

# Bachelor of Science in Public Health

## Public Health (BSPH)

**Webpage:** <https://www.odu.edu/public-health/academics/undergraduate>

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

**Program Director:** Dr. Elizabeth A. Brown

The Bachelor of Science in Public Health (Public Health major) is in the new Joint School of Public Health (<https://www.odu.edu/public-health/>), which is a collaborative partnership between Old Dominion University and Norfolk State University, and housed under the newly formed Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences (<https://www.odu.edu/virginia-health-sciences/>). Graduates of the Public Health major 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 (factors that impact health and health equity), determine interventions needed for diverse communities, and demonstrate the ability to collect, manage, and analyze data. Graduates will be able to serve as leaders in 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, dental, or physician assistant), occupational therapy, physical therapy, 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, bioethics, 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 Public Health major is available in a flexible format with some courses offered online and some in person. The program can also be completed fully online for students who are interested in an autonomous online learning environment.

### Major Declaration: Public Health Program

To officially declare a major in Public Health, students must complete the following courses with a grade of C or better: PUBH 200, ENGL 110C, MATH 162M, STAT 130M, BIOL sequence\*\*, and CHEM sequence.\*\*

1. Students who have met all major declaration requirements and meet the minimum cumulative GPA (2.00) requirement will be referred by their advisor in the Health Sciences Advising Center/ODU Global Health Sciences advisor to the program director for major declaration and assignment to a program advisor. For additional information, please contact the Program Director ([bsph@odu.edu](mailto:bsph@odu.edu) (<http://outlook.odu.edu/>)) or Health Sciences Advising Center ([hsadvising@odu.edu](mailto: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.

\*\*The BSPH-Public Health Program may accept lower-level science options for BIOL 121N/BIOL 122N and BIOL 123N/BIOL 124N and CHEM 121N/CHEM 122N and CHEM 123N/CHEM 124N. Grade C or higher required. For additional information, please contact the Program Director ([bsph@odu.edu](mailto:bsph@odu.edu) (<http://outlook.odu.edu/>)) or Health Sciences Advising Center ([hsadvising@odu.edu](mailto:hsadvising@odu.edu) (<http://www.odu.edu/hs/advising/>)).

### 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 Public Health major:

1. A grade of C (2.00) or better is required in all required major courses to continue in the program.
2. A student who earns a grade of C- or lower in a required major course will not be considered in good academic standing in the major and must retake the course in the next semester the course is offered.
3. A cumulative grade point average of 2.00 or better is required to continue in the Public Health program.

Students who fail to meet the continuance requirements for the major will revert to intended degree, and an advising hold will be placed back on their account. A meeting with the program director will be required to create a success plan before a student may enroll in additional Public Health courses.

To be readmitted to the Public Health major:

1. Students must meet with the program director to create a success plan.
2. Students must successfully complete all major courses with a grade of C or higher, maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better, and meet the program director again before the major will be redeclared. Students are responsible for contacting the program director when all readmission requirements have been met.
3. A student who is readmitted to the major may be required to take additional course work prior to or concurrent with readmission.

### 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. **Students must complete an internship learning contract and receive final approval from the internship coordinator by the following deadline: August 1 (fall internship), December 1 (spring internship), and May 1 (summer internship).**

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, drug screening, computer-based training, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training, proof of vaccination status, and/or other relevant responsibilities needed to train in public health organizations 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 ( <a href="http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#written">http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#written</a> )	6
Oral Communication ( <a href="http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#oral">http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#oral</a> )	3
Mathematics ( <a href="http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#math">http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#math</a> )	3
Language and Culture ( <a href="http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#language">http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#language</a> )	0-6
Information Literacy and Research ( <a href="http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#information">http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#information</a> )	3
Human Behavior ( <a href="http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#behavior">http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#behavior</a> )	3
Human Creativity ( <a href="http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#creativity">http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#creativity</a> )	3
Interpreting the Past ( <a href="http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#interpret">http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#interpret</a> )	3
Literature ( <a href="http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#literature">http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#literature</a> )	3
Philosophy and Ethics ( <a href="http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#philosophy">http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#philosophy</a> )	3
The Nature of Science ( <a href="http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#nature">http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#nature</a> )	8
Impact of Technology ( <a href="http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#impact">http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/requirements-undergraduate-degrees/#impact</a> )	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, MATH 162M, STAT 130M, BIOL sequence\*\*, and CHEM sequence.\*\*

Students must be a declared major to enroll in 400-level BSPH major courses.

