

School of Public Health

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- Introduction (p. 1)
- Bachelor of Arts in Public Health Program (p. 1)
 - Admission Requirements (p. 1)
 - Degree Requirements (p. 2)
 - Course Requirements (p. 2)
 - Other Requirements (p. 2)
- School of Public Health Policies (p. 3)
 - Academic Load (p. 3)
 - Academic Probation and Dismissal Rules (p. 3)
 - Change of Course Schedule—Dropping Courses (p. 3)
 - Class Attendance (p. 3)
 - Course Prerequisites (p. 4)
 - Credit/No Credit Option (p. 4)
 - Double Major, Double Degrees, and Second Bachelor's Degree (p. 4)
 - Graduate-Level Courses for Undergraduate Students (p. 4)
 - Independent Study (p. 4)
 - Petition Procedure (p. 4)
 - Registration Approval (p. 5)
 - Repeat Policy for Standard Graded Courses (p. 5)
 - Transferring (p. 5)
- Academic Advising (p. 5)
 - Advising Policy (p. 5)
- Academic Honors (p. 6)
 - University Honors (p. 6)
 - Dean's List (p. 6)

Introduction

The UIC School of Public Health is dedicated to protecting and improving the health and well-being of people around the world, from the Metropolitan Chicago Area to Africa, Latin America, and Asia. We achieve this mission by: educating scientists, professionals, and the public; conducting research to develop solutions to public health problems; providing public health service; and formulating public health policy. Ours is a community of scholars, students, and staff dedicated to creating a healthy society. Along with academic excellence, the UIC School of Public Health fosters cutting-edge research and engaged

community-based practice that focuses on eliminating health disparities and bringing public health solutions to communities in need.

Whether a student is a freshman at UIC, a baccalaureate looking for graduate education in public health, a seasoned professional seeking specialized public health training, or simply wants to sample the field—the School of Public Health has something to offer. The UIC School of Public Health offers applicants a choice of degrees to pursue including the Bachelor of Arts in Public Health (BA), Master of Public Health (MPH), Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA), Master of Science (MS), Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Science (MSCTS), Doctor of Public Health (DrPH), and Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health (PhD). Our faculty and alumni continue to make solid contributions in Chicago and across the globe. Their vision, resolve, and ingenuity have built the foundation for a rich UIC public health legacy. Our students learn, innovate, practice, research, and challenge public health concepts in Chicago and in communities around the world.

Bachelor of Arts in Public Health Program

The mission of the baccalaureate program in public health is to engage and enlighten students about matters related to the health of societies locally, nationally, and globally. By systematically examining biological, environmental, cultural, behavioral, historical, economic, and political factors that mitigate health, students in the program will become informed citizens who can consider the public's health in whatever life roles they assume. For those who go on to careers in medicine, nursing, dentistry, and other health-related professions, the baccalaureate program in public health builds upon a broad foundation in the biological and behavioral sciences imbued with social ecology and population-based perspectives. Graduates of the program acquire an array of skills that can be applied to many forms of inquiry, analysis, scientific and moral reasoning, and practice. At the baccalaureate level, graduates may seek employment in public health as communicable disease investigators, public health educators, program coordinators, environmental specialists, information specialists, and other roles commensurate with their skills. Those wishing to pursue professional careers in the public health arena will be well positioned to continue their studies through matriculation into master's degree programs in public health. Emerging from the program with an informed understanding of public health, graduates embrace the vision of health equity and social justice.

Admission Requirements

Students apply for admission through the School of Public Health. Admission into the Bachelor of Arts in Public Health program is selective and dependent on the availability of space. Students seeking direct admission to the Bachelor of Arts in Public Health program must meet these minimum requirements:

1. Junior standing - completion of 60 semester hours of specified General Education course work at UIC or from any accredited community college or four-year college or university.
2. Specified General Education course work includes completion of 9 semester hours of introductory public health course work with a grade of B or better in each course (PUBH 100, PUBH 110, and PUBH 120). Special consideration will be given to students who have taken comparable prerequisites at community colleges or other four-year colleges or universities.
3. Minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75/4.00.
4. Personal statement of educational goals including reasons for selecting a public health degree.

5. One letter of recommendation from a professional or academic reference.

Admission to Public Health–Undecided (Pre-Public Health)

New first year applicants interested in pursuing the Bachelor of Arts in Public Health are eligible to apply to the Public Health–Undecided (Pre-Public Health) program within the School of Public Health. See the *Admissions* (<http://catalog.uic.edu/ucats/admissions-registration-finances/admissions>) section of the catalog for additional information.

