

Major Planning Guide: Public Health

What can I do with a degree in public health?

Students who are interested in promoting health through education, research, and outreach by working with people in their communities will find many rewarding careers with a major in public health. Public health professionals do a variety of jobs from tracking outbreak of disease, vaccinating children and adults, or educating people on the risk of drugs and alcohol. Some may work in government to help pass laws and policies to improve the overall health of communities.

Related Majors/Programs

Community Health & Education	Psychology
Healthcare Services Management	Sociology
Nutrition	Social Work
Nursing	Education
Political Science	Environmental Health
	Health Studies

Where can I earn a bachelor's degree in public health in Washington?

Certain universities offer public health as an undergraduate major. You can use the College Navigator search engine found at <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator> to find public health programs in Washington state or around the country.

How do I prepare to major in public health?

Here are a few steps that we recommend you take to make sure that public health is the right choice for you. There are many different types of careers in public health, and it is important to do some research ahead of time to find the one that best fits your goals. An advisor can help you choose the transfer degree, and what courses you should take while you are here at Seattle Central.

Step One: Research

- Those who are undecided about a major/career can make an appointment with our Career Exploration Center in BE 1102E to take a career assessment test. This assessment can reveal your interests, values, and skills which then match you up with potential careers and programs that prepare you for specific career paths.
- Public health is not commonly offered as an undergraduate major. If you are interested in attending a university that does not offer public health as an undergraduate major, consider choosing a different major for your bachelor's degree and earning a graduate degree in public health later on. While no specific undergraduate major is required, majors such as biology, chemistry, environmental health, environmental science, medical anthropology, or statistics could provide helpful preparation for a public health graduate program.
- Our Transfer Center in BE 1102F can help find universities you are interested in attending and guide you through the application process.

Step Two: Pick a Degree

Students planning to major in public health often earn the Associates of Art (AA-DTA) degree. Advisors can help students understand what public health requirements are necessary for transfer. You may pick up a degree planning worksheet for the AA-DTA ([purple sheet](#)) in BE 1102 lobby.

Step Three: Make a Long Range Academic Plan

Students planning to major in public health at a university usually take courses in social sciences (such as anthropology, psychology, sociology, geography, political science, or economics) and the natural sciences (such as biology), as well as general education requirements, to prepare to transfer.

English	Natural Science	Social Science	Other Courses
<input type="checkbox"/> ENGL& 101	<input type="checkbox"/> Biology	<input type="checkbox"/> Psychology	<input type="checkbox"/> HEA 225
<input type="checkbox"/> ENGL& 102	<input type="checkbox"/> Microbiology	<input type="checkbox"/> Sociology	<input type="checkbox"/> NUTR& 101
	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry	<input type="checkbox"/> Geography	<input type="checkbox"/> ANTH 275
	<input type="checkbox"/> Anatomy & Physiology	<input type="checkbox"/> Political Science	<input type="checkbox"/> MATH& 146
		<input type="checkbox"/> Economics	

Please note: this is not a complete list of prerequisites. You should consult with an advisor at Seattle Central to make sure you take the appropriate courses to be prepared to enter the major.

*Check prerequisites, admission requirements, and GPA requirements at your intended transfer university early so you can be well-prepared to transfer.

Consider an emphasis to your associate degree before you transfer, such as [Global Health](#), or [Equity and Social Justice](#). This can enhance your resume, personal experience and be something you put into your personal statement.

What are my next steps?

- Once you have had the chance to explore the career opportunities in public health you might want to schedule an appointment to meet with an advisor to plan out your course of study. You can make an appointment by stopping by the Advising office in BE 1102D or calling us at 206-934-4068. (*If you are an international student, please stop by International Education Programs in BE 1113*).
- Attend Transfer Fairs and Career & Networking Fairs hosted by our office throughout the year.
- Explore the professional organizations in your area of interest for more information about education and career options.

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