

The BSPH Program in Health Policy & Management



What is Public Health?

“The activities that ensure conditions in which people can be healthy. These activities include community wide efforts to identify, prevent, and combat threats to the health of the public. “

- Institute of Medicine Definition of Public Health

Typical Public Health Tasks

- Prevent epidemics and the spread of disease
- Protect against environmental hazards
- Prevent injuries
- Promote and encourage healthy behaviors
- Respond to disasters and assist communities in recovery
- Assure the quality and accessibility of health services

Public Health: Past, Present and Future

Example achievements of the 20th century:

- ❑ Vaccinations & dramatic effects
- ❑ Improved sanitation
- ❑ Fewer heart disease & stroke deaths
- ❑ Healthier mothers and babies
- ❑ Reduction in tobacco use
- ❑ Smallpox elim, polio reduction
- ❑ Safer roads and vehicles

Example concerns of the 21st century:

- Cancer, heart disease, diabetes
- Zika, pandemic influenza, Ebola, other infectious diseases
- Natural disasters
- HIV, malaria, tuberculosis
- Tobacco use globally and in US
- Improve safety, quality, access to care

Departments in the Gillings School

- **Biostatistics (has a BSPH Program)**
- **Environmental Health (has a BSPH Program)**
- **Health Policy and Management (has a BSPH Program)**
- **Nutrition (has a BSPH Program)**
- **Epidemiology**
- **Health Behavior**
- **Maternal and Child Health**
- **Public Health Leadership**



HPM Mission Statement

The mission of the BSPH Program is 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.



What does HPM focus on? A partial list of research and teaching domains

- Improving access to health care
- Reducing disparities in health outcomes/equity
- Improving healthcare quality, health outcomes, and patient experience while reducing costs
- Providing/training a qualified health workforce
- Health economics and finance
- Implementing improvements in healthcare
- Management and leadership
- Health policies in relation to the above

What do students learn in the program?

Knowledge

- Health Field Knowledge: Healthcare, Public Health, Policies

Skills & Abilities

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

Behaviors

- Professionalism: Relationships, Communication, Network Development, Job Search, Interviewing, Resumes, etc.

Components of a BSPH Degree

Culminating
Experience

Cumulative and integrative
learning experience

Elective Courses

Opportunity to tailor learning
to individual interests

Required Courses for Major

Discipline-specific
knowledge and skills

BSPH Core Public Health Curriculum

Foundational public health
knowledge and skills

BSPH Core Public Health Curriculum

New core public health curriculum being implemented for BSPH students entering Fall 2019

SPHG XXX: Foundations of Public Health

3 credits

- Introduction to public health
- Learn how to identify, describe and communicate public health problems

EPID 600: Principles of Epidemiology

3 credits

- Introduction to epid, the basic science of PH
- Use epid to understand, characterize, and promote health at a population level

SPHG XXX: Public Health Systems & Solutions

4 credits

- Intro to health systems in the U.S. and the world
- Develop, implement and evaluate solutions to public health problems

Statistics*

3 credits

- Intro to probability and stat inference
- Learn how to collect, summarize, analyze and present data

* ENVR and NUTR majors will take BIOS 600; HPM majors will take BIOS 600 or ECON 400; BIOS majors take multiple statistics courses

Public Health Domains, Competencies, and Concepts

- Domains (selected)
 - History and philosophy of public health
 - Basic methods and tools of public health data collection, use, analysis
 - Concepts of population health and ways to address needs of populations
 - Determinants of disease in populations (socioeconomic, behavioral, bio, envr)
 - Program planning, implementation, evaluation
 - US health and public health systems, policies
- Communication in public health
 - Ability to communicate PH information to diverse audiences
 - Locate, use, evaluate, synthesize public health information and evidence
- Cross-cutting concepts (selected)
 - Advocacy, community dynamics, creativity, ethics, systems, teamwork

What are our students interested in?