New transfer applicants who have completed a minimum of 24 semester hours or 36 quarter hours of transferable college course work at the time of application but have not yet completed the specified general education course work necessary for direct admission to the Bachelor of Arts in Public Health program are eligible to apply to the Public Health–Undecided (Pre-Public Health) program within the School of Public Health. See the *Admissions* (<http://catalog.uic.edu/ucats/admissions-registration-finances/admissions>) section of the Undergraduate Catalog for additional information.

Current UIC students who have not yet completed the specified general education course work necessary for direct admission to the Bachelor of Arts in Public Health program are eligible to apply as intercollege transfer applicants to the Public Health–Undecided (Pre-Public Health) program within the School of Public Health.

Degree Requirements

To earn the Bachelor of Arts in Public Health degree from UIC, students need to complete the university and school degree requirements. University and school degree requirements for all School of Public Health students are outlined below. Students should consult the *General Education* (<http://catalog.uic.edu/ucats/degree-programs/general-education>) section of the catalog for more information on completing the General Education requirements.

Semester Hour Requirement

The School of Public Health semester hour requirement is 120 semester hours.

| Degree Program | Degree Conferred | Total Hours |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Public Health | BA in Public Health | 120 |

Course Requirements

See the *BA in Public Health* page for Course Requirements.

General Education Core

General Education at UIC is designed to serve as a foundation for lifelong learning. Students are required to complete a minimum of 24 semester hours in the General Education Core with at least one course from each of the following categories:

1. Analyzing the Natural World
2. Understanding the Individual and Society
3. Understanding the Past
4. Understanding the Creative Arts
5. Exploring World Cultures
6. Understanding U.S. Society

For a description and a list of courses for each General Education Core category, students should consult the *General Education* section of the

catalog. Information on meeting the General Education requirements for this program is listed in the section on *Pre-Public Health* (<http://catalog.uic.edu/ucats/colleges-depts/public-health/ba-pubh>).

General Education Proficiencies—Foreign Language, Quantitative Reasoning, and University Writing Requirement

School of Public Health students must meet the following General Education Proficiencies: Foreign Language, Quantitative Reasoning, and University Writing Requirement. As noted in the section on *Pre-Public Health*, students meet the General Education Proficiencies as follows:

Foreign Language

Students must earn 16 hours in a single language or the equivalent. Students with a background in a foreign language may take proficiency tests, and if passed students would be able to substitute other course work for this 16-semester-hour requirement. Please see the *College of Liberal Arts and Sciences* foreign language requirement for further explanation.

Quantitative Reasoning

Students in the School of Public Health must demonstrate competency in quantitative reasoning to earn a degree. Such competence can be demonstrated in any one of the following ways:

1. Achievement of a score on the mathematics placement examination high enough to qualify for enrollment in MATH 180
2. Grade of B or better in any one of the following courses: MATH 118, MATH 121, MATH 160, MATH 165, MATH 170, MATH 180, STAT 101, or STAT 130.
3. Grade of B or better in a mathematically oriented or quantitative course in a department in LAS other than Mathematics. Such courses must require MATH 090 or MATH 118 as a prerequisite. At present, such courses include COMM 201, CLJ 262, POLS 201, PSCH 343, and SOC 201.
4. Grade of B or better in a logic course in the Department of Philosophy: PHIL 102 or PHIL 210.
5. Transfer students may present equivalent courses taken elsewhere, for which they have received a grade of B or better, to satisfy this requirement.

University Writing Requirement

Students must earn a passing grade in ENGL 160 and ENGL 161. Grades of B or better are preferred.

Other Requirements

Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement

A student must earn a cumulative grade point average of 2.75/4.00 in all work taken at UIC. In addition, the combined average of a student's transfer work and work taken at UIC must be at least 2.75. The minimum cumulative grade point average for public health major course work is 3.00.

Graduation Declaration/Filing to Graduate

Students declare their intent to graduate online using *my.UIC.edu* (<http://my.UIC.edu>). The deadline for submission to the Pending Degree List is the end of the third week (fall and spring) or second week (Summer Session 2) of the term in which graduation is sought. Failure to submit the request at this time may delay the awarding of the degree. A final review will be made following the close of the term. If a student has satisfactorily

completed all the degree requirements, the student's name will be placed on the official degree list.

Enrollment Residence Requirement

See the *University Degree Requirements, Graduation, and Commencement* (<http://catalog.uic.edu/ucat/degree-programs/univ-degree-requirements-graduation>) section of the catalog for a complete description of this requirement.

