



## **PCC Proposal to Rename the Bachelor of Science in "Community Health" to "Public Health Practice" (Senate Document #23-24-26)**

**PRESENTED BY** Wendy Stickle, Chair, Senate Programs, Curricula, and Courses Committee

**REVIEW DATES** SEC – February 21, 2024 | SENATE – March 6, 2024

**VOTING METHOD** In a single vote

**RELEVANT  
POLICY/DOCUMENT**

**NECESSARY  
APPROVALS** Senate, President, USM Chancellor, and the Maryland Higher Education Commission

### **ISSUE**

---

The School of Public Health's Department of Behavioral and Community Health proposes to rename the Bachelor of Science in "Community Health" to "Public Health Practice". This major is a public health degree program rooted in social and behavioral science and theory and focused on making meaningful contributions to impact health and quality of life at all levels of society. The program is designed to serve as a gateway to graduate studies or as a transition directly to the field as an engaged, prepared, and well-informed public health practitioner.

The new title, "Public Health Practice," better reflects the nomenclature that is current in today's public health landscape and best identifies the program's differences and similarities with Public Health Science, a separate major in the School of Public Health. The name "Community Health" is not as recognizable as the term "Public Health." Prospective students interested in practicing public health tend to overlook the Community Health major and choose instead the Public Health Science major, even though the Public Health Science major is geared toward students who are interested in pursuing a degree in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and other allied health professions given its heavy focus on the life sciences, such as human anatomy and physiology, general/organic chemistry, and genetics. Through conversations with students and from student survey results, the department has learned that many students were unaware of the content of the Community Health program earlier in their college careers and wished that the public health nature of the program had been clearer. Changing the program title would lead students to enter the program sooner, which should lead to better student performance and shorter time to degree.

There are otherwise no changes to the program's curriculum or educational objectives. The program will continue to train students to design research and practice activities at all levels of the socio-ecological model to improve the health of all populations. The School of Public Health and the Public Health Science program in particular support this name change as it will better differentiate between the two majors and help students understand there are two options for engaging in and obtaining a public health degree.

The proposal was approved by the Senate Programs, Curricula, and Courses committee on February 2, 2024.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

---

The Senate Committee on Programs, Curricula, and Courses recommends that the Senate approve this name change.

## **COMMITTEE WORK**

---

The committee considered this proposal at its meeting on February 2, 2024. Tracy Zeeger, from the Department of Behavioral and Community Health, and Nicole Cousin-Gossett, from the School of Public Health, presented the proposal and answered questions from the committee. The committee approved the proposal.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

---

The Senate could decline to approve this new program title.

## **RISKS**

---

If the Senate declines to approve this program title change, the current program title will continue to be confusing for students, leading to unnecessary delays in choosing the right major.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

---

There are no significant financial implications for program title changes.

# 548: PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE MAJOR

---

## In Workflow

1. D-HLTH PCC Chair (tzeeger@umd.edu)
2. D-HLTH Chair (csfryer@umd.edu)
3. SPHL Curriculum Manager (cgossett@umd.edu)
4. SPHL PCC Chair (cgossett@umd.edu)
5. SPHL Dean (lushniak@umd.edu)
6. Academic Affairs Curriculum Manager (mcolson@umd.edu)
7. Senate PCC Chair (mcolson@umd.edu; wstickle@umd.edu)
8. University Senate Chair (mcolson@umd.edu)
9. President (mcolson@umd.edu)
10. Chancellor (mcolson@umd.edu)
11. MHEC (mcolson@umd.edu)
12. Provost Office (mcolson@umd.edu)
13. Undergraduate Catalog Manager (lyokoi@umd.edu; acruz130@umd.edu)

## Approval Path

1. Tue, 05 Dec 2023 15:44:32 GMT  
Tracy Zeeger (tzeeger): Approved for D-HLTH PCC Chair
2. Tue, 05 Dec 2023 16:00:37 GMT  
Craig Fryer (csfryer): Approved for D-HLTH Chair
3. Wed, 06 Dec 2023 15:45:30 GMT  
Nicole Cousin-Gossett (cgossett): Approved for SPHL Curriculum Manager
4. Thu, 14 Dec 2023 18:23:56 GMT  
Nicole Cousin-Gossett (cgossett): Approved for SPHL PCC Chair
5. Thu, 14 Dec 2023 18:24:19 GMT  
Nicole Cousin-Gossett (cgossett): Approved for SPHL Dean
6. Fri, 26 Jan 2024 21:34:30 GMT  
Michael Colson (mcolson): Approved for Academic Affairs Curriculum Manager
7. Wed, 07 Feb 2024 16:48:52 GMT  
Wendy Stickle (wstickle): Approved for Senate PCC Chair

## History

1. Aug 5, 2019 by clmig-jwehrheim
2. Oct 15, 2019 by William Bryan (wbryan)
3. May 14, 2020 by Tracy Zeeger (tzeeger)
4. Mar 9, 2021 by Tracy Zeeger (tzeeger)

