

Public Health Career Information

Public Health is the science of protecting and improving the health of families and communities through promotion of healthy lifestyles, research for disease and injury prevention and detection and control of infectious diseases.

Overall, public health is concerned with protecting the health of entire populations. These populations can be as small as a local neighborhood, or as big as an entire country or region of the world.

Public health professionals try to prevent problems from happening or recurring through implementing educational programs, recommending policies, administering services and conducting research – in contrast to clinical professionals like doctors and nurses, who focus primarily on treating individuals after they become sick or injured. Public health also works to limit health disparities. A large part of public health is promoting healthcare equity, quality and accessibility.

JOIN THE PRE-HEALTH LIST-SERV!

<https://lists.lsit.ucsb.edu/listinfo/health>

PRE-HEALTH TEAM INFO

Career Exploration, Admissions, Applications, Interviews, Internship & Volunteer Opportunities

Career Counselor: Monica Ballón-Kalinowski

Location: Career Services Building 599

Monica.ballon-kalinowski@sa.ucsb.edu; For appointments call: (805) 893-4412

Ask about Monica's weekly drop-in hours & for the pre-health peer advisor weekly drop-in hours (both in the CRR)

Visit the Career Resource Room's (CRR) Pre-Health Section for lots of resources including internship opportunities!

Counselor Dr. Stephen Blain

Location: 1117 Cheadle Hall

Make appointments online: <http://www.duels.ucsb.edu/health>

Academic Planning & Course Scheduling

Academic Advisors: Paula Bautista & Scott Kassner

Location: 117 Cheadle Hall

For appointments call (805) 893-2038 or schedule online: <http://www.duels.ucsb.edu/health>

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

1. **Monitor** health status to identify community health problems
2. **Diagnose and investigate** health problems and health hazards in the community
3. **Inform, educate, and empower** populations to create widespread change for improved health issues
4. **Mobilize** community partnerships to identify and solve health problems
5. **Develop** policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
6. **Enforce** laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
7. **Link** people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of healthcare when otherwise unavailable
8. **Assure** a competent public health and personal health care workforce
9. **Evaluate** effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services
10. **Research** for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

CAREER OPTIONS

There are hundreds of career options for public health professionals, below are some of the most popular career areas:

- ✦ **Infectious Disease**
- ✦ **Chronic Disease and Cancer**
- ✦ **Public Safety**
- ✦ **Maternal and Child Health**
- ✦ **Pharmaceuticals and Drug Safety**
- ✦ **Environmental Health and Water Safety**
- ✦ **Occupational Health and Safety**
- ✦ **Food Safety and Nutrition**
- ✦ **Disaster Preparedness and Response**
- ✦ **Health Communication**
- ✦ **Health Disparities, Vulnerable Groups, and At-Risk Populations**

- ✦ **Health Education**
- ✦ **Public Mental Health**
- ✦ **Public Health Law, Regulations, and Policies**
- ✦ **Evaluation, Safety, and Quality**
- ✦ **Non-Profit Organizations**
- ✦ **Public Health Administration and Leadership**
- ✦ **Global Health**

GRADUATE SCHOOL

A degree in Public Health can open the door to all aspects of the public health sector including epidemiology, health education and administration, social and environmental sciences, and statistics. A master's degree typically takes between 1-2 years of school after a bachelor's degree has been obtained. The most common degrees are:

- Master of Public Health (MPH)
- Master of Health Administration (MHA)
- Master of Science (MS)
- Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH)
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
- Doctor of Public Health (DrPH)
- Doctor of Science (ScD)

There are over 20 major fields of study. The five core disciplines are:

- Behavioral Science/Health Education
- Biostatistics
- Environmental Health
- Epidemiology
- Health Services Administration

Master's Degrees: MPH, MHA, MS, MHS

The Master of Public Health (MPH) degree is the most common graduate-level degree awarded by CEPH-accredited schools and programs of public health. The degree is suited for students interested in pursuing a professional career in public health, and is not primarily geared toward teaching or research. Common work environments include hospitals, consulting firms, international agencies, state and federal agencies, health departments, managed care organizations, community-based organizations, among others. Other masters degrees include Master of Health Administration (MHA) which



prepares students for careers in hospital administration, health policy, and health service management. As well, Master of Science (MS) and Master of Health Sciences (MHS), are academic degrees oriented toward students wishing to seek a career in teaching or conducting research at a college or university or other settings. Typically takes between 1-2 years of school after a bachelor's degree has been obtained.

Doctoral Degrees: PhD, ScD, and Dr PH

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in public health is designed to prepare the student for a profession in teaching and research. PhDs and Doctor of Science (ScD) in public health continue their careers teaching at a university, conducting research in a national laboratory, or doing field work with populations across the globe. The Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) degree is an advanced graduate-level degree that focuses, like the MPH, on the professional and practical elements of the field, rather than the academic.

Dual Degree Programs

Graduate schools and programs offer dual degree programs to meet increasing student demand for specialized educational options. A dual degree program is one in which a student enrolls simultaneously in two graduate programs (usually within the same institution), and works towards two graduate degrees. Some graduate programs come together through a formal agreement to design a way for a student to earn the two degrees (one in each program) in an abbreviated period. At other schools and programs students may design their own joint-degree program. Examples of common dual degrees include:

- MPH/MD
- MPH/JD
- MPH/MSN (BSN, MS)
- MPH/MBA
- MPH/MSW
- MPH/PharmD
- MPH/DPT
- MPH/MA
- MPH/MURP

RESOURCES

UCSB CAREER SERVICES PRE-HEALTH SECTION IN THE CAREER RESOURCE ROOM

UCSB CAREER SERVICES LIBRARY (HEALTH PROFESSIONS SECTION)

UCSB CAREER SERVICES HANDOUT HUB:

<http://career.sa.ucsb.edu/resources/handout-hub>

Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health

<http://www.aspph.org/discover/>

ExploreHEALTHCareers.org

http://www.explorehealthcareers.org/en/Field/11/Public_Health

The Pfizer Guide to Careers in Public Health

<http://www.soph.uab.edu/isoph/pfizer/PHCareerGuide.pdf>

PublicHealth.org

<http://www.publichealth.org/careers/>

Public Health ONLINE

<http://www.publichealthonline.org>

CDC Foundation

<http://www.cdcfoundation.org/content/what-public-health>

American Public Health Association

<http://www.apha.org/>

America's Essential Hospitals

<http://www.naph.org/>

Council on Education for Public Health

<http://www.ceph.org/laccredited>

GradSchools.com

<http://www.gradschools.com/>

Petersons.com

<http://www.petersons.com/>