

PRE-PUBLIC HEALTH

Undergraduate Credit Required:	Bachelor's degree is required for admission to certificate, Masters, or Doctoral programs. Some schools offer a Bachelor's degree in Public Health, but UNL does not.
Entrance Exam:	GRE or MCAT, Some programs may accept the GMAT, LSAT, or PCAT as well.
Professional Schooling Required:	1-6 years: 1-2 years for a certificate; 2 years for a Master's; 5-6 years for a Doctorate
Local Professional Schools:	UNMC (Certificate, Master's, Doctorate)
Professional Organizations Website:	apha.org (American Public Health Association)

Public Health Profession

Public health is the science and art of creating healthy communities through education, research and promotion of healthy lifestyles. In public health, the focus is on health promotion and disease/injury prevention, in contrast to the medical model of care, which focuses more heavily upon diagnosing and treating illnesses and conditions after they occur.

Core Areas of Public Health

Schools of public health offer graduate programs in at least all five core areas of public health. These core areas of public health include:

- Behavioral Science / Health Education
- Biostatistics
- Environmental & Occupational Health
- Epidemiology
- Health Services Administration

Required Courses

Students should consult each school they plan to apply to in order to know what coursework will be required for admission. These requirements may vary widely by degree type and/or concentration.

Three of UNMC's MPH concentrations have specific prerequisites for admission:

- Biostatistics: B or better in statistics, differential, and integral calculus classes
- Epidemiology: B or better in a statistics, calculus, or algebra class
- Environmental and Occupational Health: two semesters of biology, two semesters of chemistry, one semester of physics, and one semester of college level math

Recommended Courses

While many public health graduate programs do not have specific prerequisites, the following UNL courses can be helpful for students to gain a background in public health issues. This is in no way an all-inclusive list as many other classes also exist that have relevant information for public health. Some of these classes may have prerequisites. Please consult the Undergraduate Catalog.

Anthropology: ANTH 215, 422, 430

Biological & Life Sciences: BIOS 101/L, LIFE 120/L, LIFE 121/L

Child, Youth and Family Studies: CYAF 333, 380, 446, 488

Communication Studies: COMM 211, 354, 368

Economics: ECON 211, 212, 389
Gerontology: GERO 200 and any other GERO courses of interest
History & Science/Medicine: CLAS 233, HIST 221, 228, 320, 402
Medical Ethics: PHIL 213
Nutrition: NUTR 100, 201, 250, 251, 253, 256, 351, 401
Psychology: 428, 430, 471
Public Policy: POLS 235, 236
Sociology: 252, 309, 353, 443, 444, 454

Beyond Academics

Pre-Public Health students are encouraged to participate in experiences, such as leadership roles, volunteer work, research, and shadowing, which will help them prepare for public health school and the various professions in public health. Activities outside the classroom play a significant role in a student's application to a professional school program. Such experiences demonstrate a commitment to and knowledge about the profession. In particular, working or volunteering at a hospital/clinic, health department, health related organizations, or non-profit involved in public health advocacy or policy would be helpful to learn about the different professions in public health. Students pursuing a career in public health should recognize how these professions differ from a clinical practitioner like a physician, nurse, etc.

Application and Admission

For admission to UNMC's MPH or PhD programs, students must apply through the centralized application process – SOPHAS. Information on SOPHAS can be found at www.sophas.org and on the UNMC admissions page at <http://unmc.edu/publichealth/admissions/index.html>.

Students pursuing an MS in Emergency Preparedness or any of the Certificate Programs apply directly to UNMC for admission. Detailed information on this process can be located at <http://unmc.edu/publichealth/admissions/index.html>.

The admissions committees for all programs review grade point average, recommendations (when appropriate), knowledge of profession, service, and leadership experience. No interviews are held for UNMC graduate programs in public health.

Additional Resources

UNMC College of Public Health
Office of Educational Services
Omaha, NE
402-552-9867
coph@unmc.edu
<http://unmc.edu/publichealth/>

Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health (ASPPH)
<http://www.aspph.org/>

Explore Health Careers
<http://explorehealthcareers.org>