

# PUBLIC HEALTH BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)



The world needs leaders in public health—those who are committed to social justice—now more than ever.

This new public health BA program—*from Minnesota's only school of public health*—addresses the growing need for public health practitioners who have the skills to address the most pressing health concerns in our diverse communities.

#6

PUBLIC SCHOOL  
OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
IN THE NATION  
(U.S. NEWS &  
WORLD REPORT)

75+

YEARS OF  
DEVELOPING  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
PROFESSIONALS

12,000+

NETWORK OF  
ALUMNI AROUND  
THE GLOBE WHO  
PROVIDE STUDENT  
SUPPORT

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Public health is one of the fastest growing fields in the U.S. and this growth is vital to improving and sustaining a robust public health infrastructure.

Through this public health BA program, students learn from one of the world's premier schools of public health whose experts continuously shape the field through cutting-edge research, innovative learning techniques, and community engagement. To support the interdisciplinary nature of public health, community awareness courses (see below) and electives are offered in partnership with faculty and staff across the University. In addition, students have access to undergraduate research opportunities.

## CURRICULUM

The curriculum provides students with a solid understanding of the pressing public health concerns of the day, and how to address these challenges and influence societal structures that may impact poor health outcomes.

### Students complete at least 45 credits as follows:

- Public health foundation courses (12 credits)
- Community awareness courses (minimum 6 credits)
- Public health survey courses (minimum 6 credits)
- Topic-focused elective courses (minimum 6 credits)
- Public health capstone (3 credits)
- Elective courses (12 credits)

## DESCRIPTION OF COURSE COMPONENTS

**Public Health Foundation Courses:** These five required courses, which include an understanding of the determinants of health in communities, provide students an introduction to the field and are only open to admitted students.

**Community Awareness Courses:** Hands-on community engagement courses that better prepare students for the vital work of working with and for communities.

**Public Health Survey Courses and Topic-Focused Electives:** Provides opportunities to both gain a broad understanding of public health and study specific topics more in-depth.

**Elective Courses:** Students contextualize their public health courses with a wide variety of course options in social science disciplines (or apply credits from the first four semesters of language courses).

**Public Health Capstone:** The capstone broadens our students' knowledge of public health with an integrative learning experience culminating in a written product.

## CAREER OUTCOMES

Over the past two years, there have been dramatic workforce shortages and retirements in public health and more are expected. The Public Health BA program prepares graduates for entry-level positions in the public health workforce with employment at local health departments, not-for-profit agencies, healthcare systems, or standalone research entities. Alternatively, this program is excellent preparation for health-related graduate and professional programs.

Recent national data show that the majority of public health undergraduate program graduates (61%) seek employment directly after graduation, while 30% go directly into a professional or graduate program.

## EXAMPLES OF THE TYPES OF JOBS YOU CAN GET WITH A BA IN PUBLIC HEALTH

- Public health program coordinator
- Public health outreach specialist
- Community health educator
- Research assistant
- Data analyst
- Environmental health technician
- Health communications specialist
- Emergency preparedness coordinator
- Public health policy advisor
- Evaluation specialist

## POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS

Students will be prepared to work in a variety of public health organizations, such as:

- Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)
- HealthPartners
- Allina Health
- Mayo Clinic
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Hennepin County
- Optum
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Hennepin Healthcare
- Local public health agencies (city, county, and tribal)
- University of Minnesota

## ADMISSIONS

### APPLICATION DEADLINE

February 1

### APPLICATION PROCESS

Learn more about eligibility, application requirements, and upcoming information sessions: [z.umn.edu/publichealthba](https://z.umn.edu/publichealthba).

## ADVANTAGES OF THE PROGRAM

**Tailored.** Students learn about the many facets of public health and identify interests early in their career path.

**Network.** Students benefit from a network of more than 12,000 alumni who provide support through mentorships, field experiences, career networking, and employment opportunities.

**Academic excellence.** Students learn and engage in one of the world's premier schools of public health whose experts continuously shape the field through cutting-edge research, innovative learning techniques, and community engagement.

**Comprehensive curriculum.** Students are well-prepared with the academic and experiential background needed to understand, critically evaluate, and impact current and emerging challenges to the health of our global society.

**Practical.** Focused on developing leadership, policy, and data management skills.

## EXPERT FACULTY

Our public health curriculum is created by expert School of Public Health faculty (one profiled below) in partnership with guidance from community partners and our alumni.



**Ruby Nguyen**, SPH associate professor and director of undergraduate studies, focuses on maternal, child, and family health; the effect of the environment on child development; and domestic and sexual violence within families and communities. In 2022, Nguyen was given the Morse-Alumni Distinguished University Teaching Professorship for her outstanding contributions to undergraduate education—the University's highest award for undergraduate educators.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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