

School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

The **Environmental Health Sciences** major is designed to fulfill all the pre-med course requirements. Graduates of this program are eligible to apply for programs in the health professions, including medicine, dentistry, optometry, osteopathy, podiatry, and veterinary medicine and are also qualified to sit for national certification which will enhance their advancement and employment opportunities.

This major emphasizes recognition, evaluation, and control of environmental health problems. This includes application of basic environmental health principles to problem solving, use of laboratory and quantitative methods to generate and evaluate environmental health data, and use of computer technology to calculate, analyze and display data.

The **Global and Community Health** major educates students in the biologic and behavioral determinants of important public health problems in both developed and developing countries and discuss disease prevention strategies at the levels of communities and populations. Students will learn how knowledge of both the biological sciences and the social sciences (such as economics, psychology, and sociology) can be applied in developing public health policies and in planning, implementing, and managing prevention programs. Specific competencies include:

Describe biologic mechanisms of disease

- Identify the diseases of greatest public health importance in both developed and developing countries and the biologic and behavioral determinants of those diseases
- Describe social and economic forces that influence health-related behavior and health
- Identify different approaches to disease prevention and plan disease prevention strategies
- Understand processes for implementing, managing, monitoring, and evaluating public health programs
- Define policies that can benefit the health of populations

Students who plan to attend medical school should meet with their academic adviser during their first semester to ensure that premed requirements will be met.

The **Health Informatics** major prepares students for a variety of careers within public health, in other health sciences, and in careers outside the health field where quantitative skills are necessary. It appeals to those students who enjoy mathematics and to whom numerical manipulation comes easily. Students develop analytical skills valuable for the solution of a wide variety of problems both within and beyond the health sciences. They learn computer applications related to the acquisition, management, analysis, and dissemination of information. Emphasis is placed on the fundamentals of the scientific method and its historical development, which is applicable across the whole scientific spectrum. Particular emphasis is placed on the evaluation of data with a view to inferring causal relationships among given factors (e.g., cigarette smoking) and health outcomes (e.g., lung cancer).

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The BSPH consists of:

- a minimum of 45 credits in core public health coursework
- a minimum of 40 credits in the liberal arts and sciences and
- a minimum of 9 credits of public health major courses
- 36 credits of major selective and/or open electives, depending on area of major

Candidates for the Bachelor of Science in Public Health degree are required to:

- complete a minimum of 121 credits for the BSPH in Health Informatics or Global and Community Health
- complete a minimum of 125 credits for the BSPH in Environmental Health Sciences
- achieve a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.000 in their public health courses to be considered for the 4+1 degree program

UNDERGRADUATE CORE CURRICULUM/BSPH REQUIREMENT

The undergraduate core curriculum consists of five components as outlined below:

Proficiency Requirements (22 credit hours)

- Foreign Language - 3 courses (12 hours) or demonstrated proficiency (AP or Tulane examination)
- Mathematics: Introductory Calculus (MATH 115 & 116 or MATH 121) or demonstrated proficiency (AP calculus or Tulane examination)
- Writing: ENGL 101 (4 hours), any 119 (writing across the curriculum) course (4 hours) or demonstrated proficiency

Distribution Requirements (18 credit hours)

- Humanities and Fine Arts: two three credit courses
- Natural Sciences and Mathematics - two three credit courses
- Social Sciences - two three credit courses
- Professional Communications – a required course selected from among offerings based on public health major

Basic Core Curriculum (21-22 credit hours)

Students must complete the following undergraduate public health core courses regardless of area of major. All courses are three (3) credit hours except the genetics course which has an optional one (1)-credit laboratory component.

- SPHU 101 Epidemics, Revolutions, and Response: The Historical Development of Public Health
- SPHU 102 The Cell, The Individual, and The Community
- SPHU 201 Disease Ecology and Public Health Concepts
- SPHU 202 Genetics and Human Health (4 credits to include lab)
- SPHU 301 Public Health Systems Design and Decision Analysis
- SPHU 302 Knowledge and Information in the Practice of Public Health
- SPHU 401 Foundation and Formulation of Public Health Policy
- SPHU 406 Senior Seminar or

- SPHU 408 Internship

Advanced Curriculum (15 credit hours)

Beginning in the junior year, students take the six advanced public health core courses as part of their undergraduate experience. These courses also serve as a bridge for those wishing to enter the 4/1 BSPH/MSPH program. The core courses in the graduate public health curriculum include:

- BIOS 603 Introductory Biostatistics
- EPID 603 Epidemiologic Methods I
- ENHS 603 Survey of Environmental Health Sciences
- HSMG 603 Principles of Health Systems Administration and Management
- SPHU 603 Social and Behavioral Aspects of Global Health

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Specialty courses for each of the areas of major are required. A minimum of nine public health credits is offered in each major. The remaining 36 credits vary depending on major. Students should consult their faculty adviser for specifics.

Students must consult with their academic advisors each semester to ensure that all requirements for graduation are being met. While every effort is made to assure accurate advising, it is ultimately the responsibility of the student to be aware of and satisfy all requirements for the degree.

4+1 Program in Public Health - BSPH/MPH

The 4+1 program allows outstanding students to complete the requirements for both undergraduate and master's degrees at the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine in a period of five years. With permission of the deans of undergraduate and graduate admissions at the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, students may opt to study towards the Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) and Master of Public Health (MPH) *or* Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH) degrees simultaneously. Up to 15 credit hours of graduate coursework can be applied towards the undergraduate degree requirements. In such cases, students may fulfill both bachelor's and master's degree requirements in as few as 30 credit hours beyond the BSPH coursework.