Date Submitted: Tue, 05 Dec 2023 15:43:30 GMT

**Viewing: 548 : Public Health Practice Major**

**Last approved: Tue, 09 Mar 2021 21:28:32 GMT**

**Last edit: Wed, 20 Dec 2023 18:45:36 GMT**

Changes proposed by: Tracy Zeeger (tzeeger)

### Proposed Action

Rename Program

### Program Name

Public Health Practice Major

### Program Status

Active

**Effective Term**

Summer I 2024

**Catalog Year**

2024-2025

**Program Level**

Undergraduate Program

**Program Type**

Undergraduate Major

**Delivery Method**

On Campus

**Departments**

**Department**

Behavioral & Community Health

**Colleges**

**College**

School of Public Health

**Program/Major Code**

08370

**MHEC Inventory Program**

Community Health

**CIP Code**

512208 - Community Health and Preventive Medicine.

**HEGIS**

083700

**Degree(s) Awarded**

**Degree Awarded**

Bachelor of Science

**Proposal Contact**

Dr. Tracy Zeeger

**Proposal Summary**

The Department of Behavioral and Community Health wishes to change its program name to Public Health Practice to reflect nomenclature that is current in today's public health landscape and to best identify its differences and similarities with Public Health Science, a complementary major in the School of Public Health.

(PCC Log Number 23083)

**Program and Catalog Information**

**Provide the catalog description of the proposed program. As part of the description, please indicate any areas of concentration or specializations that will be offered.**

The Bachelor of Science in Community Health is an interdisciplinary public health degree program rooted in social and behavioral science and theory and focused on making meaningful contributions to impact health and quality of life at all levels of society. Students learn to address the complex individual, community, and societal factors impacting health through a highly-structured, professionally-focused program that culminates in a full-time, mentored internship during the final semester.

The program is designed to serve as a gateway to graduate studies or as a transition directly to the field as an engaged, prepared, and well-informed public health practitioner. During the program, students have opportunities to learn outside of the classroom through volunteer work, study abroad opportunities, collaboration with departmental faculty through independent study, work at the University Health Center for credit, and public health-related student groups.

Graduates of the Community Health major pursue careers in research, advocacy, policy, health education, social work, community outreach, and other public health related areas. They work locally, nationally, and internationally primarily through foundations, non-profit organizations, and government services.

**Catalog Program Requirements. Please click on the help bubble for more specific information about formatting requirements.**

The total number of credits required to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Community Health is 120, and the number of Community Health major-required course credits is 69. Students must earn a grade of C- or higher in all Community Health major-required coursework. HLTH491, Community Health Internship, is completed during the final semester in the Community Health major, after all other coursework has been successfully completed. Students can elect to complete an area of specialization in selected areas (Special Populations, Health Communication, Health Risk Behavior).

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Public and Community Health Core</b>		<b>13</b>
SPHL100	Foundations of Public Health	
HLTH124	Introduction to Behavioral and Community Health	
EPIB301	Epidemiology for Public Health Practice	
EPIB315	Biostatistics for Public Health Practice	
HLTH306	Macro Level Influences on Community Health	
<b>Public and Community Health Foundational Science</b>		<b>8</b>
BSCI170 & BSCI171	Principles of Molecular & Cellular Biology and Principles of Molecular & Cellular Biology Laboratory	
BSCI201	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	
<b>Social and Behavioral Public Health</b>		<b>9</b>
HLTH200	Introduction to Research in Community Health	
HLTH230	Introduction to Health Behavior	
HLTH364	Social Media & Digital Tools for Community & Public Health	
<b>Community Public Health</b>		<b>9</b>
HLTH140	Personal and Community Health	
HLTH302	Methods of Community Health Assessment	
HLTH391	Making a Difference: Applying Community Health	
<b>Health Electives</b>		<b>12</b>
Students can select from a pre-approved list of 3-credit health elective offerings		
<b>Professional Preparation</b>		<b>18</b>
HLTH420	Effective Strategies for Public Health Practice	
HLTH490	Professional Preparation in Community Health	
HLTH491	Community Health Internship	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>69</b>

**List the intended student learning outcomes. In an attachment, provide the plan for assessing these outcomes.**

**Learning Outcomes**

Discuss the history and philosophy of public health as well as its core values, concepts, and functions across the globe and in society.

Use basic public health concepts, methods, and tools for data collection and analysis.

Identify the major health-related needs and concerns of populations and formulate basic processes, approaches, and interventions as possible solutions.

Describe the underlying science of human health and disease including opportunities for promoting and protecting health across the lifespan.

Examine the socio-economic, behavioral, biological, environmental, and other factors that impact human health and contribute to health disparities.

Demonstrate the fundamental concepts and features of project implementation, including planning, assessment, and evaluation.

Compare and contrast the fundamental characteristics and organizational structures of the health systems of the United States and other countries.

Characterize the basic concepts of legal, ethical, economic, and regulatory dimensions of health care and public policy.

Illustrate the basic concepts of public health-specific writing and communication.

