PUBLIC HEALTH

Undergraduate Credit Required: Bachelor’s degree is required for admission to Certificate, Masters, or Doctoral programs

Entrance Exam: GRE (most schools)
Other exams may be accepted – see school

Professional Schooling Required: 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) https://www.aspph.org/ (Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health)

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 may offer concentrations in a variety of areas. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Behavioral and Social Science
- Biostatistics and Informatics
- Community Health
- Epidemiology
- Environmental Health
- Global Health
- Health Policy and Management
- Health Promotion and Communication
- Maternal and Child Health
- Minority Health and Health Disparities

For more possible areas of study please see, https://www.aspph.org/study/all-areas-of-study/

UNMC offers the following concentrations. Some areas include pre-requisites.

- Biostatistics
  - B or better in a college-level statistics course, differential calculus, and integral calculus

- Environmental and Occupational Health
  - 2 semesters of biology
  - 2 semesters of chemistry
  - 1 semester of physics
  - 1 semester college-level math

- Epidemiology
  - B or better in a college-level math course

- Health Promotion

- Maternal and Child Health

- Public Health Administration and Policy
**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 331, 354, 368  
Economics: ECON 211, 212, 389  
Gerontology: GERO 200 and any other GERO courses of interest  
History & Science/Medicine: HIST 228, 320, 402  
Medical Ethics: PHIL 213  
Nutrition: NUTR 253, 256, 330, 351, 356, 400, 401, 404, 407  
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**
- Application: To apply to most public health programs, complete the application through the Schools of Public Health Application Service (SOPHAS). More information about SOPHAS can be found at, sophas.org  
- Entrance exam: Most public health programs require the GRE. For information on the content and registration for the GRE see, ets.org/gre  
- Additional application requirements: UNMC requires 3 letters of recommendation, a personal statement, and resume or CV. Interviews are not required at the UNMC College of Public Health. Additional application requirements will vary by school.

**Additional Resources**

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

**Explore Health Careers**, explorehealthcareers.org