All courses required for the major must be completed with a grade of C or better.

\*\*The BSPH-Public Health Program may accept lower-level science options for BIOL 121N/BIOL 122N and BIOL 123N/BIOL 124N and CHEM 121N/CHEM 122N and CHEM 123N/CHEM 124N. Grade C or higher required. For additional information, please contact the Program Director (bsph@odu.edu (<http://outlook.odu.edu/>)) or Health Sciences Advising Center (hsadvising@odu.edu (<http://www.odu.edu/hs/advising/>)).

### General Education

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

### Public Health Prerequisite

PUBH 200	Principles of Public Health *	3
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### Public Health Sciences Foundation

STAT 130M	Elementary Statistics *	3
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CHEM 121N & CHEM 122N	Foundations of Chemistry I Lecture and Foundations of Chemistry I Laboratory **	4
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CHEM 123N & CHEM 124N	Foundations of Chemistry II Lecture and Foundations of Chemistry II Laboratory **	4
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PSYC 201S or SOC 201S	Introduction to Psychology ***	3
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BIOL 240	Fundamentals of Anatomy and Physiology I *	4
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or BIOL 250	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	
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BIOL 241	Fundamentals of Anatomy and Physiology II *	4
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or BIOL 251	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	
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### Public Health Core

ENVH 301	Principles of Environmental Health Science *	3
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PUBH 320	Health Equity and Disability Culture *	3
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PUBH 335	Population Health *	3
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PUBH 390	The U.S. Healthcare Delivery System *	3
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PUBH 445	Health Services Research Methods *	3
PUBH 450	Public and Community Health Administration *	3
PUBH 485	Public Health Informatics ****	3
PUBH 468	Internship *	3
<b>Public Health Major</b>		
PUBH 360	Introduction to Global Health *	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 405	Interprofessional Study Abroad in Public Health *	3
or PUBH 475	Healthcare Marketing	
ENVH 448	Epidemiology and Biostatistics *	3

**Total Credit Hours 108-117**

- \* Grade of C or better required
- \*\* The BSPH-Public Health Program may accept lower-level science options for BIOL 121N/BIOL 122N, BIOL 123N/BIOL 124N, CHEM 121N/CHEM 122N, and CHEM 123N/CHEM 124N. Grade of C or higher required. For additional information, please contact the Program Director (bsph@odu.edu) or Health Sciences Advising Center (hsadvising@odu.edu).
- \*\*\* PSYC 201S or SOC 201S meets the Human Behavior Way of Knowing in lower-division General Education; 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: DASC 300, PUBH 318, PUBH 405, PUBH 425, PUBH 465, ENVH 401, ENVH 406, SOC 440, etc.

## Degree Program Guide

The Degree Program Guide is a suggested curriculum to complete this degree program in four years. It is just one of several plans that will work and is presented only as broad guidance to students. Each student is strongly encouraged to develop a customized plan in consultation with their academic advisor. Additional information can also be found in Degree Works.

Course	Title	Credit Hours	
<b>Freshman</b>			
<b>Fall</b>			
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 & Research (HLTH 120G preferred)		3	
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>16</b>	
<b>Spring</b>			
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	
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>16</b>	
<b>Sophomore</b>			
<b>Fall</b>			
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	
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>16</b>	
<b>Spring</b>			
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	
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>16</b>	
<b>Junior</b>			
<b>Fall</b>			
BIOL 240 or BIOL 250	Fundamentals of Anatomy and Physiology I * or Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4	
PUBH 415	One Health-One Medicine (Only offered during fall semester) *	3	
Elective OR Upper-Division General Education			3
Philosophy & Ethics (PHIL 345E preferred)			3
Elective OR Upper-Division General Education			3
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>16</b>	
<b>Spring</b>			
BIOL 241 or BIOL 251	Fundamentals of Anatomy and Physiology II * or Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4	
ENVH 448	Epidemiology and Biostatistics (Only offered during spring semester) *	3	
PUBH 445	Health Services Research Methods *	3	
PUBH 450	Public and Community Health Administration *	3	
Elective OR Upper-Division General Education			3
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>16</b>	