Assess and communicate individual and community-level needs for health promotion and disease prevention.

Create and apply strategies that effectively incorporate cultural competences with health promotion and community health initiatives.

Synthesize and apply principles and theories of community health that are needed for the development of effective and evidence based health promotion and disease prevention strategies.

Promote and advocate for effective community health initiatives at the local, state, and federal levels.

Collaborate with community organizations to apply public health principles in a real-world setting.

Demonstrate requisite competencies in professional etiquette and career readiness to allow for a successful transition into the workplace (adapted from NACE).

Critically analyze the impact racism has on population health and reflect on what it means to be anti-racist.

## Program Modification Information

**Impact on current students. It should be specifically acknowledged that students enrolled in the program prior to the effective date of any curriculum change may complete their program under the old requirements if they wish. The courses required must remain available, or suitable substitutions specifically designated.**

There is no impact on current students as degree requirements will not change.

## Linked Programs

### Renaming Program

**Provide a rationale for renaming the program.**

The Department of Behavioral and Community Health is requesting a change in the current degree name, Bachelor of Science in Community Health, to a Bachelor of Science in Public Health Practice. This request comes in response to the significant reduction in HLTH majors, which is attributed to the addition of the Public Health Science degree program that is also offered in the School of Public Health. In Spring 2013, the HLTH student population totaled 575 students. To date, we currently have 155 students, a 73% decline that has been rapid since the PHSC program began accepting students into its College Park-based program.

Significant thought and assessment have gone into deciding to embark on a name change. Data from the HLTH end of program survey indicate that students “wished” they had known about the HLTH major sooner. We recently surveyed students enrolled in three of our courses: 1) HLTH 124: Intro to Behavioral and Community Health, 2) HLTH 302: Methods of Community Health Assessment, and 3) HLTH 420: Effective Strategies for Public Health Practice. Results from the survey indicate 82% of these students reported they did not know about HLTH as a major when they first made their selection. There is a misnomer of the PHSC major. In conversations with students, they often say they are a “public health major.” This applies to both PHSC and HLTH students. Additionally, during the change of major advising appointments, students express their confusion when they signed up for PHSC. Their thought was they were entering a program more like HLTH. Public health is a powerful term, resulting in students being confused as to what their major is and its intent. Many believe that PHSC is the only public health major offered in the SPH. Not fully understanding the program requirements is a disservice to the students, which results in lower GPAs, increased stress, and it greatly impacts receiving opportune post-graduation opportunities. This lack of understanding significantly effects a student’s time to graduation. Of the 34 HLTH students surveyed, 33% indicated having 5 or more semesters left until graduation. This challenge is important to understand given most students come into HLTH with at least 60 credits completed at that time.

Nomenclature related to the field of public health is important to understand from a prospective student’s perspective. Much of the population, as a result of the pandemic is highly responsive to the term “public health” while community health is lesser known. Students often choose to major in Public Health Science when in hindsight they wanted to major in Community Health. The degree in Public Health Science is for students who are interested in pursuing a degree in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and other allied health professions given its heavy focus on the life sciences – e.g., Human Anatomy and Physiology, General/Organic Chemistry, Genetics, etc. Most of all, students who will major in Public Health Practice (nee Community Health) will be well prepared for immediate entry into the workforce. Where they can effectively apply social and behavioral theory to plan, develop, implement, and evaluate evidence-based public health programs and interventions, and conduct transformational research that radically changes our world by understanding and addressing complex health problems and eliminating health disparities to achieve health equity – i.e., the attainment of the highest level of health for all people. Changing the Community Health major to Public Health Practice does not change the essence or learning outcomes of the degree. Rather, it brings the name to the 21st century definitions of the work we train our students to do. Namely, designing research and practice activities at all levels of the socio-ecological model to improve the health of all populations. As a School of Public Health, this will allow us to better differentiate between the two majors and help students understand there are two options for engaging in and obtaining a public health degree.

Important to this proposal is the impact on currently enrolled students. Given that the changes proposed are simply in name alone, these students will not be impacted. Course numbering and sequence will remain the same making the transition as seamless as possible.

## Supporting Documents

### Attachments

SPH Dean's Office LOS.pdf

Public Health Practice Four Year Plan effective 2024.pdf

EPIB\_Support\_Letter-BCH-111623.pdf

PHSC BCH Degree Public Health Practice SIGNED.pdf

Key: 548

# Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 12/05/23 10:43 am

Viewing: **548 : Public ~~Community Health~~ Practice**

## Major

Last approved: 03/09/21 4:28 pm

Last edit: 12/20/23 1:45 pm

Changes proposed by: Tracy Zeeger (tzeeger)

Catalog Pages Using this Program

[Community Health Major](#)

Proposed Action [Rename Program](#) ~~Curriculum Change~~

Program Name

### In Workflow

1. D-HLTH PCC Chair
2. D-HLTH Chair
3. SPHL Curriculum Manager
4. SPHL PCC Chair
5. SPHL Dean
6. Academic Affairs Curriculum Manager
7. Senate PCC Chair
8. University Senate Chair
9. President
10. Chancellor
11. MHEC
12. Provost Office
13. Undergraduate Catalog Manager

