Program Mission: To improve the health of individuals and communities and reduce health inequities in the US and abroad by educating future health leaders, managers, policymakers, practitioners, and researchers. Our graduates will excel in a broad range of positions and graduate and professional degree programs.

Our Vision: High quality, accessible, and affordable health systems that achieve optimal population health in North Carolina, the United States, and around the world.

What are our students interested in?
These questions reflect just a few of the interests students explore in the program:

- **Health disparities:** What can we do to address the causes of health disparities among populations both in the U.S. and internationally?
- **Health reform:** In what ways will health reform change the future of U.S. health care? How might health policies be improved and successfully implemented?
- **Access to care:** How can we improve health care access for underserved populations?
- **Health care quality and costs:** How can we improve quality of care while also managing rising health care costs?
- **Health promotion & disease prevention:** What can we do to address preventable illnesses caused by tobacco use, obesity, and physical inactivity?
- **Global health:** How do other countries deliver health care and preventive services, and what can the U.S. learn from their successes and failures? How can health systems and health outcomes be improved in low and middle income countries?

What are the strengths of our program?

*Our supportive learning environment:* Small size (about 40 students per cohort), along with faculty and staff commitment to student success, create a very supportive learning environment.

*The applied nature of our curriculum:* Students participate in real-world projects that allow them to apply knowledge and skills to problems.

*The quality of our students and the success of our graduates:* Graduates obtain positions in a variety of organizations, such as hospitals and health systems, physician practices, consulting firms, government agencies, research and policy institutes, and community health organizations. Graduates also successfully pursue advanced degrees in a broad
range of fields, such as public health (virtually all subfields), health care management and leadership, public policy, medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, law, and business administration. 90%+ of our students are placed within 3 months of graduation.

**BSPH Program Competencies and Curriculum**

**Knowledge**

**Skills and Understanding**
- Communication, Teamwork, and Consulting Skills
- Research, Analysis & Problem Solving Skills
- Business Skills
  - Financial Management and Information Management
  - Strategic Planning and Marketing
  - Leadership, Management, and Organizational Understanding
- Core Public Health Domains: Statistics, Epidemiology, Public Health Foundations, Public Health Systems and Solutions

**Behaviors**
- Professionalism - Relationships, Communication, Job Search, Interviewing, Resumes

**Program Curriculum**

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**Internship**

A 10-week internship (400 hour minimum) in a health-related setting is required during the summer between the junior and senior years. Students are not assigned to their internships; they must find their own internship placement. The BSPH program has many resources to help students find an internship within their areas of interest, including a full-time Career Services Coordinator, and academic advisors who take an interest in students’ development.

**Experiential Learning**

Students participate in projects that allow them to apply the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to real-world problems in public health and health policy and management. Below are some examples of student projects:

**Sample of Service Learning/Capstone Projects**

- Develop a global impact evaluation system to assess long-term impact of club foot services in low-income countries (Client: Miracle Feet, a Chapel Hill non-profit global health organization).
- Study the impact of global health funding in North Carolina and help convey this message to Congress and others (Client: Triangle Global Health Consortium)
- Plan and conduct a program evaluation of an initiative aimed at improving access to care for North Carolina residents. (Client: Community Care of North Carolina)
- Conduct market research to identify, adapt, and promote an evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention program to persons with disabilities (Client: NC Office of Disabilities and Health)
- Analyzing and making recommendations to clinical leaders on improving patient safety during patient “handoffs” from one floor or unit to another. (Client: UNC Hospitals)
- Planning fund development and financial management programs for the Student Health Action Coalition free clinic in Carrboro. (Client: SHAC)
- Conducting market research and developing a marketing plan for the potential expansion of the PACE senior care program (Client: Piedmont Health Services)
- Designing quality measures and strengthening new services (Client: Duke Eye Center)
- Improving HIV-AIDS prevention in North Carolina through media and tailored educational programs (Client: NC Division of Public Health)
- Reducing opioid addiction and overdoses (Client: Chatham County Health Department)
- Plan a post-release health care council to help persons being released from prison access health care. (Client: Orange County Criminal Justice Resource Center)
- Work to improve language access services for Latino residents of NC through work with health care leaders, state public health leaders, and Latinx community groups (Client: NC Council of Latino Organizations).
Student Internships
Students also complete a required 10-week, full-time internship during the summer between their junior and senior year.

Sample of Student Internships

Health Centers and Physician Practices
UNC Physicians Network, UNC Family Medicine, Piedmont Health Services, Triad Adult and Pediatric Medicine

Hospitals and Health Systems
UNC Health Care, Duke, Novant, Carolinas Medical Center, Johns Hopkins, Emory Clinic, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Baylor Scott & White, Cherokee Indian Hospital (NC)

Health Insurance
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of NC, Aetna, Blue Care Network of Michigan

Health Information and Medical Technology
Medtronic, GE Healthcare, Allscripts, TowerView Health

Consulting
Huron, Aon, Marwood Group, Mercer, EY, Avalere Health, Public Consulting Group, Noblis

Policy
Wounded Warrior Project, Global Health Council, National Academy of Social Insurance, The Jewish Federations of North America, Marwood Group, Children’s Hospital Association

Research
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Duke Center for Health Policy & Inequalities Research, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Carolinas Healthcare System (Cannon Summer Scholars), China Center for Health Economics Research, searchHIV

Public Health
NC Div. of Public Health, Durham Co. Dept. of Public Health, Black Women’s Health Imperative, Milwaukee Area Health Education Center, Lutheran Social Services

Global Health
IntraHealth, Futures Group, VaxTrac, World Health Organization (Geneva, Manila, and Beijing), The Carter Center, Ministry of Health - Rwanda, Kyetume Programme (Uganda), ChildFund Senegal, Guyana Ministry of Health, United Nations, SACLEA (South African Christian Leadership Assembly) through VACorps, Runa Foundation in Peru
Post-Graduation Placements

About 75% enter the workforce at graduation while about 25% go directly to graduate or professional school. Nearly all are placed in a job or schooling within a few months of graduation. (Another 20-30% of those who enter the workforce right after graduation go back to school within 2-5 years for another degree).