Transfer Credit

Course work completed at other colleges and universities may apply toward partial fulfillment of graduation requirements and may be used as prerequisites for courses at UIC. The University of Illinois at Chicago is a participant in the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI), a statewide agreement that allows for the transfer of the IAI-approved General Education Core Curriculum between participating institutions. Please consult the *Illinois Articulation Initiative* in the *Admissions* (<http://catalog.uic.edu/ucat/admissions-registration-finances/admissions>) section of the undergraduate catalog. The final decision, however, regarding the acceptance of credit and courses that apply toward degree requirements is made by the School of Public Health.

Transfer Credit for Continuing Students

Continuing students who want to take course work for credit at another institution, either concurrent with UIC enrollment or during the summer term, must obtain prior written approval from the School of Public Health. Students will have to provide justification for the request.

If prior approval is not obtained from the school, credit may not be allowed. Students are obligated to report all work from other institutions once enrolled at UIC.

Please note that when transferring credit from a community college, a student must earn at least 60 of the required semester hours either at the University of Illinois at Chicago or another accredited four-year college or university. The enrollment residence requirements must also be met. Thus, students ordinarily should not register at a community college after completing their sophomore year.

Transferology is an online tool that helps students view program requirements and course equivalencies. Transferology may be accessed at <http://www.transferology.com/state/il?all>.

School of Public Health Policies

Academic Load

In the Bachelor of Arts in Public Health program, while full-time student status is preferred, students may enroll in a part-time program of study. During the fall and spring semesters, a minimum full-time program is 12 hours of credit per semester. A program of 19 semester hours or more must be approved by the Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Public Health. For Summer Session 1 (four-week) and Summer Session 2 (eight-week), UIC considers a total aggregate of 6 semester hours as the minimum number necessary to constitute full-time enrollment. A program of 13 semester hours or more during the summer session must be approved by the Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Public Health.

Academic Probation and Dismissal Rules

A student will be placed on academic probation in any term in which either a cumulative or semester grade point average of less than 2.75/4.00 is earned for all academic work or when the cumulative grade point average for required public health courses falls below 3.00. A

student on probation is expected to earn greater than a 3.00 in the next term and have an overall UIC cumulative grade point average of 2.75 by the end of the second term on probation.

Dismissal Rules

Students failing to earn a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 by the end of two terms on probation will be dismissed from the university. In any term, a student may be dismissed for one or more of the following reasons:

1. First-term students will be dismissed after their first term of enrollment if they earn zero credit or obtain a deficit of -15 points or more. Deficit points are calculated as follows: multiply the number of credit hours for each course taken by the points for the grade received, A=+2, B=+1, C=0, D=-1, F=-2. Add the points of each course taken during the semester. The total equals the deficit points used to determine probation status. Each deficit point equals one hour of B.
2. Continuing students will be dismissed at the end of any term in which their cumulative deficit points (see above) are -15 or more.
3. Failure to earn any credit.
4. Failure to earn at least a 1.00/4.00 (D) average for a term.
5. Failure to earn at least a 3.00/4.00 while on probation.
6. Failure to meet conditions of probation.
7. Failure to meet conditions specified at the time of admission.
8. Failure to make progress toward completion of the Public Health degree.
9. Two or more consecutive terms of university withdrawals.

The dean may waive the dismissal rules in extraordinary circumstances.

Appeal of a Dismissal Decision

Students who have been dismissed by the school may apply for readmission after two terms (excluding the summer session). Students who can document that poor academic performance was the result of significant extenuating circumstances, such as a long-term or debilitating illness or personal crisis, may petition for immediate reinstatement. The student must make arrangements for an interview, with supporting documentation, with the Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Public Health or a school dean prior to the first day of instruction of the new term.

Change of Course Schedule—Dropping Courses

Undergraduate students may drop courses using *my.UIC.edu* (<http://my.UIC.edu>) through the end of the second week of classes for fall and spring semesters, the first Wednesday of Summer Session 1, or the first Friday of Summer Session 2. During weeks 3 through 10 of the fall and spring semesters (first Thursday through the second Wednesday of Summer Session 1 or weeks 2 through 5 of Summer Session 2), students may drop courses with the permission of their major college. If the drop occurs between 0 and 2 weeks in fall and spring, there will be no notation on the transcript. If the drop occurs during weeks 3 through 10 in fall and spring (first Thursday through the second Wednesday of Summer Session 1 or weeks 2 through 5 of Summer Session 2), a W is noted on the transcript. Undergraduate students may drop a maximum of 4 UIC individual courses that result in a W notation on their transcript during their entire undergraduate degree program.

