

Bachelor of Science in Public Health

Public Health (BSPH)

Webpage: <http://www.odu.edu/commhealth/academics/undergraduate>
(<http://www.odu.edu/commhealth/academics/undergraduate/>)

Program Email: [bsph@odu.edu (<http://outlook.odu.edu>)]

Program Director: Dr. Elizabeth A. Brown

Graduates of the Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) will possess knowledge and skills necessary to prevent disease, prolong life, and promote health. Graduates will also have the skills to be leaders in their community where they can showcase their ability to describe data related to social determinants of health, determine interventions needed for various communities, and demonstrate the ability to collect, manage, and analyze data. Graduates will be able to serve as leaders in the various capacities at the local, state, or federal level. Students will have skills valuable to health departments, non-profit organizations, hospitals, and even the military. Graduates may consider furthering their education with a Master of Public Health while others may pursue clinical programs (e.g., medicine, nursing, or physician assistant), occupational therapy, physical therapy, dental hygiene, etc.

The curriculum for the Public Health major incorporates rigorous coursework in epidemiology and biostatistics, social and behavioral aspects of health, the United States healthcare delivery system, healthcare ethics, the natural sciences, health policy, and environmental health issues, among other areas. The program also provides students with courses in basic research methods necessary for assessment, analysis, communication, research, problem solving, and critical thinking abilities in the emerging emphasis on evidence-based health care and public health. Students will have the opportunity to gain practical public health exposure and mentoring in clinical, research, or community settings.

The Bachelor of Science in Public Health is available in a hybrid format with some courses offered online and some in person. The program can also be completed fully online to increase flexibility for students.

Admission to the Bachelor of Science in Public Health Program

1. ODU students who have completed all prerequisite courses with a C or better and meet the minimum cumulative GPA (2.00) requirement are admitted to the Bachelor of Science in Public Health program. Transfer students may complete the prerequisite courses at another college or university but are responsible for having a transfer credit evaluation completed by the transfer evaluation unit in the Office of Admissions to determine that transfer courses are equivalent and acceptable to Old Dominion University requirements. Admission is conducted on a rolling basis. Students who have met all program admissions requirements will be referred by their advisor in the Health Sciences Advising Center/ODU Online Health Sciences advisor to the program director for major declaration, program admission, and assignment to a program advisor. For additional information on the curriculum or admission requirements, please contact: Program Director (bsph@odu.edu (<http://outlook.odu.edu>)) or College of Health Sciences Advising Center (hsadvising@odu.edu (<http://www.odu.edu/hs/advising/>)).
2. Students must be accepted to the program before enrolling in any 400-level required course.
3. For non-native English speakers, a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of 550 on the paper-based test (or 79-80 on the iBT) is required.

Continuance and Readmission Policy

In addition to the Old Dominion University continuance policies in this catalog, the following policies are specific to all declared majors in the BSPH Program:

1. A grade of C (2.00) or better is required in all BSPH courses to continue in the program.
2. A student who earns a grade of D or F in any course required by the major will not be considered in good academic standing in the major.
3. A cumulative grade point average of 2.00 or better is required to continue in the BSPH program.
4. A BSPH student who fails a BSPH course and is readmitted to the BSPH program is allowed to repeat the failed course only once during the next course offering.
5. A student who leaves the major and is readmitted may be required to take additional course work prior to or concurrent with readmission.
6. A student may be readmitted to the BSPH major only once.

Internship (Capstone Experience)

The internship (capstone experience) PUBH 468 is a three-credit course that serves as the capstone experience for students pursuing the Bachelor of Science in Public Health. The internship is a planned, supervised, and evaluated 200-hour experience under the direction of the internship coordinator. (Note: Students enrolled in the linked BSPH to MPH program are required to perform 120 hours as those students take graduate-level courses and are required to complete an Applied Practice Experience/practicum in the graduate program.) The policies, guidelines, and processes followed by the coordinator and students are delineated in the Internship Manual provided to students when they enroll in the program. The internship provides the opportunity for students to integrate their academic work into experiential learning to gain additional experience in the field or community of the student's choice. The experience will allow a student to gain basic job entry or advanced skills by working with experienced public health or healthcare professionals in a public or private organization. Students may select the internship site, or they may seek guidance from faculty about possible sites.

