



Program Description

The Department of Public Health prepares students to make meaningful contributions in regional health systems, public health networks, occupational environments, and clinical settings. Through its university and community-based programs that involve a blend of physical, mental, emotional, and social dimensions of learning, the program prepares engaged and knowledgeable individuals to enhance community health and enrich the quality of life.



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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health's mission is to prepare current and aspiring public health and health care professionals to enhance, protect, and preserve population health.

Public Health's vision is to develop healthy, thriving, equitable communities which have the capacity to reduce the threats to public health, address health concerns and maximize wellness.

We believe:

- public resources should be apportioned strategically to maximize health, social capital, and human potential for everyone.
- benefits and costs of collective decisions should be born equally across community members.
- human diversity is an asset for effective collaboration.
- decisions must be based on qualitative and quantitative evidence that is collected and analyzed through sound scientific methodology.
- creative exploration of ideas for enhancing the quality of instruction, research and service will advance opportunities for our constituents.

The study of Public Health incorporates knowledge from such areas as sociology, psychology, chemistry, biological sciences, epidemiology, statistics, health education, health administration, occupational and health and safety.

Public Health offers three undergraduate professional areas of study: Community Health Education, Healthcare Administration, and Occupational Health & Safety, each designed to give students a

well-rounded education in public health, while providing strong preparation in one of these areas. Additionally, the Public Health program will offer a master's degree in Public Health (MPH) with a concentration in Health Promotion, Policy, and Leadership beginning Fall 2020.

Community Health Educators address health issues and concerns related to the public and targeted groups. They assess community needs, coordinate resources, and provide information on health issues to the public to help people make informed decisions about health related behaviors and improve health outcomes of the community.

Healthcare Administrators plan, organize, and coordinate the delivery of health care at hospitals, nursing homes, medical group practices, outpatient clinics, health maintenance organizations, and other health facilities. The tasks are many and varied; responsible for facilities, services, personnel, budgets, programs, and relations with other organizations. The administrator works closely with the institution's governing board and medical staff to develop plans, policies, and procedures, and then ensure that they are carried out.

Occupational Health and Safety Professionals are concerned with the identification, prevention, and control of health and safety hazards in the work environment. Applying principles drawn from health, management, psychology, physics, chemistry, and related fields they focus on preventing "harm to people, property and the work environment."