Sample of Employers

Our graduates have pursued successful careers in all of the following areas and more:

- Hospital and healthcare leadership and management, both large systems like UNC Healthcare, Duke, Carolinas, and Novant, and smaller practices like Providence Anesthesiology Associates (Charlotte)
- The practice of medicine, dentistry, law, and other professions
- Health management and policy consulting firms, such as EY, Deloitte, Navigant, Huron, McKinsey, Triage, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Aon Hewitt
- Health insurance firms, such as Blue Cross and Blue Shield of NC, Aetna
- Professional, advocacy, and policy associations, such as the Children’s Hospital Association, American Public Health Association, National Health Law Program
- Research organizations, such as Research Triangle Institute, Yale Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation, Center for Studying Health Systems Change, UNC Sheps Center for Health Services Research, UNC School of Medicine, Duke University, National Academy for State Health Policy
- Government agencies, such as the Centers for Disease Control, NC Division of Public Health (Raleigh), Cabarrus Health Alliance, Maricopa Co. Dept. of Public Health
- Global health organizations, such as Peace Corps, IPAS, Centers for Disease Control, and the US Agency for International Development
- Health care start-ups, such as TowerView Health
Sample of Recent Graduate and Professional Schools Attended

Graduate Schools

- UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health (virtually all departments)
- Other top schools of public health such as: Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Yale, Michigan, Minnesota, Columbia, Emory, UC Berkeley, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, U. Washington
- Public Policy (MPP): Harvard Kennedy School, Duke Sanford School
- London School of Economics

Professional Schools

- Schools of Medicine: UNC-Chapel Hill (MD, MD-MPH, MD-MBA), Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Dartmouth, Tufts (MD, MBA), Mt. Sinai, Einstein, Case Western, Michigan, New Mexico, East Carolina, Virginia, Eastern Virginia
- UNC Schools of Physical Therapy, Pharmacy, Social Work, Physician’s Assistant
- Schools of Dentistry: UNC, ECU, Florida
- Schools of Law: UNC, Michigan, Houston
- Schools of Business: UNC Kenan-Flagler, Harvard, Stanford, Duke, Penn (Wharton), Johns Hopkins, UC Berkeley, UNC-Charlotte

What are the admission requirements?

- Recommended overall GPA: 3.2 or higher
- Prerequisites: Prospective students are required to complete the following prerequisite courses with a grade of C or better prior to beginning the program. Students should aim to take the prerequisites during their first year or sophomore year – and to take as many as they can before the application due date in January of the sophomore year – so that we can assess their grades in the prerequisites as an important criterion in the admissions process during spring semester of the sophomore year.

  - BIOL 101, BIOL 101L
  - ECON 101
  - Statistics: STOR 155
  - Financial or Managerial Accounting: (One course) BUSI 102, 106, 107, 108, or 407
  - Math/Precalculus/Calculus: (One course): MATH 130, 152, 231, 232, 233 (OR) STOR 112 (OR) STOR 113

- Online application, 2 recommendation letters, transcript, statement of purpose, resume, and interview. At least one of your letters should be from someone qualified to evaluate your academic qualifications. We encourage references from professors or teachers (or teaching assistants) or work/research/voluntary organization supervisors who have worked directly and closely with you and who can speak with specificity about your strengths. The professor or TA can be in any subject; does not need to be sciences or related to public health.
• If you are selected for an interview, interviews normally take place in February. If you are studying abroad in the spring of your sophomore year, you must still submit your application by the deadline. You are strongly encouraged to contact the Program Director to schedule an in-person interview before you leave for study abroad.

• Application Deadline: Second Tuesday in January but start and submit earlier than that in case of technical issues.

Admission to the program is very competitive. Strong applicants have excellent academic performance with particular attention to the prerequisites, strong written and oral communication skills, demonstrated interest (through voluntary or work experiences) in health policy and management or public health broadly, clear understanding of our major and rationale for why they want to pursue our major in particular in order to reach their goals, strong references (see above for guidance on choosing references), professionalism and maturity, and ability to work well on teams. Because the program is so competitive, we encourage all applicants to have a parallel plan.

Interested in more information?
• Carefully study our website: http://sph.unc.edu/hpm/bachelor-of-science-in-public-health-bsph/
• Attend an HPM Info Session or Open House: see our website homepage (just above) for a box with a list of upcoming Info sessions/Open House and register there.
• Meet with one or more current students who are Program Ambassadors: http://sph.unc.edu/hpm/meet-our-bsph-students/ They are happy to meet with you to discuss the program.
• If after reviewing this information you have specific questions, please contact our registrar Lynnette Jones (Lynnette_jones@unc.edu) or assistant registrar Jackie Siler (jackie_siler@unc.edu) about specific technical information about applying, coursework, or pre-requisites; or the Director Karl Umble (umble@email.unc.edu)
• What is Public Health Anyway? Study great resources on this under Frequently Asked Questions on our HPM BSPH website to learn more about this exciting field and its many career possibilities.