Students may be eligible for internship upon senior standing in the major (at least 90 credits) and completion of all required prerequisites. Senior standing is imperative for success in the internship course as the foundational skills and concepts are achieved during the span of entire coursework at ODU. Internships must be sought and undertaken in an organization, agency, department, or community that provides planning and/or services that are relevant to the core areas of public health. Any student who plans to organize an internship without the appropriate foundation may be at a disadvantage in the organizations in which internships are undertaken. All public health students will complete an internship related to public health. The internship experience and corresponding internship course both address the relevance of developing skills and competencies as required for the future of public health practitioners.

As part of the course assessment, students are required to develop an electronic portfolio (ePortfolio). The ePortfolio is a collection of work completed by the student during the internship and can be used to present the student's "professional" or digital self to others. In addition to submitting an ePortfolio, students must submit a comprehensive attendance record that covers the entire internship period.

Students who have five or more years of supervisory or management experience in a public health field can apply for a Prior Learning ePortfolio Challenge, which could replace the internship course. A cover letter and resume will be required for initial review. Please contact the BSPH internship coordinator to discuss this option.

Some internship sites may require the student to complete a criminal background check and/or proof of vaccination status prior to beginning the internship.

Students who do not pass the internship in the first attempt will have the opportunity to repeat the course one additional time. If they are unsuccessful on their final attempt, they will be unable to earn the Bachelor of Science in Public Health.

Requirements

Lower-Division General Education

Written Communication (http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#written)	6
Oral Communication (http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#oral)	3
Mathematics (http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#math)	3
Language and Culture (http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#language)	0-6
Information Literacy and Research (http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#information)	3
Human Behavior (http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#behavior)	3
Human Creativity (http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#creativity)	3
Interpreting the Past (http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#interpret)	3
Literature (http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#literature)	3
Philosophy and Ethics (http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#philosophy)	3
The Nature of Science (http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#nature)	8
Impact of Technology (http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#impact)	3

Written Communication: grade of C or better required in both courses

Mathematics: MATH 162M required

Human Behavior: met by PSYC 201S or SOC 201S in foundations coursework

Philosophy and Ethics: PHIL 345E preferred

The Nature of Science: BIOL 121N/BIOL 122N and BIOL 123N/BIOL 124N required

Impact of Technology: met in the major by PUBH 485

Information Literacy and Research: HLTH 120G preferred

Upper-Division General Education

Students may choose one of the following options to fulfill their upper-division general education requirement.

- Option A: A University-approved disciplinary minor, second degree or second major, with advisor approval.
- Option B: A University-approved interdisciplinary minor.
- Option C: An approved certification program such as teaching licensure.
- Option D: Six hours of upper division courses outside the College of Health Sciences.

Requirements for Graduation

Requirements for graduation include the following:

- Minimum of 120 credit hours.
- Minimum of 30 credit hours overall and 12 credit hours of upper-level courses in the major program from Old Dominion University.
- Minimum overall cumulative grade point average of C (2.00) in all courses taken.
- Minimum overall cumulative grade point average of C (2.00) in all courses taken toward the major.
- Minimum overall cumulative grade point average of C (2.00) in all courses taken toward a minor.

- Completion of ENGL 110C, ENGL 211C or ENGL 231C, and the writing intensive (W) course in the major with a grade of C or better. The W course must be taken at Old Dominion University.
- Completion of Senior Assessment.

Public Health Major

To declare a major in Public Health, students must complete the following with grades of C or better:

PUBH 200, ENGL 110C, BIOL 121N/BIOL 122N, BIOL 123N/BIOL 124N, CHEM 121N/CHEM 122N, MATH 162M, STAT 130M. Students must be admitted to the program by the Program Director prior to starting BSPH major courses. All courses required for the major must be completed with a grade of C or better.