### Approval Path

1. 12/05/23 10:44 am  
Tracy Zeeger (tzeeger): Approved for D-HLTH PCC Chair
2. 12/05/23 11:00 am  
Craig Fryer (csfryer): Approved for D-HLTH Chair
3. 12/06/23 10:45 am  
Nicole Cousin-Gossett (cgossett): Approved for SPHL Curriculum Manager



4. 12/14/23 1:23 pm  
Nicole Cousin-Gossett (cgossett):  
Approved for SPHL  
PCC Chair
5. 12/14/23 1:24 pm  
Nicole Cousin-Gossett (cgossett):  
Approved for SPHL  
Dean
6. 01/26/24 4:34 pm  
Michael Colson (mcolson):  
Approved for  
Academic Affairs  
Curriculum  
Manager
7. 02/07/24 11:48 am  
Wendy Stickle (wstickle): Approved  
for Senate PCC Chair

### History

1. Aug 5, 2019 by  
clmig-jwehrheim
2. Oct 15, 2019 by  
William Bryan  
(wbryan)
3. May 14, 2020 by  
Tracy Zeeger  
(tzeeger)
4. Mar 9, 2021 by  
Tracy Zeeger  
(tzeeger)

Public ~~Community~~ Health Practice Major

Program Status      Active

Effective Term      Summer I 2024

Catalog Year      2024-2025 ~~2021-2022~~

Program Level Undergraduate Program

Program Type Undergraduate Major

Delivery Method On Campus

Departments

Department
Behavioral & Community Health

Colleges

College
School of Public Health

Program/Major Code 08370

MHEC Inventory Program Community Health

CIP Code 512208 - Community Health and Preventive Medicine.

HEGIS 083700

MHEC Recognized Area(s) of Concentration

Degree(s) Awarded

Degree Awarded
Bachelor of Science

If other, new degree award:

Proposal Contact

Dr. Tracy Zeeger

Proposal Summary

[The Department of Behavioral and Community Health wishes to change its program name to Public Health Practice to reflect nomenclature that is current in today's public health landscape and to best identify its differences and similarities with Public Health Science, a complementary major in the School of Public Health.](#)

[\(PCC Log Number 23083\)](#) ~~This proposal adds two new program competencies as a result of our curriculum mapping process.~~

## Program and Catalog Information

Provide the catalog description of the proposed program. As part of the description, please indicate any areas of concentration or specializations that will be offered.

The Bachelor of Science in Community Health is an interdisciplinary public health degree program rooted in social and behavioral science and theory and focused on making meaningful contributions to impact health and quality of life at all levels of society. Students learn to address the complex individual, community, and societal factors impacting health through a highly-structured, professionally-focused program that culminates in a full-time, mentored internship during the final semester.

The program is designed to serve as a gateway to graduate studies or as a transition directly to the field as an engaged, prepared, and well-informed public health practitioner. During the program, students have opportunities to learn outside of the classroom through volunteer work, study abroad opportunities, collaboration with departmental faculty through independent study, work at the University Health Center for credit, and public health-related student groups.

Graduates of the Community Health major pursue careers in research, advocacy, policy, health education, social work, community outreach, and other public health related areas. They work locally, nationally, and internationally primarily through foundations, non-profit organizations, and government services.

Catalog Program Requirements. Please click on the help bubble for more specific information about formatting requirements.

The total number of credits required to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Community Health is 120, and the number of Community Health major-required course credits is 69. Students must earn a grade of C- or higher in all Community Health major-required coursework. [HLTH491](#), Community Health Internship, is completed during the final semester in the Community Health major, after all other coursework has been successfully completed. Students can elect to complete an area of specialization in selected areas (Special Populations, Health Communication, Health Risk Behavior).

Course	Title	Credits
Public and Community Health Core		13
<a href="#">SPHL100</a>	Foundations of Public Health	
<a href="#">HLTH124</a>	Introduction to Behavioral and Community Health	
<a href="#">EPIB301</a>	Epidemiology for Public Health Practice	
<a href="#">EPIB315</a>	Biostatistics for Public Health Practice	
<a href="#">HLTH306</a>	Macro Level Influences on Community Health	
Public and Community Health Foundational Science		8
<a href="#">BSCI170</a>	Principles of Molecular & Cellular Biology	
& <a href="#">BSCI171</a>	and Principles of Molecular & Cellular Biology Laboratory	
<a href="#">BSCI201</a>	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	

Course	Title	Credits
Social and Behavioral Public Health		9
<a href="#">HLTH200</a>	Introduction to Research in Community Health	
<a href="#">HLTH230</a>	Introduction to Health Behavior	
<a href="#">HLTH364</a>	Social Media & Digital Tools for Community & Public Health	
Community Public Health		9
<a href="#">HLTH140</a>	Personal and Community Health	
<a href="#">HLTH302</a>	Methods of Community Health Assessment	
<a href="#">HLTH391</a>	Making a Difference: Applying Community Health	
Health Electives		12
Students can select from a pre-approved list of 3-credit health elective offerings		
Professional Preparation		18
<a href="#">HLTH420</a>	Effective Strategies for Public Health Practice	
<a href="#">HLTH490</a>	Professional Preparation in Community Health	
<a href="#">HLTH491</a>	Community Health Internship	
Total Credits		69

Sample plan. Provide a term by term sample plan that shows how a hypothetical student would progress through the program to completion. It should be clear the length of time it will take for a typical student to graduate. For undergraduate programs, this should be the four-year plan.

