

PUBLIC HEALTH, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS)

Slippery Rock University's Public Health Program is well known for the quality of its graduates. Public Health majors are successful at continuing on into graduate programs in the field of health science and finding jobs in a variety of health-related professions.

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 graduate study in a health-related field along with entry level positions in such areas as health promotion, health education, and health data management.

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 at Slippery Rock University.

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

1. 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. (UO 1)

2. 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. (UO 2,3,4)

3. 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. (UO 8,9,10)

4. 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. (UO 5,7,9)

RELATED LINKS

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

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

CURRICULUM GUIDE

GPA REQUIREMENT

Major GPA: 2.0 or higher

Overall GPA: 2.0 or higher

Summary*

Code	Title	Hours
	Rock Studies 2 Requirements	42-44
	Major Requirements	60
	Natural Science and Math College-Wide Requirements	0-4
	Electives	12-18

* All undergraduate degree programs require a minimum of 120 credits.

Some courses meet multiple requirements, but are only counted once toward the 120 credit total required to graduate.

ROCK STUDIES 2 REQUIREMENTS

Code	Title	Hours
The Rock		
SUBJ 139	Foundations of Academic Discovery ¹	3
ENGL 102	Critical Writing	3
ENGL 104	Critical Reading	3
STAT 152	Elementary Statistics	3
Select one of the following:		3
COMM 200	Civil Discourse: Theory & Practice	
PHIL 110	Ethics and Civil Discourse	
POLI 235	Civil Discourse and Democracy	
Subtotal		15

Integrated Inquiry

Creative and Aesthetic Inquiry

Select 3 Credits (<https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/>) 3

Humanities Inquiry		
Select 3 Credits (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/)		3
Social Science Inquiry		
Select 3 Credits (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/)		3
Natural Sciences Inquiry		
Select one of the following:		3-4
BIOL 110	The Human Body: Fundamentals of Structure and Physiology	
BIOL 209	Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology I with Laboratory	
Physical Sciences Inquiry		
Select one of the following:		3-4
CHEM 107 & CHEM 111	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry I Lab	
PHYS 201	Elements of Physics I with Lab	
SCI 102	Understanding the Physical World	
Subtotal		15-17
Thematic Thread		
Select 12 Credits (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/) ²		12
Total Hours		42-44

¹ Course offered in multiple subjects; cannot take course in first major subject.

² One course from each category; six credits must be 300-level or above; no more than 4 credits from one subject area; specific courses required in first major, regardless of prefix of course, cannot be used to satisfy thread requirements; any course with same prefix as first major cannot be used to satisfy thread requirements, even if it is not a course in the first major.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION REQUIREMENT

Students must take and pass a course with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) designation prior to graduation. Students can meet this requirement by taking any DEI - designated course in any program at any time during their undergraduate career.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

- 30 major credits must be taken at SRU or PASSHE
- 30 major credits must be taken at the 300 level or above

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses in Public Health		
HLTH 103	Health and Behavior Change ¹	3
HLTH 104	Introduction to Public Health ¹	3
HLTH 204	Public Health Education and Communication ¹	3
HLTH 209	Foundations of Disease in Public Health ¹	3
HLTH 310	Environmental Health ¹	3
HLTH 313	Biostatistics ¹	3
HLTH 321	Advanced Disease Prevention in Public Health ¹	3
HLTH 322	Public Health Research Methods and Data Management ¹	3

HLTH 323	Social Determinants of Health ¹	3
HLTH 324	Epidemiology ¹	3
HLTH 406	Program Planning and Evaluation ¹	3
HLTH 407	Fundamentals of Public Health Policy and Management ¹	3
HLTH 411	Global Health ¹	3
HLTH 440	Public Health Seminar ¹	3
Subtotal		42
Required Internship		
HLTH 450	Internship ¹	6
Subtotal		6
Required Course outside of Major Department		
BIOL 210	Medical Microbiology with Lab ¹	3
Subtotal		3
Supporting Coursework:		
Select three courses from the list below:		9
GERT 265	Aging and the Older Person ²	
GERT 414	Death and Dying ²	
HLTH 211	Women's Health Issues ²	
HLTH 314	Nutrition and Health ²	
HLTH 316	Human Sexuality ²	
HLTH 408	Public Health Administration ²	
Subtotal		9
Total Hours		60

¹ Course counts for 50% of Major requirements and Major GPA

² Course counts for 50% of Major requirements but not for Major GPA

* Some courses may require pre-requisites. Please see course descriptions to determine if there are any pre-requisites for that specific course.