General Education

Complete lower-division requirements	35-41
Complete upper-division requirements (minimum of 3 credit hours; 3 credits for Option D may met by PHIL 345E)	3-6

Public Health Prerequisite

PUBH 200	Principles of Public Health ***	3
----------	---------------------------------	---

Health Sciences Foundation

BIOL 240	Fundamentals of Anatomy and Physiology I ***	4
or BIOL 250	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	
BIOL 294	Genetics ***	3
CHEM 121N & CHEM 122N	Foundations of Chemistry I Lecture and Foundations of Chemistry I Laboratory *	4
CHEM 123N & CHEM 124N	Foundations of Chemistry II Lecture and Foundations of Chemistry II Laboratory ***	4
CHEM 211	Organic Chemistry I Lecture ***	3
PHYS 111N	Introductory General Physics ***	4
PSYC 201S	Introduction to Psychology **	3
or SOC 201S	Introduction to Sociology	
STAT 130M	Elementary Statistics ***	3

Public Health Major

PUBH 320	Health Equity and Disability Culture ***	3
PUBH 335	Population Health ***	3
PUBH 360	Introduction to Global Health ***	3
PUBH 390	The U.S. Healthcare Delivery System ***	3
PUBH 403W	Social and Behavioral Aspects of Public Health ***	3
PUBH 415	One Health-One Medicine ***	3
PUBH 421	Leadership in Public Health ***	3
PUBH 422	Health, Culture and Diversity-Reducing Disparities in Public Health ***	3
PUBH 445	Health Services Research Methods ***	3
PUBH 450	Public and Community Health Administration ****	3
PUBH 485	Public Health Informatics ****	3
HLSC 405	Interprofessional Study Abroad on Global Health ***	3
or HLSC 475	Healthcare Marketing	
ENVH 301	Principles of Environmental Health Science ***	3
ENVH 448	Epidemiology and Biostatistics ***	3
Capstone Course		
PUBH 468	Internship ***	1-3

Total Credit Hours **112-123**

* Grade of C or better required; CHEM 103 may be needed as prerequisite.

** PSYC 201S or SOC 201S meets the Human Behavior Way of Knowing in lower-division General Education; grade of C or better required.
 *** Grade of C or better required.
 **** PUBH 485 meets the general education impact of technology requirement. Grade of C or better required.

Electives

Electives may be needed to achieve the minimum 120 credit hours required for the baccalaureate degree. Some electives that can be considered are: ENVH 401, ENVH 420 and HLSC 405.

Degree Program Guide

Course	Title	Credit Hours
Freshman		
Fall		
ENGL 110C	English Composition **	3
BIOL 121N	General Biology I **	3
BIOL 122N	General Biology I Lab **	1
MATH 162M	Precalculus I **	3
PUBH 200	Principles of Public Health **	3
Information Literacy (HLTH 120G preferred)		3
Credit Hours		16
Spring		
Literature		3
Oral Communication		3
BIOL 123N	General Biology II **	3
BIOL 124N	General Biology II Lab **	1
STAT 130M	Elementary Statistics **	3
PUBH 320	Health Equity and Disability Culture **	3
CHEM 103 may be needed as prerequisite to CHEM 121N (3 credits)		
Credit Hours		16
Sophomore		
Fall		
ENGL 211C or ENGL 231C	Writing, Rhetoric, and Research ** or Writing, Rhetoric, and Research: Special Topics	3
CHEM 121N	Foundations of Chemistry I Lecture **	3
CHEM 122N	Foundations of Chemistry I Laboratory **	1
PSYC 201S or SOC 201S	Introduction to Psychology or Introduction to Sociology	3
ENVH 301	Principles of Environmental Health Science **	3
PUBH 335	Population Health **	3
Credit Hours		16
Spring		
Human Creativity		3
Interpreting the Past		3
CHEM 123N	Foundations of Chemistry II Lecture **	3
CHEM 124N	Foundations of Chemistry II Laboratory **	1