List the intended student learning outcomes. In an attachment, provide the plan for assessing these outcomes.

#### Learning Outcomes

Discuss the history and philosophy of public health as well as its core values, concepts, and functions across the globe and in society.

Use basic public health concepts, methods, and tools for data collection and analysis.

Identify the major health-related needs and concerns of populations and formulate basic processes, approaches, and interventions as possible solutions.

Describe the underlying science of human health and disease including opportunities for promoting and protecting health across the lifespan.

Examine the socio-economic, behavioral, biological, environmental, and other factors that impact human health and contribute to health disparities.

Demonstrate the fundamental concepts and features of project implementation, including planning, assessment, and evaluation.

### Learning Outcomes

Compare and contrast the fundamental characteristics and organizational structures of the health systems of the United States and other countries.

Characterize the basic concepts of legal, ethical, economic, and regulatory dimensions of health care and public policy.

Illustrate the basic concepts of public health-specific writing and communication.

Assess and communicate individual and community-level needs for health promotion and disease prevention.

Create and apply strategies that effectively incorporate cultural competences with health promotion and community health initiatives.

Synthesize and apply principles and theories of community health that are needed for the development of effective and evidence based health promotion and disease prevention strategies.

Promote and advocate for effective community health initiatives at the local, state, and federal levels.

Collaborate with community organizations to apply public health principles in a real-world setting.

Demonstrate requisite competencies in professional etiquette and career readiness to allow for a successful transition into the workplace (adapted from NACE).

Critically analyze the impact racism has on population health and reflect on what it means to be anti-racist.

## Program Modification Information

Impact on current students. It should be specifically acknowledged that students enrolled in the program prior to the effective date of any curriculum change may complete their program under the old requirements if they wish. The courses required must remain available, or suitable substitutions specifically designated.

There is no impact on current students as degree requirements will not change. ~~students.~~

### Linked Programs

Indicate in the space below all programs to which this program is formally linked (e.g., approved combined bachelor's/master's programs, dual master's programs, or joint-programs with other universities). If the proposed modification will affect the linked program, provide as an attachment the new curriculum for each arrangement and provide supporting correspondence from the director of the linked program.

### Renaming Program

Provide a rationale for renaming the program.

The Department of Behavioral and Community Health is requesting a change in the current degree name, Bachelor of Science in Community Health, to a Bachelor of Science in Public Health Practice. This request comes in response to the significant reduction in HLTH majors, which is attributed to the addition of the Public Health Science degree program that is also offered in the School of Public Health. In Spring 2013, the HLTH student population totaled 575 students. To date, we currently have 155 students, a 73% decline that has been rapid since the PHSC program began accepting students into its College Park-based program.

Significant thought and assessment have gone into deciding to embark on a name change. Data from the HLTH end of program survey indicate that students “wished” they had known about the HLTH major sooner. We recently surveyed students enrolled in three of our courses: 1) HLTH 124: Intro to Behavioral and Community Health, 2) HLTH 302: Methods of Community Health Assessment, and 3) HLTH 420: Effective Strategies for Public Health Practice. Results from the survey indicate 82% of these students reported they did not know about HLTH as a major when they first made their selection. There is a misnomer of the PHSC major. In conversations with students, they often say they are a “public health major.” This applies to both PHSC and HLTH students. Additionally, during the change of major advising appointments, students express their confusion when they signed up for PHSC. Their thought was they were entering a program more like HLTH. Public health is a powerful term, resulting in students being confused as to what their major is and its intent. Many believe that PHSC is the only public health major offered in the SPH. Not fully understanding the program requirements is a disservice to the students, which results in lower GPAs, increased stress, and it greatly impacts receiving opportune post-graduation opportunities. This lack of understanding significantly effects a student’s time to graduation. Of the 34 HLTH students surveyed, 33% indicated having 5 or more semesters left until graduation. This challenge is important to understand given most students come into HLTH with at least 60 credits completed at that time.