NATURAL SCIENCE AND MATH COLLEGE-WIDE REQUIREMENTS

Code	Title	Hours
Complete one of the following BIOL courses		3-4
BIOL 110	The Human Body: Fundamentals of Structure and Physiology	
BIOL 209	Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology I with Laboratory	
Complete one of the following CHEM courses (CHEM 111 is required if completing CHEM 107):		3-4
CHEM 107 & CHEM 111	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry I Lab	
or CHEM 104	Introduction Chemistry I	
STAT 152	Elementary Statistics	3
Total Hours		9-11

CO-CURRICULAR AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Students are encouraged to explore additional curricular and co-curricular opportunities. There is a strong correlation between long-term student success and participation in the following types of programs and activities:

1. Conference attendance
2. Service-Learning
3. Internships
4. Career Education
5. Peer Education Opportunities

Important Curriculum Guide Notes

This Curriculum Guide is provided to help SRU students and prospective students better understand their intended major curriculum. Enrolled SRU students should note that the My Rock Audit may place already-earned and/or in progress courses in different, yet valid, curriculum categories. Enrolled SRU students should use the My Rock Audit Report and materials and information provided by their faculty advisers to ensure accurate progress towards degree completion. *The information on this guide is current as of the date listed. Students are responsible for curriculum requirements at the time of enrollment at the University.*

PASSHE - Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Institutions

HEALTH SCIENCE - PUBLIC HEALTH (4010)/CIM 234

This program is effective as of Summer 2026

Revised 05.12.2026

UCC 02.10.2026

RECOMMENDED FOUR-YEAR PLAN

Course	Title	Hours
First Year		
Fall		
HLTH 103	Health and Behavior Change	3
CHEM 104	Introduction Chemistry I	3
ENGL 102	Critical Writing	3
ESAP 101	FYRST Seminar *	1
SUBJ 139	Foundations of Academic Discovery ¹	3
Hours		13
Spring		
ENGL 104	Critical Reading	3
SCI 102	Understanding the Physical World	3
Creative & Aesthetic Inquiry (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/)		3
Humanities Inquiry (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/)		3
Hours		12
Second Year		
Fall		
HLTH 104	Introduction to Public Health	3
BIOL 110	The Human Body: Fundamentals of Structure and Physiology	3
STAT 152	Elementary Statistics	3
Select one of the following:		3
COMM 200	Civil Discourse: Theory & Practice	
PHIL 110	Ethics and Civil Discourse	
POLI 235	Civil Discourse and Democracy	
Thematic Thread Requirement (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/)		3
Declare a Thematic Thread ²		
Hours		15

Spring

HLTH 204	Public Health Education and Communication	3
Thematic Thread Requirement (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/)		3
Thematic Thread Requirement - 300+ Level (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/)		3
Thematic Thread Requirement - 300+ Level (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/)		3
Social Science Inquiry (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/)		3

Hours 15

Third Year

Fall

HLTH 209	Foundations of Disease in Public Health	3
HLTH 322	Public Health Research Methods and Data Management	3
HLTH 314	Nutrition and Health	3
BIOL 210	Medical Microbiology with Lab	3

Hours 12

Spring

HLTH 310	Environmental Health	3
HLTH 313	Biostatistics	3
HLTH 411	Global Health	3
Public Health Supporting Course		3

Hours 12

Fourth Year

Fall

HLTH 406	Program Planning and Evaluation	3
Public Health Supporting Course		3
Electives		9

Hours 15

Winter

Potential On-line Winter Courses

International Health		
Hours		0

Spring

HLTH 324	Epidemiology	3
HLTH 440	Public Health Seminar	3
Public Health Supporting Course		3
Electives		5

Hours 14

Summer

HLTH 450	Internship	12
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Potential On-line Summer Courses

HLTH 211	Women's Health Issues	
HLTH 411	Global Health	

Hours 12

Total Hours 120**

¹ Course offered in multiple subjects; cannot take course in first major subject.

² Work with your Academic Adviser to declare a Thematic Thread by the end of your fall semester in your second year.

* Students are encouraged to take ESAP 101 as a Free Elective.

***This document serves as a guide. Earning a degree requires at least 120 credits, though some majors require more. Before registering for courses, consult your academic adviser and review your curriculum guide. Be sure to review and confirm your plan with your adviser at least once each academic year.*

Major Code: 6266

Revised: 09.24.2025