PUBH 360	Introduction to Global Health **	3
PUBH 390	The U.S. Healthcare Delivery System **	3
Credit Hours		16
Junior		
Fall		
BIOL 240 or BIOL 250	Fundamentals of Anatomy and Physiology I ** or Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4
BIOL 294	Genetics **	3
CHEM 211	Organic Chemistry I Lecture **	3
PUBH 415	One Health-One Medicine **	3
Elective OR Upper-Division General Education (Option D 300/400)		3
Credit Hours		16
Spring		
PHIL 345E	Bioethics **	3
PHYS 111N	Introductory General Physics	4
ENVH 448	Epidemiology and Biostatistics **	3
PUBH 445	Health Services Research Methods **	3
PUBH 450	Public and Community Health Administration **	3
Credit Hours		16
Senior		
Fall		
PUBH 403W	Social and Behavioral Aspects of Public Health **	3
PUBH 421	Leadership in Public Health **	3
PUBH 485	Public Health Informatics **	3
HLSC 405 or HLSC 475	Interprofessional Study Abroad on Global Health or Healthcare Marketing	3
Credit Hours		12
Spring		
PUBH 422	Health, Culture and Diversity-Reducing Disparities in Public Health **	3
PUBH 468	Internship **	3
Elective OR Upper-Division General Education		3
Elective OR Upper-Division General Education		3
Credit Hours		12
Total Credit Hours		120

**Grade of C or better required.

Linked Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) to Master of Public Health (MPH) Program

The linked Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) to Master of Public Health (MPH) program provides qualified ODU undergraduate students with the opportunity to earn a Master of Public Health degree while taking up to 12 credits of the MPH program as an undergraduate student. Students in the linked program must earn a minimum of 151 credit hours (120 discrete

credit hours for the undergraduate degree and 31 discrete credit hours for the graduate degree).

The program is designed for highly motivated students with the desire to continue their education after the baccalaureate (BSPH) degree. It is especially relevant to individuals seeking to work (or currently working) in the public health or non-profit sectors. Successful applicants must have demonstrated both a mature attitude and superior academic achievement. They must be recommended to the program by their major advisor or program director.

Linked BSPH to MPH program students should carefully consider their undergraduate degree program requirements when planning their course of study. Students in the linked program work in close consultation with the BSPH Director and the MPH Program Office to develop an individualized plan of study based on the required coursework.

Well-qualified undergraduate students (overall program GPA of 3.5 and above) may take MPH-level courses as early as four semesters prior to their graduation and count up to 12* graduate credit hours toward their undergraduate degree. After receiving the undergraduate degree, a student will continue with the MPH program, taking MPH courses until completing the required 43 credit hours.

**For additional information, please contact the Program Directors at bsph@odu.edu or mph@odu.edu.*

Admission Information

Applicants for the linked BSPH to MPH program must meet the following requirements:

- Current Old Dominion University BSPH program student.
- Complete general education requirements by the end of Junior year.
- Apply to the linked program after completion of a minimum of 60 credits and before completion of 105 credits.
- A minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 or higher at the time of application.
- Complete an interview with the BSPH Program Director and the MPH Program Director.
- Apply to the MPH program via Graduate Admissions no later than the June 15 application deadline, including a personal statement, two letters of recommendation including one letter of recommendation from the Undergraduate Program Director, and other application requirements set by the MPH program (<https://www.odu.edu/academics/programs/masters/public-health/>).
- Student progress will be reviewed at the end of Junior and Senior years by the undergraduate and graduate program directors.
- Once admitted to the linked program, students must maintain a 3.0 GPA or above throughout the program. Undergraduate students who fail to maintain a 3.0 GPA may revert to the regular BSPH program and count up to 12 hours of completed graduate coursework toward the undergraduate degree.