Public Health, B.A.

The Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree provides students with a basic understanding of the five core public health knowledge areas: biostatistics, social and behavioral sciences, epidemiology, health policy and management, and occupational and environmental health sciences. Students will be prepared to enter the workforce or continue their education.

A public health core provides the degree with breadth in the biological, social, economic, quantitative, geographic, and educational components of health and health disparities within and across populations. Students complete a cumulative capstone experience during which they will integrate, apply, and synthesize public health knowledge. As an integral part of their education, students also will be exposed to public health professionals and agencies.

**Requirements**

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in public health requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 62 s.h. of work for the major. Students must have a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major; in all college course work and in all UI courses for the major; in all college course work and in all UI course work; and in all college course work in public health and in all UI public health course work, including any courses administered by the College of Public Health in the Departments of Biostatistics, Community and Behavioral Health, Epidemiology, Health Management and Policy, and Occupational and Environmental Health. Students are required to earn a minimum of 30 s.h. in public health course work at the University of Iowa.

The B.A. with a major in public health requires the following course work.

**College Success Requirement**

All students are required to complete CSI:1600 Success at Iowa during the fall semester; students complete part one before participating in an orientation program. The course is designed to help students successfully transition to college life. The course covers information about online tools that are specific to the University, such as MyUI and Iowa Courses Online (ICON), and also discusses resources for navigating life on campus. Additional content includes financial aid literacy, strategies for making healthy behavior choices, sexual assault awareness and prevention, and the comprehensive transitional survey known as MAP-Works.

**General Education Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RHET:1030</td>
<td>Rhetoric</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL:1200</td>
<td>The Interpretation of Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Languages</td>
<td></td>
<td>0-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Sciences</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative or Formal Reasoning</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical Perspectives</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity and Inclusion</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International and Global Issues</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts</td>
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<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Values and Culture** 3

Students may complete the world languages requirement using one of the following two options. One year of high school language study is generally equivalent to one semester of college language study.

- **Option One**: attain fourth-level proficiency in a single world language, usually by completing four years of that language in high school or four semesters in college or an equivalent combination of high school and college course work; or pass an achievement test or evaluation at fourth-level proficiency.
- **Option Two**: attain second-level proficiency in each of two world languages, usually by completing two years of each language in high school or two semesters of each language in college or an equivalent combination of high school and college course work; or pass achievement tests and/or evaluations at second-level proficiency in each language. Option two does not fulfill the World Languages requirement for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences or qualify students to earn credit under the Furthering Language Incentive Program (FLIP).

Students may count courses taken to fulfill General Education Requirements toward other requirements for the B.A.

**Prerequisites for Admission to the College**

Students who wish to enter the major in public health after declaring the public health interest through the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences must complete the following by the end of the semester in which they apply before they may enter the major:

- completion of at least 12 s.h. at the University of Iowa;
- completion of CPH:1400 Fundamentals of Public Health with a grade of B-minus or higher;
- completion of CPH:1600 Public Health Science: Inquiry and Investigation in Public Health with a grade of B-minus or higher; and
- a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 2.75 in all courses taken at the University of Iowa and in all college-level course work attempted.

**Public Health Core Courses**

Students must complete all of the following (27 s.h.).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPH:1050</td>
<td>College of Public Health Direct Admit Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPH:1400</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPH:1600</td>
<td>Public Health Science: Inquiry and Investigation in Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPH:2050</td>
<td>Second Year Undergraduate Public Health Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPH:2400</td>
<td>The U.S. Health System in a Global Context</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPH:2600</td>
<td>Introduction to Public Health Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPH:3050</td>
<td>Third Year Undergraduate Public Health Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPH:3400</td>
<td>Health, Work, and the Environment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B.A. Requirements

Students complete 21 s.h. as indicated from the following.

### Code Title Hours

**All of these:**

- CPH:1800 Social and Psychological Determinants of Health: Changing Behavior, Improving Health 3
- CPH:3100 Health Economics 3
- CPH:3600 Applied Public Health Methods (section 2) 3
- CPH:3800 Public Health Theories and Society 3
- CPH:3900 Foundations in Public Health Preparedness and Response 3

**Two of these:**

- ANTH:2100 Anthropology and Contemporary World Problems 3
- ANTH:2164 Culture and Healing for Future Health Professionals 3
- COMM:1809 Social Marketing Campaigns 3
- GEOG:3110 Geography of Health 3
- GEOG:4770 Environmental Justice 3
- IS:2000 Introduction to International Studies 3
- JMC:3116 Media and Global Cultures 3
- JMC:3150 Media and Health 3
- PHIL:2402 Introduction to Ethics 3
- POLI:3111 American Public Policy 3
- SOC:1022 Social Justice and Social Welfare in the United States 3
- SOC:2810 Social Inequality 3

