HHP 4350 Public Health Studies I: Current Topics and Politics*	3 hours
HHP 4450 Public Health Studies II: Demographics, Geo-Spatial Mapping, Qualitative Research*	3 hours
HHP 3990 Professional Engagement	1 hour
HHP 4970 Internship	3 hours
HHP 4990 Senior Capstone	1 hour
Statistics	**3-4 hours**
Choose one: • BUSAD 2100 Business and Economic Statistics • MATH 1300 Statistics • PSYCH 2100 Psychological Statistics • POLSC 2000 Analyzing Politics and Policy	3-4 hours
STEM Area	**15 hours**
CHEM 1110 Chemical Principles I /CHEM 1110L	4 hours
BIO 1400FYW Introduction to Biological Inquiry	4 hours
Additional natural science courses	7 hours
Public Health Electives	**15 hours**
Minimum of 3 hours must come from each area. Remaining elective may come from any area, with a minimum of 6 elective/supporting area credits taken at a 3000/4000 level.	

Public Health Electives	15 hours
Area A: Policies and Systems (select from the following): • ECON 1530 Macroeconomic Principles • ECON 1540 Microeconomic Principles • HHP 2020 Consumer, Community, and Environment Health Issues • HHP 3350 Health Economics* • IDS 1500 Introduction to Global Human Health • POLSC 2720 Environmental Politics • RELIG 2250 Religion, Peace and Social Justice • SOCWK 3450 Health Care Practice	3 hours
Area B: Social and Environmental Health (select from the following): • BIO 4700 Pathophysiology • HHP 1260 Human Health and Wellness • HHP 2030 Human Sexuality • HHP 2040 Stress and Disease Management • HHP 2500 Basic Human Nutrition • HHP 3450 Epidemiology* • NURS 3040 Global Health • PSYCH 2350 Lifespan Development • SOC 2530 Population and Environment • SOC 3220 Thinking SocioLogically: Medical Sociology • SOCWK 2410 Loss, Death and Grief	3 hours
Area C: Health Promotion and Communication (select from the following): • COMM 1510 Intercultural Communication • COMM 2550 Health Communication • COMM 3300 Public Relations • HHP 3100 Worksite Health Promotion • HHP 3550 Health Methods • PSYCH 2450 Health Psychology • PSYCH 3370 Adult Development and Aging • SOCWK 2270 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I • SOCWK 2280 Human Behavior and the Social Environment II	3 hours
Additional Electives: Select 5 hours of additional courses from the list above which may include IDS 1500 Introduction to Global Human Health; HHP 1260 Human Health and Wellness; HHP 2040 Stress and Disease Management; and/or HHP 2500 Basic Human Nutrition	5 hours

*This course is offered remotely via NWU's partnership with a Consortium. The partnership allows students to earn NWU credit for specific courses. Classes are designed by top academics and industry leaders, vetted by NWU, and taught by experts in the field.