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.

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<th>What are my career options?</th>
<th>Where can I work?</th>
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<td>Community Health Program Coordinator</td>
<td>Colleges and Universities</td>
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<td>Disease Prevention Specialist</td>
<td>Community Health Organizations</td>
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<td>Employee Safety Specialist</td>
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<td>Environmental Science/Health Specialist</td>
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<td>Epidemiologist</td>
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<td>Health and Wellness Program Manager</td>
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<td>Health Program Project Manager</td>
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<td>Occupational Health Specialist</td>
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<td>Public Health Educator</td>
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<td>Public Health Communications</td>
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<td>Sanitarian</td>
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<td>Corporate Wellness Program Manager</td>
<td>Wellness Centers</td>
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# Minor Options

Public Health students must choose a minor from the options in the [Undergraduate Catalog](#). The minors below might be special considerations for this degree program.

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<th>Areas of Interest</th>
<th>Available Minor(s)</th>
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| Epidemiology      | Geography (focus on GIS coursework)  
Public Administration  
Political Communication  
International Studies  
Biology |
| Health Disparities Health Equity | Anthropology  
Diversity Studies  
Social Work  
Criminal Justice  
Sociology  
African American Studies  
Latino/a Studies  
Special Education  
Women’s Studies |
| Environmental Health | Biology  
Chemistry |
| Health Communication Social Marketing | Health Communication  
Mass Communication |
| Healthcare Settings (e.g., hospitals, clinics) | Healthcare Administration  
Health Information Management |
| Corporate / Worksite Wellness | Exercise and Sports Science  
Business Administration |
| Public Policy | Political Communication  
Public Administration |
| Older/Elderly Populations | Aging and the Life Course  
Social Work |
| Families and Children | Human Development and Family Sciences  
Social Work |
| Consumer Health | Consumer Affairs  
Family and Consumer Sciences |
| Health and Wellness Recreation Coaching | Recreation Administration  
Exercise and Sports Science  
Coaching  
Psychology  
Sport Psychology |
| Occupational Health (Workplace Safety) | Technology  
Business Administration  
Healthcare Administration |

Consult with your Academic Advisor | Confirm on your Degree Audit | Refer to the appropriate [Undergraduate Catalog](#)