The field of public health is dedicated to understanding and improving the health and well-being of communities. Pacific University’s public health program is designed to develop students’ abilities to analyze and solve problems and communicate effectively in a diverse, complex, and rapidly changing world. Rooted in the liberal arts, the program integrates natural and social sciences with humanistic approaches to addressing global health challenges. The program is housed in the School of Social Sciences, in the Department of Social Work and Public Health.

**Academic programs**
The Department offers the following opportunities in public health:  
- B.A. in Public Health  
- B.S. in Public Health  
- Minor in Public Health

Students interested in pursuing medical school or health professions after Pacific should consider the B.S. Students interested in public health more broadly or in pursuing the social sciences after Pacific might consider the B.A.

A key feature of the major is the Public Health Field Experience, a seminar course that includes a 100-hour community engagement field experience under the supervision of a public health professional.

**Grade requirements**
Only grades of C- or above may be used to satisfy major and minor requirements. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average in the major or minor.

**Sequencing**
Students interested in public health should take Public Health 101 as soon as their schedule permits; this course has no prerequisites. Other foundational courses should be taken as soon as possible. These include courses in biology or chemistry (relevant to the B.A. and B.S. in public health) and PH 200 Epidemiology. A statistics course (MATH 207 or SOC 301) is a pre- or co-requisite for PH 200 Epidemiology.

Upper division coursework consists of PH 310 Social Foundations of Population Health, the research-and-practice sequence, and electives. Students may take PH 310 at any time after completion of the pre-requisite courses. The standard research-and-practice sequence entails PH 352 Program Development & Evaluation and PH 370 Pre-Field Experience Seminar during the junior year. Students may enroll in PH 380 Public Health Field Experience in the spring semester of the junior year (if pre-requisites are completed) or in the fall semester of the senior year. PH 491 Capstone I is taken in the fall of senior year and PH 492 Capstone II in the spring.

Electives include:  
- *An ethics course.*  
- *International and Diverse Perspectives courses.* Students take 6 credits of courses given the International Perspectives or Diverse Perspectives classification by the College of Arts and Sciences.
• *Public health and interdisciplinary electives.* Additional course work is required from public health and other departments. Electives from other disciplines focus on population health concepts, natural science foundations of public health, or build skills relevant to public health practice.

Note that students cannot count the same course toward two requirements within the major (e.g., cannot count a course toward both the public health and interdisciplinary electives requirement and the International and Diverse Perspectives courses elective requirement, even if the course is in both lists.

Minoring
Public health minors complete foundational and core courses but do not participate in the research-to-practice sequence. They take 10 elective credits, with each course drawn from a different cluster.

*Substitutions and transfer credits*
Transfer students are encouraged to work with the Advising Center and/or a Public Health faculty member to review previous related coursework. The Public Health Program does not give academic credit for life or previous work experience.

*Curriculum changes*
Significant changes to the curriculum were made for the 2017 Catalog. Students using the 2016 catalog or previous catalogs should follow the 2016 version of the advising handbook. Note that PH 490 (6 credits) has been replaced by PH 380 (4 credits) + PH 491 (2 credits). Also note that PH 310 may be substituted as a core public health upper division requirement.

**Public Health: Requirements for Major**

**REQUIRED COURSES**
Only grade of C- or above may be used to satisfy major and minor requirements. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average in the major or minor.

- PH 101 Public Health 4
- PH 200 Epidemiology 4
- One course from the following
  - SOC 301 Social Statistics 4
  - OR
  - MATH 207 General Elementary Statistics 4
  - OR
  - PH 310 Social Foundations of Health 4
  - PH 370 Pre-Field Experience Seminar 1
  - PH 352 Program Development & Evaluation 4
  - PH 380 Public Health Field Experience 4
  - PH 491 Capstone I 2
  - PH 492 Capstone II 2
  - BIOL 200 Intro Biology: Flow of Energy 4
  - BIOL 201 Intro Biology: Flow of Biology Information 4

**B.A. – 37 credits**

**Additional required courses for the B.S.**

- CHEM 220 General Chem I 4
- CHEM 230 General Chem II 4

**B.S. – 45 credits**

**ELECTIVES**

**B.A. – 12 credits (4 must be upper division with PH prefix)**

**B.S. – 8 credits (4 must be upper division with PH prefix)**

- PH All PH elective courses
- ANTH 302 Designing Ethnography 4
- BA 309 Marketing 4
- CIV 233 Healthy Communities 2
- CIV 317 Grant-writing/Non-profits 2
- ENV 270 Geospatial Analysis using GIS 4
Sample 4-year schedule for B.A. student
Students pursuing a public health major over four years have some flexibility in scheduling. The following outline is intended as a guide and lists only courses for the major. Students must, of course, take courses to fulfill all College and core requirements.

First year
   BIOL 200 Intro to Biology: Flow of Energy
   BIOL 201 Intro to Biology: Flow of Biol Information
   PH 101 Public Health 101

Sophomore year
   SOC 301 Social Statistics or MATH 207 General Elementary Statistics
   PH 200 Epidemiology
   PH 310 Social Foundations of Population Health
   One elective

Junior year
   PH 352 Program Development and Evaluation
   PH 370 Pre-Field Experience Seminar
   Three electives

Senior year
   PH 380 Public Health Field Experience (fall of senior year or spring of junior year)
   Capstone I and II (fall and spring)
   One elective
Sample 2-year schedule
The courses that transfer students need to take in order to complete the public health major in 2 years will depend upon each student’s previous coursework. Typically, transfer students will transfer in some lower-division course work. (This schedule assumes that a student has completed biology and statistics courses prior to the junior year).

Junior year
PH 101 Public Health 101
PH 200 Epidemiology
PH 310 Social Foundations of Population Health
PH 352 Program Development and Evaluation
PH 370 Pre-Field Experience Seminar
Two electives

Senior year
PH 380 Public Health Field Experience
Capstone I and II (fall and spring, with field experience occurring in the fall semester)
Three electives