



College of Public Health

Office of Academic Affairs

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

The UGA College of Public Health offers a range of degree options for undergraduates interested in developing the skills and foundational knowledge needed to pursue a career in the field of public health.

Students can explore introductory course work through one of five undergraduate [minors](#), earn a [certificate](#) in a specialized public health field, or seek a complete undergraduate degree in either [Environmental Health](#) or [Health Promotion](#). Undergraduate students interested in earning advanced degree in public health can also take advantage our [dual degree – Bachelor’s/Master of Public Health – opportunities](#).

Undergraduate Majors in Public Health

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Health

The Environmental Health major is a rigorous, science based, applied curriculum that prepares students for careers in environmental fields. The degree can also be used as a step to an advanced degree in many fields including environmental health, industrial hygiene, toxicology, public health, epidemiology, ecology and environmental engineering, and will satisfy entrance requirements for professional degree programs such as medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry, optometry and pharmacy. The degree program is nationally accredited and is the only undergraduate Environmental Health degree in the state of Georgia.

Bachelor of Science in Health Promotion

Health promotion improves the health status of individuals, families, communities, states and the nation. The need for individuals who can plan, implement, and evaluate health promotion programs is crucial. Students enrolled in the Health Promotion major, administered by the College’s Department of Health Promotion & Behavior, gain the skills necessary to assess individual and community needs; plan, implement, and evaluate health education programs; write grants; develop social marketing and mass media campaigns aimed at promoting health; as well as organize and mobilize communities for action.

Undergraduate Minors & Certificates in Public Health

The College of Public Health offers five minors to complement most major programs of study. Minors must contain 15 hours of coursework in a secondary area of interest.

Health Policy and Management: Students with training in health policy & management have employment options in such institutions as local, state or federal health agencies, health services research and policy organizations, health care delivery organizations, non-profit humanitarian enterprises, insurance, pharmaceutical or medical device enterprises.

Global Health: This minor, offered within the College's Global Health Institute, provides students with a better understanding of the concept of "global health" and how by its nature, holds significant health implications for all individuals. Students enrolled in the minor increase their understanding of the global character of health problems, examine multi-disciplinary approaches to solving global health problems, and develop knowledge that will assist in advocacy for the promotion of the solution of global health problems.

*Also available as a certificate, application required for admission.

Public Health: Through the minor in Public Health, students are introduced to a wide range of issues in areas of public health such as biostatistics, epidemiology, health policy, health promotion, and environmental health. The minor also provides a strong foundation in public health in preparation for professional schools including: law school, medical school, physician assistant school, allied health professional school, public health and health services school. *Not open to students in Public Health.*

Environmental Health Science: Students enrolled in the Environmental Health Science Minor study how biological, chemical and physical agents, either occurring naturally or introduced into the environment, affect human health and the environment. Course work in the field can provide a strong foundation for student seeking advanced degrees and careers not only in environmental health science, but industrial hygiene, toxicology, public health, epidemiology, ecology and environmental engineering. *Not open to Environmental Health majors.*

Disaster Management: The Undergraduate Minor in Disaster Management, offered by the College of Public Health's Institute for Disaster Management, provides a strong foundation in introducing concepts in disaster management and the study of disasters from a social and scientific perspective. It includes courses on the societal impacts and causes of natural and man-made hazards, as well as equips students to engage in both applied and scholarly work in emergency management.

*Also available as a certificate.

Contact us for more information!

cphadm@uga.edu

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Health

The environmental health major curriculum involves multiple scientific fields of study. The first two years are spent taking basic and advanced courses in biology, chemistry, physics, math, and microbiology, in addition to other UGA core requirements. During the junior and senior years, students take applied environmental health science courses in such areas as air, water and noise pollution; solid and hazardous waste management; environmental toxicology; industrial hygiene; food microbiology; epidemiology; and public health law. Students have considerable freedom in choosing additional courses of special interest (Major Electives). Students may choose courses among offerings from the Environmental Health Science (EHS) Department and a variety of other departments to focus on a specialty area, including Industrial Hygiene, Environmental Protection or Public Health.

Permanent and adjunct faculty members, rather than graduate students, teach the upper division courses in the EHS Department. Many of the EHS classes have a lecture format and are typically small in size (less than 30 and up to 50 students), while other classes have a small discussion group format and 10 to 20 students.