Class Attendance

Each instructor may establish his/her own attendance policy, including penalties for nonattendance. Failure to attend classes does not result in

automatic withdrawal from a course. The school expects that students will attend all classes.

Course Prerequisites

A student must satisfy the prerequisites before enrolling in a course. A student enrolling in a course without having met the prerequisites may be withdrawn from the course. Course prerequisites are listed in both the course descriptions in this catalog and the *Schedule of Classes*. Only the instructor may waive the prerequisite, if given evidence that the student is adequately prepared to pursue the subject.

Credit/No Credit Option

The credit/no credit option allows the student to complete a course with a grade of credit (CR) or no credit (NC) instead of a letter grade. Courses completed with a grade of CR carry credit and apply toward degree requirements. In general, grades of CR and NC are final and cannot be changed to letter grades. The Public Health program's policy coincides with campus policy with the following conditions:

1. Only students in good standing may elect to take a course under the credit/no credit option. Students on probation and those whose status is undetermined at the time at which they elect the option are not eligible.
2. A student may request only one course per term as credit/no credit.
3. No more than two courses in a single discipline may be taken as credit/no credit.
4. Only elective courses may be taken on a credit/no credit basis; courses being used to meet any graduation course requirements must be taken for letter grades.
5. The following describes the restrictions that apply to all students regardless of major or curriculum:
 - a. Students may not take ENGL 160 or ENGL 161 as credit/no credit.
 - b. Students may not take any course used to satisfy the foreign language requirement as credit/no credit.
 - c. Students may not take any course used to satisfy the General Education Core requirements as credit/no credit. Until students have completed the minimum requirement in each General Education Core category, courses from these areas may not be taken as credit/no credit.
 - d. Students may not take any course used to satisfy the quantitative reasoning requirement as credit/no credit.
 - e. Students may not take any course being used to satisfy the requirements of the Public Health major or required prerequisite and collateral courses of the major as credit/no credit.
6. A student may earn no more than 21 semester hours of credit at UIC under the credit/no credit option.

Students must apply to take a course credit/no credit at the School of Public Health Undergraduate Program office no later than the tenth day of the term (first Wednesday of Summer Session 1 or first Friday of Summer Session 2). After that date, students may not request courses on a credit/no credit basis nor may they change a credit/no credit request previously submitted. It is the responsibility of the student to determine eligibility under the regulations. Students will be informed if they are ineligible and will receive a grade for the course. Students with questions concerning their eligibility should make an appointment with their academic advisor.

Double Major, Double Degrees, and Second Bachelor's Degree

Double Major

This option is not available in the School of Public Health at this time.

Double Degrees

Double degrees consist of two bachelor's degrees completed concurrently. Double degrees with the School of Public Health Bachelor of Arts program and a program in another college may be possible. Students should consult the college section of the catalog for the second degree program to determine if this option is available.

Students seeking two bachelor's degrees concurrently must formally request acceptance into the second degree program. Students must complete a minimum of 30 semester hours beyond those required for the first degree and all requirements for each of the degree programs as specified by the college and major department. All students interested in double degrees should discuss this option with an advisor.

Double degrees are not permitted when there is substantial course overlap between the first and second degrees.

Students who obtain double degrees receive a diploma for each degree. No more than two bachelor's degrees may be awarded concurrently.

Second Bachelor's Degree

Students who have already earned a bachelor's degree at UIC or another institution are required to follow the same application procedures as all other applicants in order to pursue a second bachelor's degree. Students must complete all requirements for the second degree as specified by the college and the major department, including a minimum of 30 semester hours beyond those required for the first degree. The UIC enrollment residence requirement must also be met, i.e., the last 30 semester hours for the second degree must be taken at UIC. A second bachelor's degree is not permitted when there is substantial course overlap between the first and second degrees.

Graduate-Level Courses for Undergraduate Students

With approval from the Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Public Health and permission from the professor, an undergraduate student may enroll in a course at the graduate level (400- or 500-level) for undergraduate credit. Prior to enrollment, students must obtain approval and must have met course prerequisites.

Students should understand that graduate-level courses taken by an undergraduate student are generally not applicable toward a graduate degree.

Independent Study

To be eligible to enroll in PUBH 396, a student must have a minimum 2.75/4.00 grade point average in all course work taken at UIC and must obtain consent of the instructor and the Undergraduate Public Health program prior to registration. No student may enroll in an independent study course after the tenth day of the term without approval of the Undergraduate Public Health program.