Students must apply for the 4+1 program during the first semester of their junior year. Program admission takes effect at the beginning of the student's senior year (i.e., upon completion of 90 credit hours) with formal enrollment in the Graduate Program following receipt of the BSPH and maintenance of a B (3.000) or higher in all graduate program coursework. Students are encouraged to work closely with their academic advisers to ensure that the requirements of the 4+1 program, the BSPH degree, and the MPH or MSPH degree are met.

The general outline of the proposed 4+1 program is as follows:

- Years 1-4 Minimum Total of 121 credit hours.
- Year 5 15 credit hours of advanced public health core courses waived from the undergraduate public health degree.
30 credit hours of additional public health courses taken at the graduate level.
Capstone - an integrative experience is required. The capstone may be a practicum, a research project with thesis, a capstone course, or a comprehensive exam, depending on the program.
Total Public Health Master's Degree 30+15 waived core + Capstone = 45 credit hours.

In order to apply for the 4+1 program, the following materials must be submitted to the Admissions Office in the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine:

- Application and fee
- Career statement essay
- Two letters of recommendation
- Official transcripts
- GRE, MCAT, or GMAT Scores may be required depending on specific department for 4+1 applicants

School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine 's Degrees

The following specializations are available at the master's level:

- Biostatistics-MSPH
- Community Health Sciences-MPH

- Environmental Health Sciences-MPH, MSPH
- Epidemiology
- Health Systems Management-MPH
- International Health and Development-MPH
- Tropical Medicine-MSPH

Admissions

The School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine will admit highly motivated students who have demonstrated an interest and aptitude for public health disciplines. The School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine is particularly receptive to students with superior speaking, writing, and interpersonal communication skills.

To receive an application for admission or transfer admission to the university, contact:

Office of Undergraduate Admission
Tulane University
210 Gibson Hall
New Orleans, LA 70118-5680
504-865-5731
800-873-9283

To receive additional information about public health programs at Tulane, contact:

School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine
Tulane University
Office of Undergraduate Public Health Studies

Downtown Office

1440 Canal Street, Suite 2460
New Orleans, LA 70112
504-988-8876
800-676-5389
www.sph.tulane.edu/bsph

Uptown Office

Alcee Fortier Hall, 201D
New Orleans, LA 70118
504-865-5140

Academic Advising

Students working toward the Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) degree are assigned to an academic adviser at Freshmen Orientation. The academic adviser has expertise in the public health sciences and in answering questions during the initial period of adjustment to the college environment. The academic advisor also offers students information and advice on matters such as selecting appropriate courses, maintaining satisfactory progress, and choosing a major. Contact with the adviser is voluntary and at the initiation of the student. However, students are strongly encouraged to meet with their advisers at least once a semester, for degree progress audits, short and long-term academic program planning, and information on course prerequisites. The role of the advisor is to provide information, and when appropriate offer recommendations. Students have the responsibility for making their own decisions, monitoring their progress toward the baccalaureate degree, and meeting all degree requirements.

Often, students may need to discuss the challenges of balancing their personal and academic life. From the beginning of their college experience, they are encouraged to bring these concerns to their adviser, any faculty member or director of academic affairs for guidance and direction. Such matters are also addressed by other professional services available on campus, such as the Office of Student Affairs and the Educational Resource Center.

CAREER ADVISING

The low student/faculty ratio allows members of the faculty to become acquainted with the majority of students and to advise them informally on academic matters as well as professional and general concerns. First and second-year students often require specific advice on public health as their career choice. The faculty is particularly sensitive and responsive to these needs.

The School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine alumni network is a valuable resource in career advising and facilitation. Our alumni work in public health and a variety of related fields throughout the United States and internationally. These successful professionals often prefer to hire Tulane graduates and are effective contacts for students seeking employment. Public health education is also a great foundation for graduate study in fields such as business, human services, international affairs and law. In addition, with a curriculum that draws from the bench sciences,

humanities, and social sciences, public health has come to be viewed as an appropriate degree for applicants to medical school.

All students are encouraged to read the student handbook/code of student conduct manual for rules and regulations applicable to student affairs, policies and procedures, and rights and responsibilities.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

To be considered for admission to the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, students transferring from another institution must fulfill all Tulane general degree requirements and complete BSPH prerequisite courses for the public health program of choice.

Transfer applications are available from the Office of Undergraduate Admission. Submit applications by June 1 for admission in the fall semester and by November 1 for spring semester entry.

For transfer credit to be awarded, courses should match those offered at Tulane. Students should include course descriptions for all completed coursework, and course syllabi for the public health prerequisite courses. An official transcript of all coursework must be submitted. An admission decision will be made once evaluation of courses is completed.

The following guidelines apply for transfer credit. Credit is not granted for courses with a grade of less than 2.500. Grades on transferred courses are not used to calculate grade-point averages, Dean's List, or honors eligibility. Transfer students are required to take a minimum of 24 semester hours of credit at Tulane University, regardless of the number of credit hours granted for non-Tulane work.

NON- PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENTS

Students enrolled in other divisions at Tulane are welcome to take courses at the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, with approval of their college dean and the course instructor.

CROSS REGISTRATION

The following do not satisfy BSPH degree requirements:

- University College courses not cross-listed with liberal arts and sciences,

- Exercise and Sports Sciences courses,

Courses taken at other area universities and colleges will be treated as transfer work.

BSPH REQUIREMENTS

The basic framework for the curriculum is displayed below, and includes both the path to the BSPH, and the 4+1 degree program.