BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

COMMUNITY HEALTH

The Behavioral and Community Health degree prepares students to understand and address individual, community, and societal behaviors that affect health. Community health professionals strive to improve the public's health through education, promotion of healthy behaviors and environments, and research for disease and injury prevention.

Community health professionals create, promote, and evaluate programs that help prevent the transmission of HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections, improve women's health, aid smoking cessation, address obesity and nutrition, and advance cancer prevention.

WHAT OUR GRADUATES DO

Community health is a diverse and dynamic field. With this degree, graduates work as teachers, journalists, researchers, administrators, environmentalists, demographers, social workers, and laboratory scientists to protect public health.

Public health is a field geared toward serving others. Public health professionals serve local, national, and international communities. They are leaders who meet the exciting challenges in protecting the public’s health today and in the future.

Graduates who majored in public health are:

- Supporting international health organization programs
- Performing health-related assessments at construction sites
- Performing research for nonprofit organizations
- Creating health communication and marketing messages
- Serving as consultants on disease prevention campaigns
- Answering questions for a West Nile virus hotline
- Conducting air quality sampling and surveying
- Serving in the Peace Corps or AmeriCorps

MORE INFORMATION

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School of Public Health
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WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

- “The Behavioral and Community Health major makes you think outside the box and exposes you to real world settings, all with a small cohort of students and great faculty.”

- “I am so grateful to have had this experience. It’s a genuine introduction to the real world of professional employment in a community health setting, while still being an undergraduate.”

- “The passionate professors inspired and strengthened my own passion for health and wellness.”

OUR DEPARTMENT

The Department of Behavioral and Community Health’s exceptional faculty are nationally and internationally recognized for their scholarship, teaching, and service and are dedicated to helping students succeed. Our location and university connections allow us to provide students with unparalleled opportunities for experiences with federal and state government agencies, think tanks, corporate offices, military branches, and national public health organizations.

OUR PROGRAM

To earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Behavioral and Community Health, a student must complete at least 120 credits comprised of CORE or General Education requirements, major courses, and general electives.

Just a few of our exciting courses include:

- Global Health Messages: Understanding Exposure & Impact
- Human Sexuality
- Drug Use and Abuse
- Minority Health
- Communicating Safety and Health

All students participate in a Community Health internship during their final semester. Internship opportunities are wide-ranging and include federal government agencies, state and local health departments, nonprofit organizations, hospitals, and universities.

Students who graduate from our program move into community health positions or continue on to graduate programs in public health, medical school, or allied health programs to become nurses, physician’s assistants, and physical therapists. Our curriculum includes job search training and professional etiquette so students can move easily from the classroom to the workroom.

ABOUT THE UMD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The University of Maryland School of Public Health is a dynamic and growing school located at one of the nation’s top-ranked public research universities. While many schools of public health in the country are limited to graduate education, our large and diverse undergraduate student body provides energy and unique perspectives, and contributes to our initiatives and commitment to advance a better state of health in Maryland and beyond.

With more than 2,300 students in 29 different degree and academic programs, our School of Public Health prepares students to tackle complex and emerging public health issues and make meaningful contributions to the health and welfare of individuals and society. We accomplish this using the tools of traditional public health disciplines, along with our unique expertise in the role physical activity and families play in health. We maximize our impact through collaboration with experts in fields as varied as engineering, arts and humanities, business and public policy on the College Park campus, as well as those in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, social work, law and nursing on the Baltimore campus.