

Bachelor of Science in Public Health

The mission of the BSPH program in Health Policy and Management is to improve the health of individuals and communities and reduce health inequities in the US and globally by educating future health leaders, managers, policymakers, practitioners, and researchers.

Should I consider the BSPH program in Health Policy and Management?

Are you interested in improving population health? Would you like to explore ways to address health inequities and ensure everyone has access to the resources they need to be healthy, such as high-quality, affordable health care? Do you enjoy collaborating with others and solving complex problems? If yes, the BSPH program in Health Policy and Management may be right for you!

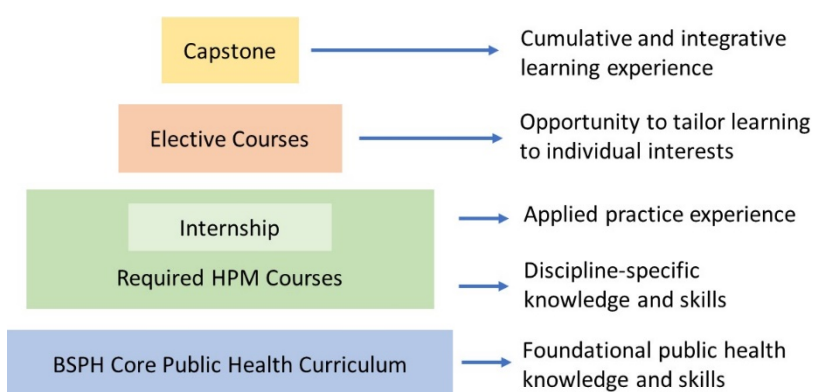
What would I learn in the program?

The curriculum is designed to help students gain a strong foundation in public health and develop the following competencies:

Knowledge of the U.S. health system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine the organization, financing, management and performance of the U.S. health system [HPM 350, HPM 352] Discuss the politics of public health and health policy in the U.S. [HPM 351] Discuss health-related legal and ethical issues and their impact on the U.S. health system [HPM 310]
Analytical and management skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage and analyze data using appropriate methods and tools [HPM 341, BIOS 600 or ECON 400] Formulate strategic alternatives for achieving an organization's goals and objectives [HPM 320] Apply basic methods and techniques in financial management [HPM 340] Discuss approaches to effectively lead and manage people, projects and organizations [HPM 330]
Cross-cutting skills and professionalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locate, use, evaluate and synthesize public health information Communicate public health information, in both oral and written forms through a variety of media and to diverse audiences Perform effectively on teams Demonstrate attitudes and behaviors consistent with a professional environment

What does the curriculum look like?

The curriculum includes a combination of core public health courses, required courses in health policy and management (HPM), a 10-week internship completed the summer between junior and senior year, elective courses (including graduate-level options), and a senior capstone experience.



The table below lists the required courses for the program:

Junior Fall
HPM 350 Introduction to Health Services Systems I (3 credits)
HPM 341 Information Systems, Technology & Tools in Health Services Administration (3 credits)
SPHG 351 Foundations of Public Health (3 credits)
Junior Spring
HPM 352 Introduction to Health Services Systems II (3 credits)
HPM 320 Introduction to Strategic Planning and Marketing (3 credits)
HPM 340 Foundations of Health Care Financial Management (3 credits)
SPHG 352 Public Health Systems and Solutions (4 credits)
Summer
HPM 393 Internship (2 credits) <i>Students complete the internship during the summer, but register for HPM 393 during their Senior Fall.</i>
Senior Fall
HPM 310 Introduction to Law and Ethics in Health Administration (3 credits)
HPM 330 Introduction to Health Organization Leadership, Management & Behavior (3 credits)
<i>Optional Elective: HPM 691H</i> Honors Research (3 credits)
Senior Spring
HPM 351 Policy Issues in Health Services Delivery (3 credits)
HPM 697 BSPH Capstone (3 credits)
<i>Optional Elective: HPM 692H</i> Independent Honors Research (3 credits)
Other
EPID 600 Principles of Epidemiology (3 credits) <i>Strongly recommended Junior Fall or Junior Spring.</i>
BIOS 600 Principles of Statistical Inference (3 credits) OR ECON 400 Economic Statistics and Econometrics (3 credits) <i>Can be taken any term.</i>

HPM 393 Internship. The internship provides students an opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills they are learning in the classroom, gain valuable experience and explore career interests. Students complete their internships in a range of settings, such as hospitals and health systems, physician practices and clinics, consulting firms, policy organizations, health insurance companies, governmental agencies, community-based non-profits, research centers and global health organizations.



HPM 697 BSPH Capstone. The capstone course serves as a culminating experience for the program, providing students with an opportunity to integrate and apply the knowledge and skills they have learned across the program. Students work in teams to complete a major project with a community organization under the direction of a faculty member and with the support of preceptor.

Examples of past capstone projects include:

- Planning and conducting an evaluation of an initiative aimed at improving access to care for North Carolina residents. (Client: Community Care of North Carolina)
- Analyzing patient “handoffs” and developing recommendations for improving communication and patient safety. (Client: UNC Hospitals)

HPM 691H and 692H Senior Honors Thesis. Eligible students have the option of completing a senior honors thesis, which generally includes designing and carrying out a research study or program evaluation.

Examples of research questions examined by past honors thesis students include:

- How has the Medicaid expansion post-ACA influenced racial and ethnic disparities in health insurance coverage nationally?
- How can Samaritan Health Center improve patient satisfaction and return visits for primary care?

What can I do with a BSPH degree in Health Policy and Management?

Our graduates are very successful upon graduation. Nearly all are placed within a few months of graduation, with approximately 80% entering the workforce and about 20% going directly to graduate or professional school. Top employers include consulting firms, hospitals and health systems, private non-profit organizations, private research organizations, and health information technology companies. Within 2-5 years of graduation, over half of our graduates have pursued an additional degree, with most pursuing a medical degree or graduate degree in public health. Over 90% of recent graduates report doing work they consider public health and/or health-related.

What are you looking for in an applicant and how can I apply?

Interested students should apply during January of their sophomore year. Admitted students begin the program during the fall of their junior year. Competitive applicants have excellent academic performance, strong written and oral communication skills, demonstrated interest in public health (generally) and health policy and management (specifically), strong references, professionalism and maturity, and the desire and ability to work well on teams. Applicants must also be able to describe why they are interested in the program.

Application deadline	Second Tuesday in January
Application requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online application• 2 recommendation letters, at least one from someone able to evaluate your academic qualifications• Transcript• Statement of purpose• Resume• Interview
Prerequisite courses	<p>Students are required to complete the following prerequisite courses with a grade of C or better prior to beginning the program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BIOL 101 and 101L• ECON 101• STOR 120 or 155• One of the following: BUSI 102, 106, 107 or 108• One of the following: MATH 130, 152, 231, 232, 233 or STOR 112 or 113 <p><i>Students are encouraged to complete as many prerequisites as possible before applying.</i></p>

Where can I go if I want to learn more or have questions?

- Check out our program website for more information, to register for an information session and to find contact information for our Program Ambassadors:
<http://sph.unc.edu/hpm/bachelor-of-science-in-public-health-bsph/>
- Contact our Academic Coordinator, U'Ronda Higgs, at uhiggs@email.unc.edu.