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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

<b>FALL SEMESTER</b>	<b>MAJOR</b>	<b>SPRING SEMESTER</b>	
<b>LIBERAL ARTS</b>	Health and Society. E33.0070 . . . .4	<b>LIBERAL ARTS</b>	Principles of Biology II. V23.0012; or The Living Environment. V23.0008 . . . . .4
Writing the Essay. V40.0100 . . . .4	New Student Seminar . . . . .0	Advanced College Essay. V40.0110 . . . . .4	Liberal Arts Elective . . . . .4
Principles of Biology I. V23.0011; or Human Biology. V23.0006 .4	<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> <u>16</u>	Mathematics by Advisement . . . .4	<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> <u>16</u>
Contemporary Culture: Conversations of the West. V55.04•• . . . . .4			

### Sophomore Year      33 Points

<b>FALL SEMESTER</b>	<b>MAJOR</b>	<b>SPRING SEMESTER</b>	
<b>LIBERAL ARTS</b>	Health Policy: City and Globe. P11.0030 . . . . .4	<b>LIBERAL ARTS</b>	Foundations of Contemporary Culture: Expressive Cultures. V55.07•• . . . . .4
Foreign Language . . . . .4	Elective by Advisement . . . . .2	Intro Social Science by Advisement . . . . .4	<b>MAJOR</b>
Basic Statistics. E10.1085 . . . . .3	<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> <u>17</u>	Foreign Language . . . . .4	Elective by Advisement . . . . .4
Foundations of Contemporary Culture: World Cultures. V55.05•• . . . . .4			<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> <u>16</u>

### Junior Year              32 Points

<b>FALL SEMESTER</b>	<b>MAJOR</b>	<b>SPRING SEMESTER</b>	
<b>LIBERAL ARTS</b>	Principles of Health Promotion and Education. E33.1321 . . . .4	<b>MAJOR</b>	Unrestricted Elective . . . . .4
Liberal Arts Elective . . . . .4	Introduction to Epidemiology. E.33.1306 . . . . .4	Introduction to Public Health Nutrition. E33.1315 . . . . .4	Unrestricted Elective . . . . .4
Advanced Social Science by Advisement . . . . .4	<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> <u>16</u>	Environmental Health, Social Movements, and Public Policy. E33.1323 . . . . .4	<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> <u>16</u>

### Senior Year              32 Points

<b>FALL SEMESTER</b>		<b>SPRING SEMESTER</b>	
<b>MAJOR</b>	Unrestricted Elective . . . . .4	<b>LIBERAL ARTS</b>	Introduction to Public Health Research. E33.1335 . . . . .4
Understanding Social Context and Risk Behavior: Public Health Approaches. E33.1325 . . . . .4	Unrestricted Elective . . . . .4	Introduction to Global Public Health. E33.1310 . . . . .4	Elective by Advisement . . . . .4
Public Health Profession and Practice. E33.1327 . . . . .4	<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> <u>16</u>	<b>MAJOR</b>	<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> <u>16</u>
		Community Public Health Internship and Seminar. E33.1330 . . . . .4	

**GRAND TOTAL: 129 Points**