



Public health is the science and art of promoting and protecting the health of people and the communities where they live, work, and play. Public health practitioners, educators, and researchers work to prevent disease, prolong life, and promote health at the community and population level. Conversely, in the medical field, clinicians focus on treating illnesses and injuries one patient at a time. Schools of public health offer graduate programs in at least all five core areas of public health. These core areas of public health include:

- Biostatistics
- Environmental Health Sciences
- Epidemiology
- Health Policy and Management
- Social and Behavioral Sciences

The Pre-Public Health Program prepares students to pursue a Master's Degree in Public Health (MPH) at more than 100 accredited programs across the country, including the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Creighton University. Students interested in pursuing a master's degree or graduate program in public health must have successfully completed a bachelor's degree. Therefore, students pursuing a pre-public health curriculum are expected to choose a major so that they can be working towards a bachelor's degree concurrently with the pre-public health program. Given the interdisciplinary nature of public health, a wide variety of majors provide appropriate preparation. A Minor in Public Health is available at UNK and can complement any major. The minor is not required as part of the Pre-Public Health Program but will provide a strong foundation of public health-related coursework.

#### **Requirements for Graduate Education in Public Health:**

Students should consult each school of public health they plan to apply to determine if there is specific coursework required for admission. These requirements may vary widely by degree type and/or concentration. Concentration areas that are quantitative in nature typically require specific math and science courses in areas such as statistics, calculus, biology, chemistry, and physics. Students should consult with their public health advisor regarding graduate admission requirements based on concentration area of interest.

#### **Recommended Courses:**

While many public health graduate programs do not have specific prerequisites, the following courses may assist students in gaining a background in public health areas of study. This is not an all-inclusive list, as many other classes also exist that have relevant information for public health. Some of these classes may have prerequisites. Please consult your pre-public health advisor for recommendations based on your area(s) of interest.

#### **Take all of the following:**

HSCI 140	Introduction to Public Health (3 hours)
BIOL 110	Introduction of Epidemiology (3 hours)
HSCI 320	Global Health (3 hours)
MGT 450	Population Health Management: Systems & Policies (3 hours)

**Take one of the following:**

BIOL 305	Biostatistics (3 hours)
STAT 241	Elementary Statistics (3 hours)
PSY 250	Behavioral Statistics (3 hours)
MGT 233	Business Statistics (3 hours)

**Other Recommended Electives:****Biostatistics**

MATH 115	Calculus I with Analytic Geometry (5 hours)
MATH 202	Calculus II with Analytic Geometry (5 hours)
MATH 260	Calculus III (5 hours)
MATH 305	Differential Equations (3 hours)

**Environmental and Occupational Health**

BIOL 102	Environmental Biology (3 hours)
CHEM 148	Introductory Chemistry for the Health Sciences (4 hours)
GEOG 305	Environmental Conservation (3 hours)

**Epidemiology**

BIOL 211	Human Microbiology (4 hours)
BIOL 440	Infectious Disease (3 hours)
GEOG 418	Working with GIScience (3 hours)

**Health Promotion**

PE 108	Nutrition (3 hours)
PE 150	Healthy, Wealthy, and Wise
PE 329	Introduction to Health Promotion (3 hours)
PSY 440	Health Psychology (3 hours)
SOC 275	Social Psychology (3 hours)
SOC 462	Sociology of Health and Illness (3 hours)
SOWK 170	Introduction to Social Welfare (3 hours)
SPCH 435	Introduction to Health Communications (3 hours)

**Maternal and Child Health**

FAMS 150	Lifespan Development and the Family (3 hours)
FAMS 351	Marriage and Family Relationships (3 hours)
FAMS 481	Cross-Cultural Family Patterns (3 hours)

**Public Health Administration and Policy**

ECON 410 Health Care Economics (3 hours)  
MGT 355 Organizational Behavior (3 hours)  
MGT 380 Human Resource Management (3 hours)  
MGT 409 Leadership: Skills, Applications, Research (3 hours)  
MKT 336 Services Marketing (3 hours)

**Additional Electives**

HIST 110 History of Science and Medicine (3 hours)  
HIST 305 History of Global Health (3 hours)  
PHYS 203 Physics for Allied Health (4 hours)  
SPAN 103 Spanish for Special Purpose – Medical Professionals (3 hours)

**Additional Information:**

Undergraduate Credit Required	Bachelor's Degree
Entrance Exam	GRE is not required at UNMC; may be required at other public health programs
Local Professional Schools	UNMC – Certificate, Master's, and/or Doctorate; Creighton University, Master's
Professional Schooling Required	1-6 years: 1-2 years for a certificate; 2 years for a Master's; 5-6 years for a Doctorate
GPA Requirement	3.0 minimum
Professional Organization Website	apha.org (American Public Health Association); aspgh.org (Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health); publichealthne.org (Public Health Association of Nebraska – PHAN)

**Beyond Academics:**

Pre-Public Health students are encouraged to participate in experiences, such as leadership roles, volunteer work, research, and shadowing, which will help them prepare for public health school and the various professions in public health. Activities outside the classroom play a significant role in a student's application to a professional school program. Such experiences demonstrate a commitment to and knowledge about the profession. In particular, working or volunteering at a hospital/clinic, health department, health related organizations, or non-profit involved in public health advocacy or policy would be helpful to learn about the different professions in public health. Students pursuing a career in public health should recognize how these professions differ from a clinical practitioner like a physician, nurse, etc.

**Application and Admission:**

For admission to UNMC College of Public Health's MPH or PhD programs, students must apply through the centralized application process – SOPHAS. Information on SOPHAS can be found at <https://sophas.org>. Students pursuing an MS in Emergency Preparedness or any of the Certificate Programs apply directly to UNMC for admission. Detailed information on this process can be located at <http://unmc.edu/publichealth/admissions/index.html>. Applicants will be assessed on the following: review grade point average, recommendations (when appropriate), knowledge of profession, service, and leadership experience. Interviews are part of the application process for doctoral level programs.

**3+2 PROGRAM WITH UNMC COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Students in the Pre-Public Health Program may consider applying for the 3+2 Master's in Public Health (MPH). This program is a collaborative program between UNK and the UNMC College of Public Health that allows students committed to public health to receive a Bachelor's Degree in Applied Health Sciences from UNK and an MPH from UNMC in 5 years and a reduced cost than completing both degrees separately (141 credit hours vs 162 credit hours). Any major can be chosen for the 3+2 Program. Students will work with their [Public Health Advisor](#) to develop an integrated plan of study to best prepare for graduate school and career interests. For more information, please contact your Pre-Public Health advisor.

**Additional Resources:**

**UNMC College of Public Health** 402-552-9867 [coph@unmc.edu](mailto:coph@unmc.edu) <http://unmc.edu/publichealth/>

**Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health (ASPPH)** <http://www.aspph.org/>