



Public Health

Department of Health and Human Development
<https://chss.wvu.edu/hhd/public-health>
Carver 182, Mail Stop 9067
Bellingham, WA 98225-9067

Public Health Major Application

Thank you for your interest in majoring in Public Health. The major is nationally recognized through the *Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)*, and the curriculum is based on the skills and competencies identified by the *National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. (NCHEC)*. The intensive and project-based curriculum requires regular and frequent work outside of class time (evenings and weekends). Students who are accepted into the major begin the 400-level *NCHEC* skills-based classes the fall quarter after they are accepted into the major. Accepted majors continue through the sequenced curriculum as a cohort. Please note your application does not guarantee acceptance to the major.

Please email this form and all requested application materials to Jen Leita at Jen.Leita@wwu.edu before April 7, 2023, at 5:00 pm. Combine ALL application materials into ONE pdf document (excluding reference letters).

Decisions regarding acceptance are made prior to fall quarter registration.

General Information:

Name:

Pronouns:

Student Number:

WWU Email:

@wwu.edu

Personal email:

Local address (street, city, zip):

Phone number:

Academic Progress:

Students are eligible to apply to the Public Health major once they have completed the following requirements, so please describe your academic progress accordingly:

- Successfully declared a Public Health Pre-major: Yes No
- Completed at least 75 undergraduate college credits OR an approval to apply from Jen Leita: Yes No
- Completion or concurrent enrollment in two of the following courses:
 - Math 114 Yes and grade No Quarter planning to complete:
 - Math 240 Yes and grade No Quarter planning to complete:
 - CHEM 161 Yes and grade No Quarter planning to complete:

***Students who have not yet satisfied these requirements should meet with Advisor Jen Leita for support in class planning and not which quarters they plan to complete these classes to ensure their progress through the major curriculum.*

- Completion or concurrent enrollment in at least one of the following courses:
 - HLED 150 Yes and grade No
 - HLED 151 Yes and grade No
 - HLED 152 Yes and grade No
 - HLED 350 Yes and grade No
 - HLED 455 Yes and grade No

Concentration Declaration:

Below, please indicate your choice of concentration. This will dictate only the *last two* courses of your coursework (the majority of the coursework will be the same). See the Concentration Description in the appendix for information on each concentration.

Choose ONE:

Behavioral & Community Health (BCH)

Global & Population Health (GPH)

Please read and initial each of the following:

_____ I understand that the major is selective and that my application *does not* guarantee acceptance.

_____ I understand that if I am accepted, I will be involved in group projects and will need to be available to meet with classmates frequently and regularly outside of class time, particularly in the evenings and on weekends.

_____ I understand that a full-time internship (10 weeks, 400 hours) is required the summer quarter after I complete my coursework and that I will plan ahead for this financially. (Check with Financial Aid Office if relevant.)

_____ I understand that I must earn a C or higher in all required courses in the major.

_____ I understand that it is my responsibility to contact my major advisor **immediately** if my GPA drops below a 2.50 or I earn a grade lower than a C in a required course.

_____ I understand that if I do not meet these agreements, I will be dismissed from the program.

NOTE: Typing your name in the following signature field constitutes an electronic signature

_____ (Signature)

Date

Application materials:

Please check off to indicate that you have included the following materials in ONE pdf document compiled in this order:

- _____ 1. Application Form with all information completed and concentration declared
- _____ 2. Current résumé: Education, volunteer and/or work experience, awards, certifications
- _____ 3. An essay that explains 1) why you are interested in majoring in Public Health, 2) what you see yourself doing in 2-5 years, and 3) a description of your experience with community service/volunteer work, highlighting health-related activities. (The essay is to be no longer than 3 typed double-spaced pages, 12-point font. Please make sure your name is at the top of the page. We highly recommended that you use the Hacherl Research & Writing Studio for guidance and/or editing: <https://library.wvu.edu/rws>)
- _____ 4. Copies of transcripts from all colleges attended, including WWU (these can be unofficial copies/academic histories)

AND (not included in the application pdf document):

- _____ Two letters of reference that speak directly to:
 - 1) Your experience (work or volunteer) in public health related activities;
 - 2) Your motivation, leadership, initiative, and interpersonal skills; and
 - 3) What makes you a strong candidate for training to be a member of the public health education profession. Letters of reference from family and friends are *not* accepted. ***Your letters of reference must be emailed directly from your reference to Jen Leita at Jen.Leita@wvu.edu.**

Appendix: Public Health Cohort Concentration Descriptions

The majority of Public Health students' coursework will be completed as an entire cohort. However, during the last two quarters of coursework, PH students will choose a concentration, either Global and Population Health or Behavioral and Community Health, which will split the cohort for two classes.

Global and Population Health (GPH)

This concentration comprises 1) HLED 445 Epidemiology II: Epidemiology Methods and 2) HLED 449 Ecology of Infectious Disease in the two final quarters of coursework. These courses focus on understanding social and biological determinants of disease risk, emergence and distribution in populations. Students in this concentration will collaborate with their colleagues in two, quarter-long small group projects: designing an epidemiological study (from literature review to data collection processes and analysis) and creating an appropriate response to an assigned emerging infectious disease threat.

Behavioral and Community Health (BCH)

This concentration comprises 1) HLED 425 Program Planning and Implementation and 2) HLED 435 Health Communication & Social Marketing in the two final quarters of coursework. These courses focus on health intervention and education, community engagement, and health promotion programming & implementation. Students in this concentration will collaborate with their colleagues in two, quarter-long small group projects: planning a health program (from literature review to evaluation and sustainability plan) and creating a social marketing campaign for a community partner.

It is important to note that a concentration is simply a focus of two courses at the end of a student's major coursework. It may not necessarily limit job options after graduation, as both concentrations will graduate with the same degree (B.S. Public Health) and will undergo almost identical training. For example, students who choose the GPH concentration can still pursue education and community-based positions and BCH students can still pursue epidemiology and disease focused positions.

To Declare a Concentration:

PH students will declare a concentration on their major application form.

If it becomes necessary to switch the concentration, students must complete the concentration change process which involves writing a 1-page justification essay in addition to meeting with the PH faculty to seek approval. Switching the concentration must be approved before the Fall quarter of the senior year. It is not guaranteed a change will be approved so it is recommended that students choose their concentration carefully when applying to the program.