### Electives

Students complete a minimum of five College of Public Health courses from the following.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPH:2200</td>
<td>Climageddon: Understanding Climate Change and Associated Impacts on Health</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPH:2220</td>
<td>Building a Healthier Tomorrow: Public Health Methods to Minimize Disease and Pollutant Exposures</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPH:2230</td>
<td>Finding Patient Zero: The Exploration of Infectious Disease Transmission and Pandemic Threats</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPH:2240</td>
<td>Health Disparities and Intersectionality with U.S. Latina/o Peoples</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPH:3200</td>
<td>Death at Work: Case Studies of Workplace Safety and Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPH:3210</td>
<td>Nutrition in Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPH:3220</td>
<td>Public Health as a Public Good: Economics and Decision Making in Public Health Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPH:3230</td>
<td>Human Genetics and Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPH:3240</td>
<td>Global Health Conference</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPH:4200</td>
<td>Agriculture and the Environment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPH:4210</td>
<td>Making a Difference: Public Health Policy and Advocacy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPH:4220</td>
<td>Global Road Safety</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPH:4230</td>
<td>Injury and Violence Prevention</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPH:4250</td>
<td>Field Experiences in Public Health</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Experiential Learning Requirement

Students must successfully complete at least one of these experiences from the following. Second Year Undergraduate Public Health Seminar (CPH:2050) is strongly recommended prior to enrollment in any of these courses. Contact the undergraduate program office for specific details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPH:3999</td>
<td>Undergraduate Research Experience in Public Health</td>
<td>0-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPH:4990</td>
<td>Mentored Independent Undergraduate Research in Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPH:4850</td>
<td>Undergraduate Public Health Internship</td>
<td>0-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPH:4750</td>
<td>Undergraduate Global Learning in Public Health</td>
<td>0-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPH:3750</td>
<td>Undergraduate Service Learning in Public Health</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### B.A./CLAS Undergraduate Degree

Students admitted to or enrolled in the B.A. in public health program may pursue an additional degree in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS). Students pursuing an additional degree outside the College of Public Health are:

- expected to meet all degree requirements, General Education Requirements, and GE CLAS Core requirements for both degree programs;
- required to satisfy the collegiate residence requirements of both colleges;
- assigned two advisors, one in each college; and
assessed tuition for the primary program of study in accordance with the rules of the Registrar’s Office.

Additional considerations:

- Students may be awarded degrees in the two colleges simultaneously or separately without requiring additional course work beyond the degree requirements.
- Current students enrolled in the College of Public Health who want to add a CLAS major should use the Change of College Application found in MyUI.
- Students who wish to discontinue the additional degree program will need to file a Discontinuation of Combined Degree Program form in the collegiate office of the program of study they are dropping.

Students may change majors with either college in the college academic programs office and still remain in the additional degree program.

Combined Programs

B.A./Graduate Degree

Combined undergraduate to graduate programs provide an opportunity for students to earn both their B.A. and a master’s degree in five years by beginning to earn graduate credit during their fourth year of undergraduate study.

Students in the combined programs must complete all requirements for each degree. Students apply for admission to the combined program during their third year as undergraduates and enter the program at the beginning of their fourth year.

Applicants also must apply for admission to the master’s degree program and must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations of the Graduate College. For more information, see Undergrad to Grad (U2G) on the College of Public Health website.

Public health majors intending to pursue the Undergrad to Grad (U2G) combined degree program in public health must complete 120 s.h. Up to 12 s.h. may be earned in graduate credit by the end of a student’s fourth year.

Public health majors must complete all of the following requirements in addition to the 12 s.h. of graduate course work.

Public Health Major Degree Requirements

Course work for the following requirements total approximately 60 s.h.

- public health core courses
- B.A. course work
- public health elective course work
- experiential learning requirement
- General Education Requirement courses

General Electives

- UI (nonmajor) course work to total 120 s.h. by end of the fourth year; this could include up to 12 s.h. of graduate credit in public health course work taken as an undergraduate student

Graduate courses taken during the fourth year do not count toward major requirements (including public health electives) for the undergraduate public health major. However, these semester hours may count as general elective credits needed to complete the 120 s.h. required for a bachelor’s degree.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students majoring in public health have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. To graduate with honors in public health, students must successfully complete all college requirements with a g.p.a. of at least 3.33 in all courses for the major, in all college course work, and in all UI course work.

