BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA) DEGREE WITH A MAJOR IN PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES

Program Learning Outcomes for the BA Degree with a Major in Public Health Sciences

Upon completing the BA degree with a major in Public Health Sciences, students will be able to:

1. Understand the functions of health promotion and public health on human health and disease prevention. They will demonstrate fundamental knowledge of epidemiology, statistics, environmental health, health policy, and theories and models of health behavior.
2. Explain the role of socioeconomic, behavioral, biological, environmental, and other factors on human health, including personal health and public and community health.
3. Read, select, and interpret important information from health sciences literature. They will be able to identify and understand appropriate methodologies in public health research studies.
4. Collaborate with other professionals, staff, and communities in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of health promotion programs. They will be able to administer and manage health promotion programs, serve as a public health resource person, and communicate and advocate for health and public health.
5. Promote public health education and promotion within the framework of legal, ethical, moral, and professional standards.
6. Demonstrate an ability to work in a collaborative environment and deliver public health information effectively through written, oral, and media-based formats.

Requirements for the BA Degree with a Major in Public Health Sciences

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/). Students pursuing the BA degree with a major in Health Sciences must complete:

- A minimum of 14 courses (42 credit hours) to satisfy major requirements.
- A minimum of 120 credit hours to satisfy degree requirements.
- A minimum of 5 courses (15 credit hours) taken at the 300-level or above.
- A maximum of 4 courses (12 credit hours) from study abroad or transfer credit. For additional departmental guidelines regarding transfer credit, see the Policies (p. 3) tab.
- A minimum major GPA of 2.00 or higher in all coursework that satisfies requirements for the major.

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this major. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the major's academic advisor or, where applicable, the department's Director of Undergraduate Studies. (Course substitutions must be formally applied and entered into Degree Works by the major's Official Certifier (https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degreeworks/officialcertifier/).) Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

Summary

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Total Credit Hours Required for the Major in Public Health Sciences		42
Total Credit Hours Required for the BA Degree with a Major in Public Health Sciences		120

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Core Requirements [1]		
HEAL 222	PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY HEALTH	3
HEAL 372	ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES AND PUBLIC HEALTH IN HOUSTON AND BEYOND	3
HEAL 407	EPIDEMIOLOGY	3
HEAL 412	HEALTH CARE DELIVERY & POLICY IN THE UNITED STATES	3
HEAL 462	HEALTH BEHAVIOR: THEORY AND HEALTH PROMOTION PRACTICE	3
KINE 319	STATISTICS FOR THE HEALTH PROFESSIONAL	3
Elective Requirements		
Select 8 elective courses from the following categories (see course list below)		*24*
Schools of i.) Humanities and Arts and ii.) Social Sciences		
Schools of iii.) Engineering and Computing and iv.) Natural Sciences		
Total Credit Hours Required for the Major in Public Health Sciences		**42**
Additional Credit Hours to Complete Degree Requirements *		47
University Graduation Requirements (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/) *		31
Total Credit Hours		**120**

Footnotes and Additional Information

* **Note:** University Graduation Requirements include 31 credit hours, comprised of Distribution Requirements (Groups I, II, and III), FWIS, and LPAP coursework. In some instances, courses satisfying FWIS or distribution requirements may additionally meet other requirements, such as the Analyzing Diversity (AD) requirement, or some of the student's declared major, minor, or certificate requirements. Additional Credit Hours to Complete Degree Requirements include general electives, coursework completed as upper-level, residency (hours taken at Rice), and/or any other additional academic program requirements.

[1] Core Requirements include an introductory course designed to acquaint students with the fundamental concepts of public health and community health issues, an environmental health course, a course on methods of understanding distributions and determinants of health issues, a course that introduces the U.S. health care system and health policy, an application course in which students learn and apply theories and models commonly used in health promotion research and practice, and a course that introduces statistics.

Course List to Satisfy Requirements

Elective Requirements

To fulfill the elective requirements for the major in Public Health Sciences, students must complete a total of 8 elective courses (minimum of 24 credit hours) from the course lists below. At least 2 courses (6 credit hours) must be selected from the Schools of i.) Humanities and Arts and ii.) Social Sciences, and at least 2 courses (6 credit hours) must be selected from the Schools of iii.) Engineering and Computing and iv.) Natural Sciences. The remaining 4 courses (12 credit hours) can be selected from course offerings from any school on the approved elective requirements listed below. In keeping with the university's interest in an interdisciplinary approach to undergraduate education, this allows students to choose health-related courses from across disciplines.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Schools of i.) Humanities and Arts and ii.) Social Sciences		
AAAS 317 / MDHM 315	RACE, MEDICINE, AND MASS INCARCERATION IN THE UNITED STATES	3
ANTH 381	MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY	3
ANTH 386	MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY OF FOOD AND HEALTH	3
ANTH 446	ADVANCED TOPICS IN BIOMEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY	3
ECON 481	HEALTH ECONOMICS	3
ENGL 272 / MDHM 272	LITERATURE AND MEDICINE	3
ENGL 273 / SWGS 273	MEDICINE AND MEDIA	3
ENST 301	ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE	3
ENST 315	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	3
ENST 367 / SOCI 367	ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY	3
MDHM 201	INTRODUCTION TO MEDICAL HUMANITIES	3
MDHM 359	RESPONSIBLE AI FOR HEALTH	3
PHIL 266	MEDICAL ETHICS	3
PHIL 354 / MDHM 354	THE PHILOSOPHY OF MEDICINE	3
POLI 329	HEALTH POLICY	3
PSYC 345	HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY	3
PSYC 346	STRESS AND HEALTH ACROSS THE LIFESPAN	3
SOCI 313	DEMOGRAPHY	3
SOCI 345	MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY	3
SOCI 351	REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SOCIETY	3
SOCI 465 / SWGS 465	GENDER AND HEALTH	3
SOSC 330	HEALTH CARE REFORM IN THE 50 STATES	3