Nomenclature related to the field of public health is important to understand from a prospective student’s perspective. Much of the population, as a result of the pandemic is highly responsive to the term “public health” while community health is lesser known. Students often choose to major in Public Health Science when in hindsight they wanted to major in Community Health. The degree in Public Health Science is for students who are interested in pursuing a degree in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and other allied health professions given its heavy focus on the life sciences – e.g., Human Anatomy and Physiology, General/Organic Chemistry, Genetics, etc. Most of all, students who will major in Public Health Practice (nee Community Health) will be well prepared for immediate entry into the workforce. Where they can effectively apply social and behavioral theory to plan, develop, implement, and evaluate evidence-based public health programs and interventions, and conduct transformational research that radically changes our world by understanding and addressing complex health

problems and eliminating health disparities to achieve health equity – i.e., the attainment of the highest level of health for all people. Changing the Community Health major to Public Health Practice does not change the essence or learning outcomes of the degree. Rather, it brings the name to the 21st century definitions of the work we train our students to do. Namely, designing research and practice activities at all levels of the socio-ecological model to improve the health of all populations. As a School of Public Health, this will allow us to better differentiate between the two majors and help students understand there are two options for engaging in and obtaining a public health degree.

Important to this proposal is the impact on currently enrolled students. Given that the changes proposed are simply in name alone, these students will not be impacted. Course numbering and sequence will remain the same making the transition as seamless as possible.

## Supporting Documents

---

### Attachments

[SPH Dean's Office LOS.pdf](#)

[Public Health Practice Four Year Plan effective 2024.pdf](#)

[EPIB Support Letter-BCH-111623.pdf](#)

[PHSC BCH Degree Public Health Practice SIGNED.pdf](#)

### Administrative Documents

### Reviewer

### Comments



SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH

December 1, 2023

Dear Academic Affairs Representative:

The Office of the Dean in the School of Public Health is writing to express strong support for the proposed degree name change from a B.S., Community Health to a B.S., Public Health Practice. The proposed change to Public Health Practice is a testament to the university's commitment to staying relevant and ensuring that its graduates are well-prepared to face the challenges of a rapidly evolving global community. This new name better aligns with the skills and competencies that are highly sought after by employers and reflects the modern educational landscape. We believe that this change will not only benefit current and future students, but also enhance the reputation and standing of the University of Maryland. A more fitting degree name will make it easier for incoming students to identify their desired field of study congruent with modern language used in the field.

The Dean's Office wholeheartedly supports the proposed degree name change to Public Health Practice in the Department of Behavioral and Community Health. This adjustment will help the university maintain its status as a leader in education and provide its students with a competitive edge in their careers.

Thank you for considering this important change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Boris D. Lushniak'.

Boris D. Lushniak, MD, MPH  
Professor and Dean, School of Public Health



## Public Health Practice Academic Plan – General Education

Be sure to consult the [HLTH website](#) for specific requirements.

<b>REQUIREMENTS</b>		<b>Year 1: Fall</b>	<b>Credit</b>	<b>Year 1: Spring</b>	<b>Credit</b>	
<p><b>Benchmark 1 Requirements</b> BSCI170/171, SPHL100 and HLTH124 must be completed grades of “C-” or higher by the end of <u>two semesters</u> into the major.</p> <p><b>Benchmark 2 Requirements</b> HLTH140 and HLTH200 must be completed with grades of “C-” or higher by the end of <u>three semesters</u> into the major.</p> <p><b>Benchmark 3 Requirements</b> EPIB301 and BSCI201 must be completed with grades of “C-” or higher by the end of <u>four semesters</u> into the major.</p> <p><b>University Requirements</b> AW and MA must be attempted by 30 credits earned and completed by 60 credits earned.</p> <p>* I-Series should double count with Distributive Studies (HS, HU, SP outside of major)</p> <p><b>Major Requirements</b> Pre-Reqs for HLTH391, HLTH420, HLTH490: SPHL100, HLTH140, EPIB315, HLTH302 Co- or Pre-Reqs for HLTH391, HLTH420, HLTH490: HLTH306, HLTH364</p> <p>All Community Health major requirements must be passed with grades of C- or higher.</p> <p>BSCI170/171&amp; BSCI201 should be completed as pre-requisites for and HLTH391, HLTH420 and HLTH490</p> <p>HLTH391 &amp; HLTH420 &amp; HLTH490 must be taken together in the semester immediately preceding HLTH491.</p> <p>All programmatic requirements must be completed before HLTH491.</p>		MATH (MA)	3	ENGL101 (AW)	3	
		HLTH140	3	BSCI170/171 (NL)	4	
		SPHL100	3	Elective	3	
		HLTH124	1	HLTH230 (HS)	3	
		Elective	3	Elective	3	
		Elective	3			
		<i>Total</i>	<i>16</i>		<i>Total</i>	<i>16</i>
			<b>Year 2: Fall</b>	<b>Credit</b>	<b>Year 2: Spring</b>	<b>Credit</b>
			BSCI201 (NL)	4	HLTH364	3
			Humanities (HU)*	3	Health elective #1	3
		HLTH200	3	EPIB301	3	
		Elective	3	Elective	3	
		Elective	3	Elective	3	
		<i>Total</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>15</i>	
		<b>Year 3: Fall</b>	<b>Credit</b>	<b>Year 3: Spring</b>	<b>Credit</b>	
		HLTH302	3	Elective	3	
		EPIB315 (AR)	3	Humanities (HU)*	3	
		Professional Writing (PW)	3	History and Social Science (HS)*	3	
		Health elective #2	3	HLTH306	3	
		Scholarship in Practice (SP) outside of HLTH major*	3	Health Elective #3	3	
		<i>Total</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>15</i>	
		<b>Year 4: Fall</b>	<b>Credit</b>	<b>Year 4: Spring</b>	<b>Credit</b>	
		HLTH420 (OC)	3	HLTH491	12	
		HLTH490	3			
		Health elective #4	3			
		HLTH391 (SP)	3			
		Elective	3			
		<i>Total</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>12</i>	
<b>TOTAL Credits = 120</b>						