In addition, students must complete an honors thesis in CPH:4990 Mentored Independent Undergraduate Research in Public Health, where they must write a brief research proposal summarizing background and goals of honors research, defend their research proposal to a honors project faculty member and a honors advisor, conduct research, submit their honors thesis, and conclude with an oral and/or poster presentation.

Outstanding undergraduate students in the college have an opportunity to undertake independent study and to work closely with faculty members. Completion of requirements for honors in the major also will satisfy the experiential learning requirement. Consult the College of Public Health undergraduate program office for more information.

University of Iowa Honors Program

Public health interest students interested in honors study are encouraged to participate in the University of Iowa Honors Program until they are admitted to the College of Public Health. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University’s honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not a requirement for applying to or graduating with honors in the public health major.

Admission

Admission to the Bachelor of Arts program in public health is selective. Students who meet the minimum admission requirements are not guaranteed admission.

Students may be admitted to the College of Public Health either through direct admission or standard admission.

Direct Admission

Direct admission is designed for students applying to the university as first-year students for the fall semester. Applicants who meet the high school course requirements and present an American College Testing (ACT) composite score of 26 or higher or a combined Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) evidence-based reading and writing, and math SAT score of at least 1230 for tests taken after March 1, 2016 or a combined Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) critical reading and math SAT score of at least 1170 for tests taken prior to March 1, 2016; and a high school g.p.a. of at least 3.60 will be strongly considered for direct admission to the college. Applicants who meet course requirements and either the test score or grade-point average requirement also will be considered. Students who are denied direct admission may file an online petition for direct admission to the College of Public Health.
Students granted direct admission to the college are eligible to apply for first-year scholarships. The scholarship application process is competitive and is based on high school record and short essay responses.

First-year students not admitted directly to the College of Public Health may be admitted to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences as a public health interest student.

Transfer student applications are not being accepted at this time for direct admission to the College of Public Health. Transfer students may apply to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences public health interest designation.

**Standard Admission**

University of Iowa students are eligible to apply for standard admission to the College of Public Health, typically after their first year, once they complete prerequisite courses and earn the required grade-point average.

Application deadline for fall admission is February 1. Students should meet the following requirements by the end of the semester in which they apply:

- completion of at least 12 s.h. at the University of Iowa;
- completion of CPH:1400 Fundamentals of Public Health with a grade of B-minus or higher;
- completion of CPH:1600 Public Health Science: Inquiry and Investigation in Public Health with a grade of B-minus or higher; and
- a minimum g.p.a. of 2.75 in all University of Iowa course work and in all college course work.

Students who are denied standard admission may file an online appeal for denial of admission to the College of Public Health if they can provide documentation of extenuating circumstances that affected their academic performance.

**Academic Plans**

**Four-Year Graduation Plan**

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University’s Four-Year Graduation Plan. Courses in the major are those required to complete the major; they may be offered by departments other than the major department.

The Four-Year Graduation Plan applies only to students who are directly admitted to the College of Public Health or students who meet the prerequisites and submit an application for standard admission before the third semester begins (including public health interest students).

**Before the second semester begins:** CPH:1050 College of Public Health Direct Admit Seminar (for direct admits only)

**Before the third semester begins:** CPH:1400 Fundamentals of Public Health, CPH:1600 Public Health Science: Inquiry and Investigation in Public Health, and at least one-quarter of the semester hours required for graduation

**Before the fourth semester begins:** CPH:2050 Second Year Undergraduate Public Health Seminar and CPH:2600 Introduction to Public Health Methods

**Before the fifth semester begins:** one-half of the semester hours required for graduation

**Before the sixth semester begins:** CPH:3050 Third Year Undergraduate Public Health Seminar and CPH:3600 Applied Public Health Methods

**Before the seventh semester begins:** CPH:3700 Methods for Program Implementation and Evaluation and at least three-quarters of the semester hours required for graduation

**Before the eighth semester begins:** all public health core courses, except CPH:4999 Public Health Capstone: Practice of Evidence-Based Public Health, and the experiential learning requirement

**During the eighth semester:** all remaining General Education Requirement courses, enrollment in all remaining course work in the major, including CPH:4999 Public Health Capstone: Practice of Evidence-Based Public Health, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

**Career Advancement**

The B.A. program provides knowledge of the community and behavioral aspects of public health for students interested in working in health education, health communication, public health program development, or public health policy in local, federal, or international governmental or nongovernmental agencies. Students will be prepared for advanced education in the social sciences, communication studies, social and community health, health policy and management, and other fields.