Students have the opportunity to earn course credit by participating in research projects with EHS faculty and can present their findings to peers and other faculty by participating in the Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities. Students are eligible for competitive funding for research projects through the Undergraduate Research Initiative.

EHS students gain practical experience and problem solving skills through internships and co-ops, which are an integral part of the EHS degree program at UGA.

Areas of Emphasis in Environmental Health

Public Health Practitioner Emphasis

The Public Health Practitioner (PHP) Emphasis includes coursework that prepares students for jobs in the field as industrial hygienists, environmental health specialists, public health workers, and safety inspectors. Students can find employment at universities, public health departments, and at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- [Public Health Practitioner Program of Study](#) (Sample)

Advanced Science & Pre-Med Emphasis

The Advanced Science and Pre-Med (ASP) Emphasis includes coursework that prepares students for graduate level work or professional school. Examples might include pre-master's of science, pre-PhD, pre-medical, pre-dental, pre-pharmacy or pre-law.

- [Advanced Science & Pre-Med Program of Study](#) (Sample)

Bachelor of Science in Health Promotion

Health promotion is a behavioral social science that draws from biological, environmental, psychological, physical, and medical sciences. Health promotion is the process of enabling people to increase control over and improve their health. It moves beyond a focus on individual behavior towards a wide range of social and environmental interventions.

Is the BSHP Right for You?

Are you concerned about the health of others and your community? Would you like to be an advocate for healthy living? Would you like to learn how behavior affects health? Do you like to work with other people? Are you interested in why people behave the way they do? Do you like to come up with creative solutions to complex problems? If you answered *YES* to any of these questions, a degree in Health Promotion may be right for you!

What Will You Learn?

Students are trained to develop, implement, and evaluate programs designed to help individuals, institutions, and communities develop strategies to improve health knowledge, attitudes, skills and behavior. Students utilize theories of behavior change, constructs of social marketing, and community-based research strategies to develop and evaluate programs. Health policy and epidemiological solutions to health problems are also considered.

Health promotion specialists work to improve health status of individuals, groups, communities and the nation and enhance the quality of life for all people. By focusing on prevention, health promotion reduces financial and human costs of illness and premature death.

Areas of Emphasis in Health Promotion

Health Promotion Emphasis

The health promotion area of emphasis prepares students for health promotion and wellness positions in public, community, worksite, and health care setting, as well as for graduate level work in public health. This also work for pre-nursing or pre-OT students.

- [Health Promotion Program of Study](#) (PDF)

Health Services Emphasis

The health services area of emphasis prepares students for graduate level work with an emphasis on disease prevention and wellness. Graduate work may include pre-physician assistant, pre-medical or pre-dental, or other professional health services programs.

- [Health Services Program of Study](#) (PDF)

Behavioral Medicine Emphasis

The behavioral medicine area of emphasis prepares students for medical programs with an emphasis on disease prevention and community health.

- [Behavioral Medicine Program of Study](#) (PDF)

Health Promotion Admission Requirements

Standards for admission to the Bachelor of Science in Health Promotion (B.S.H.P.) degree program at the College of Public Health are the same as those for those admitted to the University.

The following grade point average (GPA) will apply:

- All external transfer students must have a minimum overall GPA of at least 2.7 for acceptance to the major of Health Promotion.
- All transfers within the University must have a minimum overall GPA of at least 2.7 for acceptance to the major of Health Promotion.
- All students who are intended in the major of Health Promotion must have a minimum 2.7 overall GPA in order to declare the major. Admission requirements may be reviewed on the UGA bulletin.
- The Behavioral Medicine area of emphasis within the major will require a 3.5 GPA for acceptance. Students not making the minimum GPA may declare the Health Services area of emphasis.

Entrance Criteria:

- Overall grade point average (GPA) minimum of 2.7. Behavioral Medicine students must maintain a 3.5 GPA. Student must be in Good Standing.
- Completion of General Education Areas I-VI (one core course in areas I-V may be finished after admission)
- GPA in General Education Area I (Foundation skills) minimum of 2.7
- GPA in General Education Area II (Sciences) minimum of 2.7
- GPA in General Education Area VI (Courses related to program of study) minimum of 2.7 and no grade less than C (2.0). The area VI requirements are:
 - HPRB 1710
 - BIOS 2010
 - COMM 1110 (HP or HS Emphasis)
 - CBIO 2200/L (HP or HS Emphasis)
 - CBIO 2210/L (HP or HS Emphasis)
 - PHYS 1111-L or 1211-L (BHM Emphasis)
 - PHYS 1112-L or 1212-L (BHM Emphasis)
 - CHEM 1212/L or 1312H (BHM Emphasis)
- You must also complete the following University requirements
 - Federal Constitution
 - Georgia Constitution
 - U.S. and Georgia History
 - **NOTE: These requirements do not need to be complete at the time of application, but must be completed by the end of the semester of application.**