Senior		
Fall		
PUBH 403W	Social and Behavioral Aspects of Public Health (Only offered during fall semester) *	3
PUBH 485	Public Health Informatics ****	3
PUBH 405 or PUBH 475	Interprofessional Study Abroad in Public Health * or Healthcare Marketing	3
Elective OR Upper-Division General Education		3
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>12</b>
Spring		
PUBH 421	Leadership in Public Health (Only offered during spring semester) *	3
PUBH 422	Health, Culture and Diversity-Reducing Disparities in Public Health †	3
PUBH 468	Internship *	3
Elective OR Upper-Division General Education		3
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>120</b>

- \* Grade of C or better required
- \*\* The BSPH-Public Health Program may accept lower-level science options for BIOL 121N/BIOL 122N, BIOL 123N/BIOL 124N, CHEM 121N/CHEM 122N, and CHEM 123N/CHEM 124N. Grade of C or higher required. For additional information, please contact the Program Director (bsph@odu.edu) or Health Sciences Advising Center (hsadvising@odu.edu).
- \*\*\* PSYC 201S or SOC 201S meets the Human Behavior Way of Knowing in lower-division General Education; 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: DASC 300, PUBH 318, PUBH 405, PUBH 425, PUBH 465, ENVH 401, ENVH 406, SOC 440, etc.

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

### Overview

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 in the MPH Program as an undergraduate BSPH student. The linked program is designed for highly-motivated students with the desire to continue their education after the BSPH degree. It is especially relevant for individuals seeking to work (or currently working) in the public health, health services, or non-profit sectors. Successful applicants must have demonstrated both a mature attitude and superior academic achievement.

### Eligibility

BSPH students in the Public Health, Health Services Administration (HSA), and Health Services Administration-Professional (HSA-P) majors are eligible for the linked BSPH to MPH Program. Additional eligibility requirements are below:

- Students in a major under the BSPH degree
  - Note: Students in the HSA or HSA-P majors may need to take additional public health-related courses (see Required Coursework below)
- Students with a 3.5 grade point average (GPA) or higher in their major

### Required Coursework

BSPH students interested in the linked BSPH to MPH Program 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 Co-Directors and MPH Director to develop an individualized plan of study based on the required coursework.

Students in the BSPH-HSA or BSPH-HSA-P majors, who are interested in the linked program, are required to take the following electives: (1) PUBH 422 Health, Culture and Diversity-Reducing Disparities in Public Health and (2) ENVH 448 Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Students must make a C or higher in the courses. Students should make note of the course prerequisites.

### Process

Eligible BSPH students 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. Once in the linked program, BSPH 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 degree and count up to 12 hours of completed graduate coursework toward the undergraduate degree.

After receiving the undergraduate degree, the student must officially apply to the MPH Program through the ODU Graduate School. A student will continue with the MPH program, taking MPH courses until completing the required 43 credit hours. Students in the linked program must earn a minimum of 151 credit hours (120 credit hours for the undergraduate degree and 31 credit hours for the graduate degree).

*\*For additional information, please contact the MPH Program Director at mph@odu.edu.*

### BSPH to MPH Program Admission Information

Eligible BSPH students who are interested in the linked BSPH to MPH Program must complete the following requirements:

- Complete general education requirements before the end of Junior year.
- Declare major under the BSPH degree at Old Dominion University (ODU).
- Have a 3.5 GPA (or higher) in the major.
- Complete required coursework (for HSA and HSA-P majors)
- Request a course review and interview from the MPH Director after completing a minimum of 60 credits and before completing 105 credits.
- Apply to the MPH program via Graduate Admissions no later than the June 15 of your final undergraduate year. The application includes submitting a personal statement, two letters of recommendation, etc. Please review additional application requirements set by the ODU MPH Program.