Public Health Science

The Public Health Science Bachelor of Science degree is an interdisciplinary program designed to provide students with the educational foundation required to effectively address local, national and global issues within the public health arena. As a collaborative degree involving multiple scholarly disciplines, courses offered by this program may be found under the following acronyms: PHSC, SPHL, HLTH, KNES, EPIB, MIEH and HLSA.

The degree effectively prepares students to pursue exciting careers in allied health, medical, and public health fields as well as post-baccalaureate professional and academic degrees.


Program Objectives

The Public Health Science Bachelor of Science degree is an interdisciplinary program designed to provide students with the educational foundation required to effectively address local, national and global issues within the public health arena.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Discuss the history and philosophy of public health as well as its core values, concepts, and functions across the globe and in society.
2. Use basic public health concepts, methods, and tools for data collection and analysis.
3. Identify the major health-related needs and concerns of populations and formulate basic processes, approaches, and interventions as possible solutions.
4. Describe the underlying science of human health and disease including opportunities for promoting and protecting health across the lifespan.
5. Examine the socio-economic, behavioral, biological, environmental and other factors that impact human health and contribute to health disparities.
6. Demonstrate the fundamental concepts and features of project implementation, including planning, assessment, and evaluation.
7. Compare and contrast the fundamental characteristics and organizational structures of the health systems of the United States and other countries.
8. Characterize the basic concepts of legal, ethical, economic, and regulatory dimensions of health care and public policy.
9. Illustrate the basic concepts of public health specific writing and communication.
10. Interpret and synthesize scientific knowledge to propose evidence-based approaches and solutions to public health problems.

Programs

Major

- Public Health Science: College Park (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/public-health/public-health-science/public-health-science-major/)
- Public Health Science: Shady Grove (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/universities-shady-grove/public-health-science/)

Advising

Academic advising is strongly encouraged. To see specific advising requirements and resources for each campus location, see below:

- Advising Requirements and Resources: College Park (http://sph.umd.edu/department/phs/advising/)
- Advising Requirements and Resources: Shady Grove (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/universities-shady-grove/public-health-science/#advisingtext)

Opportunities

Internships and Research Experiences

Internships and research experiences are strongly encouraged. Students participate in experiences both on and off campus. Public Health Science internship and independent study programs at Shady Grove serve as an example of creative ways to facilitate applying the basic public health sciences in practical settings.

Student Societies and Professional Organizations

Students engaged in Public Health (SEIPH) (https://sph.umd.edu/departments/phs/students-engaged-public-health/) is the student-led service organization for Public Health Science students. With a mission to extend the work of public health to the nearby community, SEIPH identifies pressing public health issues each semester and then organizes activities related to the public health concern.

General Scholarships and Financial Assistance

The Office of Student Financial Aid administers all types of federal, state, and institutional financial assistance programs, and in cooperation with other university offices, participates in the awarding of scholarships to deserving students. For information, go to: https://www.finaid.umd.edu/.

The School of Public Health also provides some scholarships for undergraduate students in need, including the Jerry P. Wrenn Endowed Scholarship, the School of Public Health Student Emergency Scholarship, the SPH Scholarship Fund, and TerpStart Scholarships. To learn more about School of Public Health scholarships, go to: http://sph.umd.edu/content/financing-your-degree (http://sph.umd.edu/content/financing-your-degree/).

Additional information on UMD-related financial resources can be found at http://sph.umd.edu/content/student-resources-and-services (http://sph.umd.edu/content/student-resources-and-services/), by in “Financial/Resource Assistance.”

Public Health Science Scholarships

The Public Health Science Program offers two scholarships specifically for Public Health Science students. These scholarships include the Barbara and Carl Alving Endowed Research Award in Public Health Science and the Whitlark Endowed Scholarship in Public Health Science. More details regarding these scholarships are available at the Public Health Science Scholarships website (https://sph.umd.edu/content/student-resources-and-services/#scholarships).

**Awards and Recognition**

Each spring, the Public Health Science program recognizes a select few exceptional undergraduates at the annual School of Public Health Honors Convocation.