Course pre-requisites to note:

- BIOS 2010 or STAT 2000 is the pre-requisite for BIOS 3000
- HPRB 3020S is the pre-requisite for HPRB 3700
- HPRB 5410W or 5410E is the pre-requisite for HPRB 5010 and a co-requisite for HPRB 3700

Special requirements once admitted into the major:

- Minimum GPA to graduate: A grade of C or better is required for all courses included in the Major Requirements, including major electives.
- Undergraduate Portfolio: It is recommended that all HPRB students compile and maintain a portfolio documenting and exhibiting work or experiences gained throughout the undergraduate program including the practicums and field experiences. A culminating e-portfolio is required for the capstone (HRPB 5900).
- Required Field Experience (HPRB 5560): The student, with the cooperation of the Department of Health Promotion and Behavior's Practicum or Field Experience Coordinator, is responsible for arranging their own practicums and professional field experiences. Please note that, paid field experiences should not be expected. While paid experiences can be found, they are rare. See Field Experience Section for more information.
- First Aid/CPR Certification: A student must be certified in First Aid and CPR prior to the internship or Practicum C. This requirement may be fulfilled through American Red Cross or American Heart Association classes. Online classes may not be used to meet this requirement.
- Field Experience Application Deadline: Application for HPRB 5560 (Field Experience) must be completed by the midterm of the semester preceding the anticipated field experience. For example, a student that expects to do a field experience in Summer Semester should have completed an application by the mid-term of Spring Semester. Field Experience materials are available from the Field Experience Coordinator.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What if I miss the application deadline?

No late applications are accepted. Students who miss the deadline will need to apply at the next opportunity.

Can I apply if I am completing one or more of the required courses in the term in which I am applying?

Yes, you can be completing courses in the term you are applying. Grades from those courses will be added to your application once grades are posted for the term.

I am a transfer student. When can I apply?

Upon acceptance to the University, a transfer student is welcome to contact the Academic Office to determine if you have already completed the required courses. If you have or will have the courses completed in the term prior to transfer to UGA, a transfer student may submit an application.

I completed some of the required courses via Advanced Placement. How does that impact my application?

The University does not attach a grade to courses awarded via Advanced Placement or similar credit options. With no grade, these courses have a neutral impact on the GPA's calculated as part of the review process.

What happens during the application process?

We will review your grades in both required General Education and Major Specific courses as well as your essay. Grades for your most recent semester are generally available the week after final exams. Following this review, a decision on your application will be communicated to you via e-mail from the College of Public Health Advising Office.

How do I declare a major in environmental health or health promotion?

Currently enrolled students who would like to declare a major in environmental health or an *intended* major in health promotion should login to [Athena](#). From Athena's "My Programs" tab, you will be able to add/delete majors, emphasis areas, minors, and certificates.

- When adding the Environmental Health major, please choose one of two areas of emphasis (advanced science/pre-med or public health practitioner).
- When adding the *intended* Health Promotion major, please choose one of three areas of emphasis (behavioral medicine, health promotion or health services). Please note, [an application](#) is required for admittance into the Health Promotion major.

How do I add a certificate or minor?

Login to [Athena](#). From Athena's "My Programs" tab, you will be able to add/delete majors, emphasis areas, minors, and certificates.

Click to learn more:

- [Certificates](#)
- [Minors](#)

Where are CPH advisement offices located?

The offices of our CPH advisors are located in the Ramsey Student Center on Main Campus and Wright Hall on the Health Sciences Campus. Please reference the CPH Advising Center contact list for office locations.

Contact Information

For more information about any College of Public Health programs, please utilize the contact information listed below.

[Kirsten Clark](#), Academic Advisor

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305 Ramsey Center
706-542-4380 (office)

[Caitlin Dye](#), Academic Advisor

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306 Ramsey Center
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[Kathryn Pollett](#), Academic Advisor

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