Bachelor of Public Health

This program is for the student seeking a broad-based, scientifically grounded, and professionally-oriented foundation for impacting societal health. Public Health connects populations from an integrated approach of identifying behaviors that affect health and changing these behaviors; education on the science of primary prevention of disease; promoting healthcare equity, quality and accessibility; and advocating for improved healthcare systems. Completion of a Bachelor of Public Health degree prepares students for the public health workforce and equips them to find effective and meaningful solutions to real-world health problems. The College has strong ties to the public health practice community, both regionally and nationally, and provides students with opportunities to engage with professionals across the country. BPH graduates are well-positioned to pursue entry-level positions in community and public health and healthcare, as well as for graduate study in public health and a variety of other health professions. Students enrolled in the BPH should have both a belief in making positive changes and a devotion to making a difference in the health status of communities.

ADMISSION POLICY

Admission to the University as an incoming freshman is sufficient for admission to the Pre-Bachelor of Public Health (pre-BPH) program. Current University students and transfer students must meet the BPH grade-point average (GPA) admission criteria to be admitted as a pre-BPH student. Admission to the pre-BPH program does not guarantee admission to the Bachelor of Public Health (BPH) program. Students may apply to the pre-BPH program at any time. The application is available at: www.uky.edu/publichealth/academics/bachelors-program/admissions

BPH admission is necessary in order to be granted a baccalaureate degree from the College of Public Health. Students who have attained a 2.75 or higher cumulative GPA and have completed all required Premajor Requirements (see below) with a combined GPA of 3.0 or higher will be eligible for admission into the BPH program. To be considered for admission to the BPH program, students must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Completion of all additional premajor required courses with a letter grade of C or higher;
2. Cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher; and
3. Submission of an application form to the College of Public Health prior to the annual application deadline of June 1. The application is available at: www.uky.edu/publichealth/academics/bachelors-program/admissions

Applications to the BPH program are only accepted from February 1 to June 1 each year. All premajor requirements must be complete prior to the start of the following fall semester to be eligible for admission. All applications will be processed after June 1, and applications status will be released to students no later than July 15 of the current academic year.

Accelerated BPH/MPH Dual Degree Program

The College of Public Health offers an Accelerated BPH/MPH Dual Degree Program which provides high achieving students an opportunity to complete both a BPH and MPH degree in five years. In addition to the admission criteria outlined above, students wishing to apply for the accelerated dual degree program must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Admission to BPH program;
2. Cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher;
3. Major GPA of 3.5 or higher;
4. Completion of the GRE; and
5. Submission of an application to the CPH MPH program in accordance with their admissions process and deadlines. Applications are submitted through SOPHAS.org Application criteria is available at: www.uky.edu/publichealth/admissions/how-apply

Applications to the Accelerated Program are only accepted in accordance with the CPH MPH application window. Students should apply for the program in the Fall semester of their third year. Students meeting the minimum criteria for application are not guaranteed a placement in the program as spots are limited. For questions regarding the Accelerated Dual Degree Program, contact:
Students who have a term grade-point average of 2.5 or higher for each semester following placement on academic probation within CPH shall be placed on academic probation.  

4. A student who earns a term GPA of 2.5 or higher for each semester following placement on probation will continue in probationary status until a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher is obtained.

5. A student who is on academic probation within CPH may transfer to other colleges or departments provided the student meets eligibility criteria.

6. A student who has been dismissed from CPH for academic reasons and has remained outside the program for at least a semester and a summer session may petition for reinstatement.

7. A student who has been dismissed for academic reasons and reinstated shall, upon reinstatement, be placed on academic probation.

8. No student will be readmitted to the College via reinstatement request more than twice.

Graduate Programs in Public Health

The College of Public Health offers the following graduate degrees: Master of Public Health, Master of Public Health Administration, Doctor of Public Health, Ph.D. Epidemiology/Biostatistics and a Ph.D. in Gerontology. Additional information may be obtained from the Admissions and Students Affairs office in the College of Public Health and/or from the Graduate School. There is an application deadline for each program and current information can be located on the College Web site at: www.uky.edu/publichealth/

Students who want to earn advanced degrees must be admitted to the University of Kentucky Graduate School, with the exception of the Doctor of Public Health Professional Program. For complete information, students should refer to The Graduate School Bulletin or contact:

Graduate School Admissions  
201 Gillis Building  
University of Kentucky  
Lexington, KY 40506-003  
(859) 257-4613  
fax: (859) 323-5986

www.research.uky.edu/gs/

Student Success

Student success is a priority in the College of Public Health and relies on collaboration between students, faculty and staff. The College looks forward to working with you on a rewarding academic venture. Admitted students are assigned to an advisor within the College. Curriculum plans are determined in the first semester of enrollment and updated each semester. For questions regarding progression through the program, contact:

Marilyn E. Underwood  
Director of Undergraduate Advising  
111 Washington Avenue, Suite 118C  
Lexington, KY 40536-0003  
(859) 218-2064  
email: ukcph@uky.edu

www.uky.edu/publichealth

All students within CPH must adhere to the Health Care Colleges Code of Student Professional Conduct, as well as the UK Student Code of Conduct.

Bachelor of Public Health

UK Core Requirements

See the UK Core section of this Bulletin for the complete UK Core requirements. The courses listed below are (a) recommended by the college, or (b) required courses that also fulfill UK Core areas. Students should work closely with their advisor to complete the UK Core requirements.

1. Intellectual Inquiry in Arts and Creativity

Choose one course from approved list ...................... 3

II. Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities

Choose one course from approved list ...................... 3

III. Intellectual Inquiry in the Social Sciences

CPH 201 Introduction to Public Health ...................... 3

IV. Intellectual Inquiry in the Natural, Physical, and Mathematical Sciences

BIO 103 Basic Ideas of Biology ............................... 3

V. Composition and Communication I

CIS/WRD 110 Composition and Communication I ....... 3

VI. Composition and Communication II

CIS/WRD 111 Composition and Communication II ...... 3

VII. Quantitative Foundations

MA 111 Introduction to Contemporary Mathematics .......... 3

VIII. Statistical Inferential Reasoning

BST 230 Statistical Thinking in Public Health ............. 3

IX. Community, Culture and Citizenship in the USA

GRN 250 Aging in Today’s World ............................ 3

X. Global Dynamics

Choose one course from approved list ...................... 3

UK core hours ................................................. 30

Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement (GCCCR)

CPH 470 Public Health Capstone ................................ 3

Graduation Composition and Communication  
Requirement hours (GCCCR) .................................. 3

Premajor Requirements  

* Note that students may elect to include the following courses in lieu of one of the required UK Core courses:  

Premajor hours .................................................. 18

Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement hours (GCCCR) .................................. 3

Please note that 15 credits of the premajor requirements can be utilized for UK Core hours. A student’s elective credits will vary depending on how many courses are used as UK Core requirements.

Major Requirements  

Required Public Health Courses

* CPH 310 Disease Detectives: Epidemiology in Action .......... 3

CPH 320 Fundamentals of Environmental Health ........... 3

CPH 330 Health Analytics I .................................... 3

CPH 350 Introduction to Health Care Organization and Policy .................................................. 3

CPH 440 Foundations of Health Behavior ........................ 3

CPH 470 Public Health Capstone ................................ 3

CPH 472 Public Health Profession and Practice ............ 3

CPH 476G A Sick World: Global Public Health in the Early 21st Century .......................... 3

Subtotal: Major hours ........................................ 24

Guided Electives

Choose a total of 30 credit hours at the 200-level or above consisting of:

• 6 credit hours – Natural Science Electives

• 9 credit hours – Social Science Electives

• 15 credit hours – Public Health Electives

Subtotal: Guided Electives .................................. 30

NOTE: Students must earn a grade of C or better in all Major Requirements courses.
Electives
Free Electives ............................................................ 18-36

Total Minimum Hours
Required for Degree .............................................. 120

*Course may also be used toward completion of a UK Core requirement.

Curriculum Policies

Students are expected to be familiar with the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Public Health and to confer with their advisor for selecting courses. An effective curriculum requires continuous review to remain current and applicable to changing health needs. This may result in revision of courses and requirements; therefore, there can be no guarantee that course content will be identical in each subsequent academic year.

The BPH Program Learning Outcomes are:

• Demonstrate knowledge of public health from an interdisciplinary perspective.
• Show competency in ethical issues, social responsibility, and problem solving using evidence-based concepts in core public health areas.
• Show competency in relationship-building and team dynamics to plan and promote public health and reduce health disparities.
• Apply theories and concepts to communicate the interconnectedness among the physical, social, and environmental aspects of population health.