

PUBLIC HEALTH, BS

Public health is the science of protecting and improving the health of people and their communities. With a focus on health promotion and disease/injury prevention, the B.S. in Public Health program provides students with foundational public health knowledge and skills that can be applied across a range of settings. The program prepares students to enter the workforce or continue their education into areas such as public health, medical school, or other professional and allied health programs. Graduates of the program are eligible to take the national Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) exam (visit the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. for more information). Students must complete one of the two concentrations offered in the program: Health Education and Promotion or Health Professions.

Health Education and Promotion Concentration:

The Health Education and Promotion concentration is designed for public health majors interested in careers in community, health care, and work-site health promotion among others. Students in this concentration may also be interested in pursuing graduate studies in public health or health promotion (e.g., Master of Public Health) and other related disciplines.

Health Professions Concentration:

The Health Professions concentration is designed for public health majors interested in pursuing undergraduate and/or graduate studies in physical therapy, medicine, dentistry, nursing, and other allied health professions. The concentration allows additional health-related elective courses (as approved by and selected in consultation with the BS in Public Health Program Advisor) to be used towards such program pursuits.

Accelerated Master's Program (AMP):

An Accelerated Master's Program (AMP) in Health Education & Promotion provides students an opportunity to take six predetermined required credits (HHE 586, HES 509) and six approved elective credits that count simultaneously toward the B.S. in Public Health and the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree programs. Students admitted into the program could complete both degrees in five years. Prospective AMP students should consult with the BS in Public Health Program Advisor as early as possible; applications should be submitted prior to completing the junior year. Please visit the UA Graduate School for more information.

Total coursework required for the B.S. in Public Health degree is 120 semester hours, of which 54 must be in the major. Of the 54 hours of coursework in the major, 18 should be completed in one of two concentrations: Health Education and Promotion or Health Professions.

Public Health, BHL		Hours
Major Requirements		
HHE 270	Personal Health	3
HHE 350	Introduction to Public Health	3
HHE 370	Prin/Foundatn Health Promotion	3
HHE 375	Health Behavior Theory	3
HHE 378	Drugs, Society, & Human Behav	3
HHE 380	Pub Hlth Sys Policy	3
HHE 445	Environmental Health	3
HHE 446	Health Disparities	3
HHE 450	Intro Epi Health Ed/Promo	3
HHE 468	Pract Appl Health Comm & Promo	3
Select one of the following:		3

PY 211	Elem Statistical Methods	
BER 345	Educational Statistics	
ST 260	Statistical Data Analysis	
Select one of the following:		3
BSC 108 to BSC 497		
Select one of the following concentrations		18
Total Hours		54

Concentrations

In addition to the public health major requirements (36 credit hours), students must complete either the Health Education and Promotion Concentration (18 credit hours) or the Health Professions Concentration (18 credit hours).

Health Education and Promotion Concentration

Requirements for the Health Education and Promotion Concentration are listed below.

Code and Title	Hours	
HHE 470	Needs Assess and Program Plan	3
HHE 475	Program Evaluation	3
12 hours from the following list:		12
HHE 488	Cap Internship Comm Hlth (Non-AMP students)	
HHE 484	Cap Internship in Comm Hlth (AMP Only)	
HHE 586	Environmental Health Promotion (AMP Only)	
HES 509	Research Methods (AMP only)	
Total Hours		18

Health Professions Concentration

Requirements for the Health Professions Concentration are listed below.

Code and Title	Hours	
HHE 472	Pat Health Ed Cap	3
15 hours from the following health elective list:		15
HHE 280	Understanding Stress Mngt	
HHE 395	Introduction to Global Health	
HHE 475	Program Evaluation	
HHE 480	Culminating Experience in P.H.	
HHE 490	Cert Hlth Ed Specialist Study	
HHE 496	Independent Study	
HHE 586	Environmental Health Promotion (AMP students only)	
HES 509	Research Methods (AMP students only)	
ATR 257	Intro to Athletic Training	
ATR 272	First Aid, Safety & CPR	
BSC 108 to BSC 497		
CH 100 to CH 499		
HD 203	Medical Terminology	
HD 475	Human Sexuality Sex Education	
MATH 113	Precalculus Trigonometry	
MATH 115	Precalc Algebra & Trig	
MATH 125	Calculus I	

NHM 101	Intro Human Nutrition
PH 101	General Physics I
PH 102	General Physics II
PY 352	Developmental Psych
PY 358	Psychopathology

Total Hours **18**

NOTE: Prerequisite courses for allied health undergraduate and/or graduate programs may also be used for the Health Professions Concentration (consult with Public Health Program Advisor). Specific admissions requirements vary; therefore, students preparing to enter allied health programs should consult the catalogs of the schools of their interest early in their undergraduate enrollment in order to be informed of the exact requirements for entrance.

The overall employment outlook for public health graduates regardless of concentration or sub-discipline is strong (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018). The employment of health educators and community health workers, specifically, is projected to grow 16 percent from 2016 to 2026, which is faster than the average for all occupations (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018). Graduates from this program can sit for the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES®) examination. You can find more information on the exam at <https://www.nchec.org/>.

Health education and promotion is a diverse field! Within the six major career sectors for health education specialists, a wide variety of job titles and responsibilities can be found in settings like:

Community Health Education

- Community Health Educator
- Education Program Manager
- Case Manager
- Alcohol Educator
- Family Services Specialist
- Community Outreach Coordinator
- Program Resource Coordinator
- Community Organizer
- Health Education Programmer
- Diabetes Educator

School Health Education

- District Wellness Coordinator
- School Health Educator
- Youth Program Specialist
- Director of Health Promotion
- Head Start Health Specialist
- Health Counselor
- Youth Outreach Coordinator

Business and Non-Profit Health Education

- Health Literacy Program Coordinator
- Clinical Research Specialist / Coordinator
- Wellness Consultant
- Health Coach
- Integrative Health Practitioner
- Corporate Trainer
- Employee Wellness Coordinator
- Worksite Safety Coordinator

- Health Education Director
- Cultural Competency Trainer
- Health Media Director
- Grant Writer
- Health Journalist

Academia and University Health Education

- Adjunct Faculty
- Assistant Professor
- Curriculum Development Specialist
- Health Programs Management Director
- Education Outreach Liaison
- Education Director
- Health Promotion Programmer
- Health and Wellness Coordinator

Government and Health Departments

- Accreditation Coordinator
- Health Officer / Department Planner
- Prevention Specialist
- Health Program Analyst and Advocate
- Program Resource Coordinator
- Public Health Inspector
- Infection Preventionist
- Health Information Specialist
- Epidemiologist
- Environmental Health Educator
- Violence Prevention Program Coordinator

Health Care

- Community Outreach Coordinator
- Health and Wellness Coordinator
- Medical Resource Manager
- Patient Education Director
- Patient Care Coordinator
- Biometric Health Screener
- Nutrition Services Coordinator
- Community Benefits Manager
- Prevention Program Director
- Lactation Consultant
- Cancer Information Specialist

Health Education Specialists in these settings may perform the following duties:

- Deliver and assess health education programs
- Coordination and outreach
- Enrollment and initial health assessments
- Motivate others to initiate behavior change
- Evaluate community health promotion/disease prevention programs
- Communicate/liase with primary care physicians, hospitals and other health care providers
- Plan and administer health education interventions
- Translate medical and health education material for dissemination to client/patient(s).

Learn more about opportunities in this field at the Career Center