Public Health careers bring attention to health concerns through education, promotion of healthy lifestyles, and research. Public health professionals try to prevent problems from happening or re-occurring by implementing educational programs, developing policies, administering services, regulating health systems and some health professions, and conducting research. Wright State’s College of Science and Mathematics Pre-Health Program offers a minor in Public Health for those students interested in pursuing a career in this path or would like to pair with their degree.

Why choose Public Health?

- Most experts agree that major advances in improvement of health over the next decades will come from broader development and application of population-based prevention programs.
- Greater emphasis is being placed on health promotion and disease prevention as a means to reduce the costs of care.
- More focus is on assuring the safety of communities and worker health and safety. As a result, there is growing demand for experts in environmental health and industrial hygiene.

**EXAMPLES OF PUBLIC HEALTH JOBS**

- Environmental Health Specialist
- Public Health teacher (K-12)
- Public Health professor
- Pharmacist
- Nutritionist
- Food Safety Inspector
- Dental Hygienist
- Doctor
- Nurse
- Lawyer
- Social Worker
- Psychologist
- Biologist
- Epidemiologist
- Public Health Policy Advisor
- Mathematician
- Journalist
- Laboratory Technician
- Paramedic
- Dentist
- Health Program Manager
- Technical Writer

**STARTING SALARY RANGES**

Starting salaries vary depending on which area you decide to pursue.

- Health Services Administration
  - $37,000-$161,000
- Biostatistics
  - $33,000-$63,000
- Epidemiology
  - $38,000-$136,000
- Health Education/Behavioral Science
  - $33,000-$86,000
- Environmental Health
  - $44,000-$143,000
- International Health
  - $31,000-$86,000
- Nutrition
  - $31,000-$70,000
- Public Health Practice/ Management
  - $41,000-$102,000
- Biomedical Laboratory
  - $31,000-$78,000
What Major Should I Choose?

Most Public Health professionals need at least a Master’s degree for career advancement, however for undergraduates, there is no one right major for students. Public Health degrees can be combined with any number of fields of study. Choosing the right major for you depends on what area of Public Health you might be interested in. The minor in public health provides students with a general idea of study and outlook on the career.

What is the focus of Public Health today?

Avian Flu-Vaccine       West Nile Virus
Disaster Preparedness   Chagas Disease
Concern for Terrorism   Smallpox
Violence prevention/Gun control   Obesity
Disparities- Health & Human Rights   MRSA

Finding a Public Health Career that Fits You

Public Health has career options for students interested in any area. For example, students interested in:

- Math and modeling = Epidemiology or Biostatistics
- Science = Environmental Health
- Teaching = Health education
- Politics = Health Policy
- Working with people = Health Admin./Community Health Sciences

Below are some possible career matches based on personality:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Realistic</td>
<td>People who have athletic or mechanical ability, prefer to work with objects, machines, tools, plants or animals, or to be outdoors. (e.g. Public Health Veterinarian)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigative</td>
<td>People who like to observe, learn, investigate, analyze, evaluate or solve problems. (e.g. Epidemiologist, Environmental Health Specialist, Biostatistician, Health Services Researcher)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artistic</td>
<td>People who have artistic, innovating or intuitional abilities and like to work in unstructured situations using their imagination and creativity. (e.g. Health Educator, Public Health Communication Specialist/Writer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>People who like to work with people to enlighten, inform, health, train, or cure them, or are skilled with words. (e.g. Health Educator, Health Promotion Specialist)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enterprising</td>
<td>People who like to work with people, influencing, persuading, performing, leading or managing for organizational goals or economic gain. (e.g. Public Health Policymaker, Public Health Planner)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conventional</td>
<td>People who like to work with data, have clerical or numerical ability, carry out tasks in detail or follow through on others’ instructions. (e.g. Biostatistician, Data Administrator)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Schools and Requirements

There are more than 53 Universities in the United States with accredited Public Health Programs

SOPHAS is the centralized application service for Public Health

Specific requirements vary depending on school but most schools look for:

- High graduate entrance exam scores & GPA
- Career achievement
- Experience
- Effective verbal & written communication

Become a well-rounded student by trying different aspects of public health and get involved in community based projects.

All data & statistics can be found at:
www.whatispublichealth.org
www.asph.org
www.sophas.org

Wright State University
College of Science & Mathematics

For additional information please visit our website:
www.wright.edu/cosm/premed

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