



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 12, 2024, at 5:00 pm. Combine ALL application materials into ONE pdf document.

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:

- 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:
 - BIOL 101/205 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.*

Please use the space below or attach a separate word file in your application submission to share why you are interested in majoring in Public Health. Feel free to include any of the following in your response (500 words or less):

- Areas of interest within public health: Global health, infectious disease, health equity, reproductive health, etc.
- What you see yourself doing in 2-5 years and how you see a Public Health degree fitting in
- Life experience that has influenced your desire to major in Public Health
- Any community service or volunteer work in health-related activities

Please read before declaring concentration at the end of the application

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.

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).

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 may be dismissed from the program.

I have submitted a current résumé as part of my application that may include any of the following: Education, volunteer and/or work experience, awards, certifications.

I have submitted copies of transcripts from all colleges attended, including WWU (these can be unofficial copies/academic histories) as part of my major application

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

_____ (Signature)

Date