

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. For Global Health or Health Education, courses in sociology, psychology, education, and anthropology are beneficial. Healthcare Administration students find that a business background is a plus. Coursework in biology or chemistry is valuable for the study of Nutrition.

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 with a GPA of 3.0 or better. Acceptance is based on a combination of factors, including undergraduate coursework, letter of recommendation, GPA, and the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). The GRE requirement is waived for applicants with a GPA above 3.2.

In addition, admissions prerequisites for the specific program must be met as described below.

➤ *Epidemiology (MPH)*

Calculus (preferred) or College Algebra- One course
Biological sciences- Four courses

➤ *Global Health (MPH)*

No specific course prerequisites.

➤ *Healthcare Administration (MHA)*

Microeconomics
Accounting

➤ *Health Education and Wellness Coaching*

(Also available online.)
Behavioral Science- Two courses, include General Psychology

➤ *Nutrition (MPH, MS)*

(A track coordinated with Dietetics is also available.)
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
Human Nutrition- One course

➤ *Population Medicine (MPH)*

(Also available online)

Human Anatomy and/or Physiology- One course
Behavioral Science- One course

A healthcare related degree:

- Bachelor's or master's degree with two years of postgraduate, direct patient-care experience (e.g., nursing, social work, dental hygiene, physical therapy, occupational therapy, psychology).
OR
- Accepted into or completed clinical practice-related doctoral degree program (e.g., M.D., D.O., D.D.S., D.N.P., D.P.T., Pharm.D.). Must have completed at least two years in a clinical program.

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 that covers a range of areas. Epidemiology involves math and modeling.

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

- Epidemiology
- Global Health
- Healthcare Administration (MHA)
- Health Education and Wellness Coaching (MPH)
- Population Medicine
- Nutrition (PhD, MPH, MS)

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. Various graduate degrees are available, including the M.P.H. (Master of Public Health), M.H.A. (Master of Healthcare Administration), M.S. (Master of Science), and Dr.P.H. (Doctor of Public Health), PhD.

Job Outlook

According to the Department of Labor and Statistics, employment of community health workers is projected to grow 13% from 2014 to 2024, faster than the average for all occupations. Growth will be driven by efforts to improve health outcomes and to reduce healthcare cost.

Earnings

Graduates of schools of public health have a number of different job opportunities available to them as they complete their degree. The mean salaries, as follows, are actual salaries earned in the following disciplines (adjusted for inflation using the national CPI - Bureau of Labor Statistics) within one year of graduation as reported by the most recent nationwide survey of graduates conducted by the Associated Schools of Public Health (ASPH).

Population Medicine	\$60,000
Epidemiology	\$69,450
Healthcare Administration (MHA)	\$67,500
Health Education & Wellness Coaching	\$43,840
Global Health	\$41,500
Nutrition	\$57,500
Lifestyle Management	\$46,000

For More Information

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American Public Health Association
www.apha.org

Associated Schools of Public Health Association
www.asph.org

What is Public Health?
www.whatispublichealth.org

US Health Prevention Strategies
www.healthcare.gov/prevention