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Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development

Undergraduate Program Update for
2009-2010

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Public Health

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Public Health Is a Broad Social Enterprise

The field of public health is concerned with protecting, promoting, and improving the health and well-being of populations, particularly those most vulnerable in today's society. As the Institute of Medicine has stated, public health's mission is in "fulfilling society's interest in assuring conditions in which people can be healthy." Public health professionals are concerned with the many conditions that influence health and wellness, including social, economic, political, and medical care factors. The field draws on an interdisciplinary approach to solving problems by extending the benefits of current knowledge in ways that will have the maximum impact on the health status of a population. Social justice is the foundation of public health. We are looking for students who want to build careers to solve some of the world's most pressing problems.

The NYU Advantage

This program is one of the few undergraduate programs in the United States in public health. Our students gain a strong founda-

tion in liberal arts and a broad knowledge about the field of public health, as well as skills to work in a variety of arenas. Other strengths of the program include opportunities for close mentoring and advisement by full-time public health faculty, internships and field experiences in New York City, and connections to master's and doctoral students in public health through its location in the Department of Nutrition, Food Studies, and Public Health.

The New York City Advantage

With access to the United Nations, many of the national offices of large public health agencies, and the largest city public health department in the country, New York City offers unparalleled opportunities to engage in the world of public health. Through work in the classroom and in New York City, students explore the ways that social, political, and economic forces influence the health of populations and learn about the causes and control of disease.

Liberal Arts Foundation

The B.S. program in public health allows students to gain both a strong foundation in liberal arts as well as broad general knowledge about public health. Students are required to complete 8 points of both natural and social sciences, 8 points in a foreign language, and other University-wide requirements for undergraduate education.

Public Health Curriculum

Students gain analytic skills essential to the field of public health through course work in epidemiology (the study of disease) and statistics and courses that examine different health problems and conditions from social, legal, ethical, economic, and political perspectives: environmental health problems, public health nutrition, global public health, legal and illegal drug use, and reproductive health. Courses mix classroom-based learning, experiences in the field, opportunities to visit public health programs, and meetings with public health experts to engage students' interests and passion. All students undertake a field-based research project in

their senior year. Students who qualify for the honors track will also participate in an honors research seminar and be mentored by professors in their research project.

Internship Experience

In their final year of the program, students undertake a semester-long internship and seminar to build skills in developing and implementing programs to address public health issues.

Internships are arranged in consultation with each student and may include on-campus opportunities as well as placement at several offices of the United Nations, within a local government agency, or at a large nongovernmental group (e.g., American Red Cross or Doctors Without Borders).

Opportunities for Study Abroad and a Minor in Another Field

Students are encouraged to plan for study overseas at one of NYU's study abroad sites in Argentina, China, the Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, Ghana, Israel, Italy, and Spain and may complete some of their public health credits at the study abroad site in Ghana. Overseas learning and travel can greatly expand students' understanding of a wide range of health issues as well as new and novel ways to approach them.

The public health curriculum also allows students to minor in a field related to public health, such as nutrition, environmental studies, or science, or in an area of personal or intellectual interest. Working closely with their adviser, students use unrestricted electives to declare a minor or to explore topics of special interest.

Helping You Start Your Career

A recent Institute of Medicine report drew attention to the large number of jobs in public health currently filled by people with no formal public health education and called for public health to be integrated into all undergraduate curricula. The Bachelor of Science Degree Program in Public Health at NYU Steinhardt provides a strong foundation in public health for students seeking to obtain a position after graduation. Students graduating with a B.S. in public health enter this workforce with greater credentials, allowing them to compete for jobs in agencies such as the American Lung Association, the American Diabetes Association, the American Cancer Society, the March of Dimes, local and state health departments, health care organizations, and other human service groups in the public and private sectors. Our department and NYU's Wasserman Center for Career Development provide stu-

dents with many resources for finding employment.

Graduates of the program are also well equipped to attend graduate school in a variety of disciplines, including public health.

Curriculum

The 129-point curriculum for the B.S. in public health requires 63 points of liberal arts courses and 66 points in the major. Liberal arts course work includes 20 points of University liberal arts courses, 8 points of foreign language, 15 points of social sciences, 8 points of natural science, 4 points of mathematics, and 8 other liberal arts electives. Credits for the major include 40 required points, 10 electives by advisement, and 16 unrestricted electives to allow students to explore a wide range of interests or to be used toward a minor. In addition, all students enroll in their first semester in the department's New Student Seminar. See the Sample Curriculum Worksheet and course descriptions.

SAMPLE CURRICULUM WORKSHEET

Freshman Year 32 Points

FALL SEMESTER LIBERAL ARTS Writing the Essay. V40.0100 . . .4 Principles of Biology I. V23.0011; or Human Biology. V23.0006 .4 Contemporary Culture: Conversations of the West. V55.04••4	MAJOR Health and Society. E33.0070 . . .4 New Student Seminar0 TOTAL POINTS <u>16</u>	SPRING SEMESTER LIBERAL ARTS Advanced College Essay. V40.01104 Mathematics by Advisement . . .4	Principles of Biology II. V23.0012; or The Living Environment. V23.00084 Liberal Arts Elective4 TOTAL POINTS <u>16</u>
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Sophomore Year 33 Points

FALL SEMESTER LIBERAL ARTS Foreign Language4 Basic Statistics. E10.10853 Foundations of Contemporary Culture: World Cultures. V55.05••4	MAJOR Health Policy: City and Globe. P11.00304 Elective by Advisement2 TOTAL POINTS <u>17</u>	SPRING SEMESTER LIBERAL ARTS Intro Social Science by Advisement4 Foreign Language4	Foundations of Contemporary Culture: Expressive Cultures. V55.07••4 MAJOR Elective by Advisement4 TOTAL POINTS <u>16</u>
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Junior Year 32 Points

FALL SEMESTER LIBERAL ARTS Liberal Arts Elective4 Advanced Social Science by Advisement4	MAJOR Principles of Health Promotion and Education. E33.13214 Introduction to Epidemiology. E.33.13064 TOTAL POINTS <u>16</u>	SPRING SEMESTER MAJOR Introduction to Public Health Nutrition. E33.13154 Environmental Health, Social Movements, and Public Policy. E33.13234	Unrestricted Elective4 Unrestricted Elective4 TOTAL POINTS <u>16</u>
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Senior Year 32 Points

FALL SEMESTER MAJOR Understanding Social Context and Risk Behavior: Public Health Approaches. E33.13254 Public Health Profession and Practice. E33.13274	Unrestricted Elective4 Unrestricted Elective4 TOTAL POINTS <u>16</u>	SPRING SEMESTER LIBERAL ARTS Introduction to Global Public Health. E33.13104 MAJOR Community Public Health Internship and Seminar. E33.13304	Introduction to Public Health Research. E33.13354 Elective by Advisement4 TOTAL POINTS <u>16</u>
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GRAND TOTAL: 129 Points