



Public Health

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” - Margaret Mead

Public health is the science of protecting and improving the health of people and their communities. This work is achieved by promoting healthy lifestyles; researching disease and injury prevention; and detecting, preventing, and responding to infectious diseases. Overall, public health is concerned with protecting the health of entire populations. Inspired by the Jesuit tradition of academic excellence and service to others, our Public Health Department at Gonzaga University is grounded in the values of health equity, compassion, social justice, and the inherent dignity of every individual. Our mission is to advance public health through education, service, and community engagement. We seek to expand public health knowledge and contribute to evidence-based solutions that improve the health and quality of life for communities locally, nationally, and globally.

THE PROGRAM

Students will embark on a transformative journey in Public Health with our comprehensive 36-credit major. Dive into the fundamental aspects of epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental health, and social and behavioral sciences to understand the complexities of global health challenges and solutions.

OUTCOMES

Public health professionals:

- Address some of the world’s most pressing health problems through prevention. This often involves improving the conditions in which people live, play, and work.
- Work at the community or population level and can create local and global impact.
- Promote health and prevent disease by attacking root causes.
- Have a strong social justice focus aimed at promoting equity and reducing health disparities.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Engage in hands-on experiences through internships, health intervention projects, and community outreach initiatives, honing skills in health promotion, disease prevention, and policy advocacy. Graduates are prepared for a rewarding career dedicated to improving the well-being of individuals and communities worldwide.

Public Health graduates gain skills that are beneficial in a variety of careers, even outside of public health settings. Some of these in-demand skills include:

- Communication (health literacy, persuasive communication, cultural sensitivity, and communication strategies for diverse populations)
- Writing (critical thinking, grant writing, conducting needs assessments and program evaluation)
- Research (data analysis, statistical methods in Public Health, biostatistics)
- Project Organization and Management (social marketing, program design, program implementation, targeted health programming)

Undergraduate and graduate degrees in public health prepare students for careers in federal or local government agencies, universities, non-profit organizations, and private employers. Graduates may also establish careers in hospitals or health care provider settings. Public health careers involve participation in policy advocacy, health education, global disease prevention, research, and a multitude of other interdisciplinary roles. Common areas of professional interest among majors include behavioral and social science, biostatistics and epidemiology, health informatics, environmental health, global health, health policy and management, health promotion and communication, minority health and health disparities, and maternal and child health.

FACULTY CONTACT

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

gonzaga.edu/school-of-health-sciences/departments/public-health

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COURSEWORK

Required courses in the 36-credit major include:

- Introduction to Public Health
- Statistics
- Determinants of Health
- Health Communication and Theories of Human Behavior
- Epidemiology and Applied Biostatistics
- Health Policy and Political Determinants of Health
- Public Health Practicum/Internship

Examples of elective courses include:

- Environment, Climate Change, and Health
- Global Health Issues
- Sociology of Health and Medicine
- Sociology of Reproduction
- Public Health Advocacy
- Public Health Needs Assessment and Program Planning
- Public Health Implementation and Evaluation
- Health Leadership and Management
- Disability in Literature
- Health Care Ethics
- Health/Pediatric Psychology
- Religion and Medical Science
- Christian Sexual Ethics
- Environmental Sociology
- Feminism and Science

THE MINOR

The minor in public health equips students with a foundational understanding of the principles, practices, and challenges involved in promoting and protecting community health.

Students gain insight into the interconnected factors influencing population well-being. The minor provides foundational Public Health knowledge and fosters critical thinking, analytical skills, and a multidisciplinary approach to problem-solving, appropriate for preparing students in various careers in healthcare, public policy, research, advocacy, and community health organizations.