- **Health policies and reform:** *How will health reform change U.S. health care? What policies improve population health status?*
- **Achieving the Triple Aim:** *How can we improve **population health outcomes** and **quality of care** while also managing rising costs?*
- **Health disparities:** *How can we reduce health status disparities? Role of racism in health and reducing same.*
- **Access :** *How can we improve access for underserved populations?*
- **Health promotion & disease prevention:** *How can we reduce preventable illnesses caused by tobacco use, poor nutrition, physical inactivity, malaria, or HIV?*
- **Global health:** *How can we improve systems in low-resource countries?*
- **Leadership:** *How can we lead organizations and partnerships?*

What are the strengths of our program?

The applied nature of our program

- Summer internship & full-time career staff
- Service learning/capstone projects in senior year
- Student choice in internship and projects

The supportive learning environment we create

- Small size of program (@40 per cohort)
- Faculty & staff commitment to students, access
- Nearly 100% are pleased they chose program
- Teamwork - learning from outstanding peers

The quality of our students and the success of our graduates

- 90%+ of students have secured full-time employment or acceptance to a graduate or professional degree program by graduation

Capstone Learning



Recent Capstone Projects

- How can Miracle Feet strengthen its impact evaluation work worldwide?
- How can the Chatham Health Alliance work with the transportation sector to improve access to care?
- How can Duke Eye Center improve its surgery business structure, processes, and outcomes?
- How can UNC Family Medicine improve its social services to low-resource families and individuals?
- How can Orange County strengthen its Healthcare Re-entry services for persons being released from prison?

A Sampling of Recent Honors Thesis Papers Shows Wide Range of Interests

- What are the geographic correlates of HIV transmission clusters in Malawi?
- How has the Medicaid expansion post-ACA influenced racial and ethnic disparities in health insurance coverage nationally?
- What factors have helped sign-ups for insurance coverage through HealthCare.gov in North Carolina communities?
- How can we measure patients' views of arthritis care outcomes?
- How can Samaritan Health Center improve patient satisfaction and return visits for primary care?
- How can UNC Healthcare strengthen its educational program to assist Spanish-speaking pregnant women and new mothers?

Sample Employment Upon Graduation

- Huron, Deloitte, Epic, IBM Health Consulting Groups
- Healthcare Organizations and Systems:
 - Atrium Health
 - UNC HealthCare
- Insurance: Blue Cross/Blue Shield of NC
- Government:
 - CDC Public Health Associate Program (federal)
 - Cabarrus Health Alliance (local)
- Research: RTI; Yale Center for Outcomes Research & Evaluation
- Global: Peace Corps; Princeton in Asia Fellowship

Sample Graduate/Prof Schools

- Public Health: UNC, Harvard, Hopkins, Columbia, Emory, Michigan, U. Washington
- UNC: Medicine, PA, Dentistry, Law, Phys Therapy, Pharmacy, Business
- Other medical schools: Harvard, Tufts, Hopkins, Einstein, Michigan, Case Western, Dartmouth, E. Carolina, S. Carolina, Virginia
- Public Policy: Harvard Kennedy, Duke Sanford
- Business (MBA): UNC-CH, Berkeley, Duke, Emory, Harvard, Stanford, UNC-Charlotte



Can I get into PH without going to the Gillings School for BSPH?

- Yes!
- Some other possible majors:
 - Interdisciplinary studies
 - Sociology, psychology, anthropology, global studies
 - Public policy, economics, envr studies, business
 - Biology, chemistry, pre-med/dent
 - May apply to more than one BSPH program
- Minors: med anthropology, sustainability, urban studies & planning, geography, social/econ justice, etc.
- Gillings electives

Is HPM a good major for global health? Yes!

- HPM classes & research are mainly focused on domestic health care
- However:
 - ▣ Core PH courses are relevant in all contexts
 - ▣ Management and policy skills are transferable
 - ▣ We encourage global internships, activities and careers
 - ▣ Electives and clubs
 - ▣ Minors in medical anthro, global studies etc. can give global focus
 - ▣ Can do global health research
 - ▣ Grads enter top grad schools for global health