

HEALTH PROFESSIONS OFFICE

PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health is concerned with disease prevention and health promotion. The field of public health attracts both researchers and practitioners, as well as those who choose to integrate research with public health practice, and there are dozens of specialties within the field of Public Health, including those that are discussed in detail below. Many schools of public health also have programs in health nutrition, tropical medicine, occupational medicine, maternal and child health, population dynamics, and international health.

Employment opportunities are varied and exciting. Municipal, state, and federal health agencies and health-care programs have long been employers of graduates of schools of public health. In recent years both manufacturing and service companies in the for-profit sector have offered considerable employment. Positions available in such firms range from epidemiologists in pharmaceutical companies to toxicologists with computer manufacturers to administrators of health maintenance organizations. Students selecting an academic program should consider the institutional resources available to them. It is helpful to assess not only the number of faculty members and their qualifications, but also the extent to which students may work with established investigators on their research and service projects. The American Public Health Association reports that 95% of Public Health graduates who want jobs in the field get them. The median salary of Public Health professionals is \$64,000.

Health Services Administration/Management

Within this field of Public Health you can specialize in planning, organization, policy formulation and analysis finance, economics and marketing in the public or private sectors that affect health. The field of health services management (also often called health services administration or, when applied specifically to hospitals, hospital administration) is concerned with the process through which the objectives of health services organizations are specified and accomplished by utilizing technology and human, financial, and physical resources. There are a wide variety of health service organizations, which are located in both the private and public sectors. They may be institutions, the most prominent of which are hospitals, or they may be programs or agencies, such as public health departments or visiting nurse associations.

Health Education

These specialists use specific methods, skills, and program strategies to help people change to healthier lifestyles, to make more efficient use of health services, and to implement programs that affect health.

Epidemiology

These specialists study the distribution and determinants of disease or disability in population groups.

Environmental Sciences

Specialists in this field are concerned with the identification and control of factors in the environment that affect health.

Environmental and Occupational Health

Specialists in this field are concerned with the identification of health and safety hazards related to work and the work environment as well as their control and prevention. The field of environmental health sciences is the study of interactions between humans and their environment and the characteristic conditions that affect health. Occupational health is the specialty within the environmental health sciences that addresses factors that may affect human health status in the workplace. Problem solving in the multidisciplinary areas of the environmental health sciences involves principles and methods not only of the physical and life sciences, mathematics, engineering, and other areas of public health and medicine, but also of the social sciences in order to deal with the complex interactions of humans, their activities and the many perturbations caused by varying lifestyles, the environment, and possibly acceptable "tradeoffs".

Biostatistics

This field involves the application of statistical procedures, techniques, and methodology to characterize or investigate health problems and programs.

International Public Health

This field focuses on improving health standards in developing countries.

For More Information

Association of Schools of Public Health
1660 L Street, NW
Suite 204
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 296-1099
Fax (202) 296-1252
www.asph.org

You can also get more information about careers in Public Health from Lily Maestas in Counseling and Career Services (893-4411).

Schools

There are currently about 85 schools offering master's programs in public health. For a complete list or for a listing of the schools offering degrees in any of the specialty fields listed above, visit the Association of Schools of Public Health website (www.asph.org)

California Schools of Public Health – Accredited schools by the Council on Education of Public Health (CEPH)

UC Berkeley
School of Public Health
19 Earl Warren Hall
Berkeley, Ca 94720

Strong traditional School
High quality program in Public Health Policy
Publishes a wellness newsletter

UCLA
School of Public Health
Center for the Health Sciences
Los Angeles, Ca 90024

Strong generalist approach
High quality program in Health Care
Administration

Loma Linda
School of Public Health
Loma Linda, Ca 92354

San Diego State University
Graduate School of Public Health
College of Human Services
San Diego, Ca 92182

Health Care Administration
Center on Aging
Infectious Diseases
Bi-National (Mexico) Health Care Research