

HEALTH SCIENCE - PUBLIC HEALTH, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS)

Public Health is a discipline in which professionals deliver health information and health programs for health promotion and disease prevention to populations. Graduates of this program have a broad based background in the field of public health that prepares them for entry level positions in such areas as health promotion, health education, and health data management, along with graduate study in a health-related field.

The Public Health program is very dynamic. Coursework involves service learning experiences within a wide variety of settings. Public Health faculty members conduct on-going research projects in which advanced level students can become involved. Students help professors analyze data and prepare professional conference presentations, which the students actually present under the mentorship of faculty members. Other student activities include the Pennsylvania Public Health Association Collegiate Chapter and the peer health education program run by Slippery Rock University's Student Health Services.

Students are encouraged to take additional coursework or minors in complementary areas of study such as gerontology, information systems, or psychology. The program culminates in a 12-credit internship, which provides hands-on experiences and further insight into career opportunities in public health. Students may select their own internship site or may choose from a database of previously identified sites. Often it is through this internship experience that students discover the branch of public health in which they would like to practice. Students are required to select a major project for their internship experience that demonstrates mastery of entry-level professional skills. Frequently interns remain at their sites as employees following their internships.

Recent graduates have entered positions in state and local health departments, community-based wellness programs, voluntary health agencies such as the American Heart Association or American Cancer Society, federal government health programs, and health insurance companies. Graduates also enter graduate programs in a variety of areas. Many continue their studies to become physician assistants, occupational or physical therapists, nutritionists, and nurses. Others choose to earn a graduate degree in public health.

Upon completion of the Public Health program, students are eligible to sit for the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) examination, which is a national credentialing examination for people who wish to practice health education in a community setting. Today, the CHES credential is often preferred or even required for many community health education positions. Graduates who complete our Public Health program successfully pass the CHES examination at a rate well above the national average.

Program Learning Outcomes

- **Effective Professional Communication:** Communicate with clients in an individual or group setting and with health professionals in a variety of health settings using a combination of communication skills for a clear exchange of ideas and information, listening and comprehending the viewpoints of others, effectively presenting information in oral and written formats and integrating media/technology.

- **Professional Competency:** Use reasoned judgment drawing upon a broad knowledge base from social, behavioral and natural science, education and health to assess, plan, implement, evaluate and coordinate health promotion for individuals and communities.
- **Professional Ethics:** Apply high ethical standards to public health practice with a sensitivity to multicultural traditions, legal issues, and adherence to a code of ethics of professional health organizations.
- **Continual Professional and Personal Development:** Continue personal and professional development in holistic health, including the components of physical, emotional, spiritual, social, environmental and vocational health, through continuing education, advanced study, and participation in professional health organizations

Related Links

Public Health, BS Program Page (<https://www.sru.edu/academics/majors-and-minors/public-health/>)

Public Health Department Page (<https://www.sru.edu/academics/colleges-and-departments/ches/departments/public-health/>)

Professional Licensure/Certification Page (<https://www.sru.edu/students/student-consumer-information/professional-licensures/>)