

## Course Requirements

### The Undergraduate Degree

All public health fields of study require competence in communication (both verbal and written); therefore students should take advantage of undergraduate opportunities to hone these skills.

Students of public health come from a variety of educational backgrounds, but there is coursework that can better prepare you for the field of study you choose. For example, coursework in biology and mathematics is highly recommended for students who plan to concentrate in Epidemiology or Biostatistics. For Global Health or Health Education, courses in sociology, psychology, education, and anthropology are beneficial. Health Care Administration students find that a business background is a plus. Coursework in biology or chemistry is valuable for the study of Environmental Health.

### Programs & Admissions Prerequisites

Applicants to the Loma Linda University School of Public Health must have completed a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university. In addition, admissions prerequisites for the specific program must be met as described below. Acceptance is based on a combination of factors, including undergraduate coursework and GPA.

- **Biostatistics (MS, MSPH)**  
Calculus (preferred) or College Algebra- One course  
Computer Literacy- Operating systems proficiency is required, experience in programming is recommended
- **Environmental and Occupational Health (MPH)**  
General Biology with lab- One year  
General Chemistry with lab- One year  
Organic Chemistry with lab- Two quarters  
General Physics with lab- One year  
General Microbiology with lab- One course  
Calculus (preferred) or College Algebra- One course
- **Environmental Epidemiology (MPH)**  
General Chemistry with lab- One year  
Organic Chemistry with lab- One year  
General Microbiology with lab- One course  
General Physics with lab- One year  
Calculus (preferred) or College Algebra- One course  
Biochemistry- One course  
Behavioral Science- One course  
Biological science with lab- One year, preferred courses include histology, pathology, & physiology
- **Epidemiology (MPH)**  
Calculus (preferred) or College Algebra- One course  
Biochemistry- One course  
Behavioral Science- One course  
Biological Science- Four courses, selected from list of options
- **Global Health (MPH)**  
Anatomy and Physiology with lab- Two courses  
General Microbiology with lab- One course
- **Global Epidemiology (MPH)**  
Anatomy and Physiology with lab- Two courses  
Calculus (preferred) or College Algebra- One course
- **Health Care Administration (MBA)**  
Applicants who have completed an undergraduate degree with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 and have an acceptable GRE or GMAT score are eligible to apply.
- **Health Education (MPH)**  
Demonstrated college-level conceptualization & writing skills  
Anatomy and Physiology with lab- Two courses  
Behavioral Science- Two courses, include General Psychology
- **Health Policy and Leadership (MPH)**  
Applicants who have completed an undergraduate degree with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 and have an acceptable GRE or GMAT score are eligible to apply.
- **Nutrition (MPH, MS)**  
General Chemistry with lab- One year  
Organic Chemistry with lab- At least 5 quarter hours  
Physiology with lab- One course  
Microbiology with lab- One course
- **Nutritional Epidemiology (MPH)**  
General Chemistry with lab- One year  
Organic Chemistry with lab- At least 5 quarter hours  
Anatomy and Physiology with lab- One course or sequence  
Calculus (preferred) or College Algebra- One course  
Behavioral Science- One course
- **Public Health Practice (MPH)**  
Anatomy or Physiology with lab- One course  
Behavioral Science- One course  
An appropriate combination of a health-related degree and post-graduate direct patient care experience in a health setting, such as a hospital, clinic, or health department.

## Occupational Information

### What can I do with this profession?

Public health is the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts and informed choices of society, organizations, public and private, communities and individuals. The field of public health offers personal fulfillment; working towards the improvement of people's health and well-being is a rewarding occupation.

The goal of public health is to improve lives through the prevention and treatment of disease. Public health makes our world safer and, as a result, protects the health of every person.

### General Areas of Service

A career in public health offers a wide variety of options to suit individual areas of interest. For example, health administration and community health sciences are careers which involve being with people. Health education is a teaching field, whereas health policy includes a political component and covers a range of areas. Epidemiology and biostatistics involve math and modeling, and environmental health includes a range of science skills.

While there are dozens of specialties in public health, most career opportunities are found in the following fields:

- Biostatistics
- Environmental Health
- Epidemiology
- Global Health
- Health Care Administration
- Health Education
- Health Policy
- Nutrition
- Public Health Practice

### Professional Training

Public Health programs vary greatly in requirements and in the degree earned by completing all requirements. Pacific Union College recommends the public health programs offered by Loma Linda University. These graduate programs lead to a masters-level degree, typically an M.P.H. (Master of Public Health).

### Job Outlook

The Department of Labor and Statistics lists jobs in the public health sector as some of the fastest growing occupations, with large numerical increases in employment between 2002 and 2012.

### Earnings

Earnings vary considerably depending on the area of specialty.

## For More Information

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