# BS, Public Health Practice - Degree Requirements

Grade/ Status Key: IP= In progress  
Rpt= must repeat for credit  
Sp23= Registered Spring 2023

Consult the [HLTH Curriculum page](#) for details and specific course offerings.

## GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

AA verified?

### GenEd: FUNDAMENTAL STUDIES

Category	Credits	Course	Grade/ Status	Complete
[FSAW] Academic Writing	3			<input type="checkbox"/>
[FSPW] Professional Writing (Pre-Req: 60+ credits)	3			<input type="checkbox"/>
[FSMA] Fundamental Math	3-4			<input type="checkbox"/>

[FSOC] Oral Communication and [FSAR] Analytic Reasoning are fulfilled by HLTH major required courses

### GenEd: DISTRIBUTIVE STUDIES

Category	Credits	Course	Grade/ Status	Complete
[DSHU] Humanities	3			<input type="checkbox"/>
[DSHU] Humanities	3			<input type="checkbox"/>
[DSHS] History & Social Sciences	3			<input type="checkbox"/>
[DSSP] Scholarship in Practice (must be outside of HLTH major requirements)	3			<input type="checkbox"/>

[DSSP] Scholarship in Practice (in major), One (1) [DSHS] History & Social Sciences and both [DSNL]/[DSNS] Natural Sciences are fulfilled by HLTH major required courses

### GenEd: i-SERIES and DIVERSITY

Category	Credits	Course	Grade/ Status	Complete
[SCIS] I-Series (can also fulfill a Distributive Studies category)	0-3			<input type="checkbox"/>
[SCIS] I-Series (can also fulfill a Distributive Studies category)	0-3			<input type="checkbox"/>
[DVUP] Understanding Plural Societies (can also fulfill Distributive Studies)	0-3			<input type="checkbox"/>
[DVUP] Understanding Plural Societies or [DVCC] Cultural Competence (can also fulfill Distributive Studies)	0-3			<input type="checkbox"/>

### 1st semester in major

### Notes on your checklist

#### \* Benchmark 1 \*

Complete **BSCI170/171, SPHL100 and HLTH124** with grades of "C-" or higher by the end of **two semesters** into the major.

#### \*\* Benchmark 2 \*\*

Complete **HLTH140 and HLTH200** with grades of "C-" or higher by the end of **three semesters** into the major.

#### \*\*\* Benchmark 3 \*\*\*

Complete **EPIB301 and BSCI201** with "C-" or higher by the end of **four semesters** into the major.

(for advisor use only)

FSMA/FSAW:

Created by

Updated by

## HLTH MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

### PUBLIC & COMMUNITY HEALTH CORE

Course Number [Gen Ed]	Course Titles (Prerequisites)	Credits	Alt Course	Grade/ Status	Complete
*SPHL100	Foundations of Public Health	3			<input type="checkbox"/>
* HLTH124	Introduction to the Field of Public Health Practice	1			<input type="checkbox"/>
*** EPIB301	Epidemiology for Public Health Practice	3			<input type="checkbox"/>
EPIB315 [FSAR]	Biostatistics for Public Health Practice (co or pre-requisite : HLTH200)	3			<input type="checkbox"/>
HLTH306	Macro Level Influences on Community Health (pre-req: HLTH124, co/prerequisite for HLTH391, HLTH420, HLTH490)	3			<input type="checkbox"/>

### PUBLIC & COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATIONAL SCIENCE

Course Number [Gen Ed]	Course Titles	Credits	Alt Course	Grade/ Status	Complete
* BSCI170	Principles of Molecular & Cellular Biology (Pre-Req: MATH 120 eligibility)	3			<input type="checkbox"/>
* BSCI171 [DSNL]	Principles of Molecular & Cellular Biology Lab (Pre-Req: MATH 120 eligibility)	1			<input type="checkbox"/>
*** BSCI201 [DSNS]	Human Anatomy and Physiology I (Pre-Req: BSCI170 and BSCI171)	4			<input type="checkbox"/>

### SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Course Number [Gen Ed]	Course Titles	Credits	Alt Course	Grade/ Status	Complete
** HLTH200	Introduction to Research in Public Health	3			<input type="checkbox"/>
HLTH230 [DSHS]	Introduction to Health Behavior	3			<input type="checkbox"/>
HLTH364	Social Media & Digital Tools for Community & Public Health (pre-req: HLTH230, co/prerequisite for HLTH391, HLTH420, HLTH490)	3			<input type="checkbox"/>

### COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH

Course Number [Gen Ed]	Course Titles	Credits	Alt Course	Grade/ Status	Complete
** HLTH140	Contemporary Health Issues: A Personal and Population Perspective	3			<input type="checkbox"/>
HLTH302	Methods of Community Health Assessment (Pre-Req: HLTH200 and EPIB301)	3			<input type="checkbox"/>
HLTH391	Making a Difference: Applying Community Health (pre-req: SPHL100, HLTH140, EPIB315, HLTH302, co/prerequisite: HLTH306, HLTH364, co-requisite: HLTH420, HLTH490)	3			<input type="checkbox"/>

### PUBLIC HEALTH ELECTIVES (12 credits)

	Credits	Course	Grade/ Status	Complete
HLTH ELECTIVE #1	3			<input type="checkbox"/>
HLTH ELECTIVE #2	3			<input type="checkbox"/>
HLTH ELECTIVE #3	3			<input type="checkbox"/>
HLTH ELECTIVE #4	3			<input type="checkbox"/>

[Approved HLTH Electives](#)

### PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

Course Number [Gen Ed]	Course Titles	Credits	Alt Course	Grade/ Status	Complete
HLTH420 [FSOC]	Effective Strategies for Public Health Practice (pre-req: SPHL100, HLTH140, EPIB315, HLTH302) (co/prerequisite: HLTH306, HLTH364) (co-requisite: HLTH391, HLTH490)	3			<input type="checkbox"/>
HLTH490	Professional Preparation in Public Health Practice (pre-req: SPHL100, HLTH140, EPIB315, HLTH302) (co/prerequisite: HLTH306, HLTH364) (co-requisite: HLTH391, HLTH420)	3			<input type="checkbox"/>
HLTH491	Public Health Practice Internship (pre-req: all other degree requirements)	12			<input type="checkbox"/>



SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH

Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics  
Atlantic Bldg. #224, Suite 1340  
College Park, Maryland 20742-2611

November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**RE: Proposed degree name change from a B.S., Community Health to a B.S., Public Health Practice.**

Dear Academic Affairs Representatives:

The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics (EPIB) is writing to express its most enthusiastic support for the Behavior and Community Health (BCH) Department's proposed degree name change from a B.S., Community Health to a B.S., Public Health Practice. The proposed change to Public Health Practice is a testament to the university's commitment to staying relevant and ensuring that its graduates are well-prepared to face the challenges of a rapidly evolving global community. This new name better aligns with the skills and competencies that are highly sought after by employers and reflects the modern educational landscape. We believe that this change will not only benefit current and future students, but also enhance the reputation and standing of the University of Maryland School of Public Health (UMD-SPH). A more fitting degree name will make it easier for incoming students to identify their desired field of study congruent with modern language used in the field.

As part of the degree program, EPIB will continue to offer 40 seats/semester in both EPIB 301: Epidemiology for Public Health Practice and EPIB 315: Biostatistics for Public Health Practice. The exact number of seats will be based on annual demand, the detail of which are currently being worked out by the Chairs of EPIB and BCH.

In conclusion, EPIB is highly supportive of the BCH's proposed degree name change from a B.S., Community Health to a B.S., Public Health Practice. This adjustment will help UMD-SPH maintain its status as a leader in education and provide its students with a competitive edge in their careers.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amir Sapkota", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Amir Sapkota, PhD  
Professor & Chair, EPIB



## SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

October 23, 2023

Dear Academic Affairs Representatives:

On behalf of the Public Health Science program, I am writing to express strong support for the proposed degree name change within the Department of Behavioral and Community Health from a B.S., Community Health to a B.S., Public Health Practice.

The proposed change to a degree name of Public Health Practice will benefit students, the School of Public Health and the University of Maryland. A more fitting degree name will make it easier for incoming students to identify their desired field of study congruent with modern language used in the field. This new name better aligns with the skills and competencies that are highly sought after by employers and reflects the modern educational landscape. Moreover, the synergy around undergraduate degrees with “Public Health” in their title more clearly situates the School of Public Health as the leader that it is in exceptional public health education. Finally, as the University remains committed to moving Fearlessly Forward, support for this change is a testament to the university's commitment to staying relevant and ensuring that its graduates are well-prepared to face the challenges of a rapidly evolving global community.

With a strong belief in the outstanding undergraduate majors offered by the School of Public Health, we strongly support this proposed degree name change. With an undergraduate degree of Public Health Practice in the Department of Behavioral and Community Health, the benefits across multiple stakeholders will be numerous. I look forward to this adjustment strengthening the educational offerings of the University, the School of Public Health, and most importantly readying more students to do great work in the field of Public Health.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristin Cipriani".

Kristin Cipriani, M.A., M.B.A  
Director  
Public Health Science Program  
School of Public Health