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Schools of iii.) Engineering and Computing and iv.) Natural Sciences		
BIOE 360 / GLHT 360	APPROPRIATE DESIGN FOR GLOBAL HEALTH	3
BIOS 201	INTRODUCTORY BIOLOGY I	3
or BIOS 101	AP/OTH CREDIT INTRODUCTORY BIOLOGY I	
BIOS 353	MICROBIOLOGY: THE MOLECULAR BASIS FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND THEIR TREATMENT	3
BIOS 370	CURRENT BIOSCIENCES AND HEALTH POLICY TOPICS	3
BIOS 372	IMMUNOLOGY	3
GLHT 201	INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL HEALTH	3
HEAL 103	NUTRITION	3
HEAL 119	INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH AND WELLNESS	3
HEAL 132	MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY	3
HEAL 208	CHEMICAL ALTERATIONS OF BEHAVIOR	3
HEAL 212	PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE MEDIA	3
HEAL 306 / SWGS 306	HUMAN SEXUALITY	3
HEAL 313	FOUNDATIONS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSION	3
HEAL 338	PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING: SOCIAL EPIDEMIOLOGY, CONSEQUENCES, & PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACHES	3
HEAL 350	UNDERSTANDING CANCER	3
HEAL 360	VIOLENCE IN AMERICA: A PUBLIC HEALTH PERSPECTIVE	3
HEAL 375	THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH	3
HEAL 376	FUNDAMENTALS AND APPLICATIONS OF GIS IN PUBLIC HEALTH	3
HEAL 379	INTERNSHIP IN HEALTH SCIENCES	1-3
HEAL 380	DISPARITIES IN HEALTH IN AMERICA	3
HEAL 403	PUBLIC HEALTH NUTRITION	3
HEAL 495	INDEPENDENT RESEARCH IN HEALTH SCIENCES	1-3
HEAL 498	SPECIAL TOPICS IN HEALTH SCIENCES	3
KINE 300	HUMAN ANATOMY WITH LAB	4
KINE 301	HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY	3
KINE 326	PHYSICAL ACTIVITY EPIDEMIOLOGY	3
KINE 440	RESEARCH METHODS	3

Policies for the BA Degree with a Major in Public Health Sciences

Transfer Credit

For Rice University's policy regarding transfer credit, see Transfer Credit (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/transfer-credit/). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. Requests for transfer credit must be approved for Rice equivalency by the designated transfer credit advisor for the appropriate academic department offering the Rice equivalent course (corresponding to the subject code of the course content). The Office of Academic Advising maintains the university's official list of transfer credit advisors (https://oaa.rice.edu/advising-network/transfer-credit-advisors/) on their website: https://oaa.rice.edu. Students are encouraged to meet with the applicable transfer credit advisor as well as their academic program director when considering transfer credit possibilities.

Departmental Transfer Credit Guidelines

Students pursuing the major in Public Health Sciences should be aware of the following departmental transfer credit guideline:

- No more than 4 courses (12 credit hours) of transfer credit from U.S. or international universities of similar standing as Rice may apply towards the major.

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Department of Kinesiology website: https://kinesiology.rice.edu/.

Opportunities for the BA Degree with a Major in Public Health Sciences

Academic Honors

The university recognizes academic excellence achieved over an undergraduate's academic history at Rice. For information on university honors, please see Latin Honors (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/) (*summa cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, and *cum laude*) and Distinction in Research and Creative Work (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/). Some departments have department-specific Honors awards or designations.

Unique Programs

Rice-UTHealth Houston Public Health Scholars

Rice undergraduate students interested in pursuing a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth Houston School of Public Health (UTHHSPH)) may apply to the Rice-UTHealth Houston Public Health Scholars Program. This unique coordinated program enables accepted Rice students to earn credit towards their Rice undergraduate degree (BA or BS with any major), and to accelerate in the completion of their UTHHSPH Master of Public Health degree to within one year after completing their Rice undergraduate degree. For more information on the Rice-UTHealth Houston Public Health Scholars Program, please see the *Rice-UT Public Health Scholars Program* tab on the Dean of Undergraduates website (https://studentlife.rice.edu/student-resources/academic/rice-uthealth-public-health-scholars/).

Rice-UTMB Physical Therapy Scholars

Beginning in Fall 2023, a program agreement is in effect between the Sports Medicine and Exercise Physiology (SMEP) program at Rice University and the Department of Physical Therapy at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston (UTMB). This unique Rice-UTMB Physical Therapy Scholars Program (Rice-UTMB PTS) offers an opportunity for qualified SMEP students who have identified physical therapy as a career choice to receive preference during the admission process into the UTMB Doctor of Physical Therapy Program. For more information on the Rice-UTMB Physical Therapy Scholars Program, please see the Department of Kinesiology website (https://kinesiology.rice.edu/).

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Department of Kinesiology website: https://kinesiology.rice.edu/.