Petition Procedure

Any rule, regulation, or action of the Undergraduate Public Health program may be appealed in writing. Petitions are submitted to the

Undergraduate Program Office in the School of Public Health. It is the student's responsibility to provide documentation in support of the petition. Submission of a petition does not imply approval.

Registration Approval

All new students are required to attend an orientation program prior to registration. Certain students or groups of students may be required to see an advisor prior to registration.

Repeat Policy for Standard Graded Courses

Students may repeat a course to increase their knowledge of the subject matter. There are circumstances under which repeating a course is advisable and to a student's advantage. There are also circumstances where repeating a course may disadvantage a student and narrow a student's options. The Public Health program requires students to discuss any plan to repeat a course with their academic advisor before they register to repeat the course.

Courses with A or B grades may not be repeated. Normally, courses with a C grade may not be repeated. Courses with D or F grades may be repeated once without written permission. In all cases, the original grade for the course and the grade for each repeat will appear on the transcript. The original grade and the grade for each repeat will be calculated into the grade point average. Only one registration for the course counts toward the total number of credits required for graduation. A course cannot be repeated after receiving credit in a course for which the repeat course is a prerequisite.

To repeat a course more than once due to a grade of D or F requires written permission from the student's college dean. Students who have been dismissed may not appeal on the grounds of intention to repeat courses. Certain courses may not be repeated; students should consult their college before repeating a course.

Undergraduate Grade Point Average Recalculation Policy

- Colleges may elect to implement this policy as early as the end of the junior year, or as late as the final semester during degree certification.
- The college will evaluate each student unable to graduate because of an academic grade point average deficit. The deficit may occur in the UIC GPA, the program GPA, or both.
- The academic record is examined so as to determine if courses, deemed appropriate by each college, with grades of F or grades of D, may be excluded from the student's grade point average.
- A total of four courses may be excluded, with one course excluded at a time until the necessary quality points are obtained to meet the UIC GPA requirement and/or degree program minimum GPA. The credit hours associated with excluded course grades will not count towards graduation requirements.
- Only the college can initiate course exclusions, and only in consultation with the evaluated student.
- Students may not request exclusions.
- Only courses taken at UIC may be converted as part of this policy.
- This policy only applies to undergraduate degree seeking students.
- All courses taken and all grades will remain on the official transcript.
- The grade exclusion policy does not apply to courses failed as the result of a student conduct hearing.
- In cases where these procedures would impact program accreditation, licensure or similar, colleges may use their discretion

to allow the policy. Colleges, departments, and programs may have discretion in choosing courses that impact the student's major.

Transferring

Intercollege Transfer Students

Students currently enrolled at UIC who want to transfer into the Bachelor of Arts in Public Health program should complete an Intercollege Transfer Application available on the School of Public Health website. Direct admission to the Bachelor of Arts in Public Health program is offered for the fall semester only and Intercollege Transfer Applications are due by March 31 of spring semester prior to fall semester of desired enrollment. Students currently enrolled at UIC who have not yet completed the specified general education course work necessary for direct admission to the Bachelor of Arts in Public Health program are eligible to apply to the Public Health–Undecided (Pre-Public Health) program within the School of Public Health. Admission to Public Health–Undecided (Pre-Public Health) is offered each semester and deadlines are available on the School of Public Health website. Admission to Public Health is selective and limited to those students in good academic standing who have a UIC grade point average of at least 2.75/4.00 and whose combined UIC and transfer grade point average is at least 2.75. Those students who are accepted into Public Health are expected to enroll immediately in courses that fulfill the Public Health degree requirements. Students are welcome to discuss the School of Public Health admissions process with program staff.

Transfer Students from Other Colleges and Universities

New transfer applicants seeking direct admission to the Bachelor of Arts in Public Health program must have completed at least 60 semester hours of specified General Education course work. New transfer applicants who have completed a minimum of 24 semester hours of transferable college course work at the time of application but have not yet completed the specified general education course work necessary for direct admission to the Bachelor of Arts in Public Health program are eligible to apply to the Public Health–Undecided (Pre-Public Health) program within the School of Public Health. All applicants must submit complete transcripts from all postsecondary institutions. Provided space is available, a minimum 2.75/4.00 grade point average is required for consideration. Please consult the *Admissions* (<http://catalog.uic.edu/ucat/admissions-registration-finances/admissions>) section of the catalog for more information. See the Office of Admission Transfer Guide (<https://admissions.uic.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-requirements-deadlines/transfer-requirements/transfer>) for more information about transfer admission requirements.

Transferring out of the School

A Public Health student who wants to transfer into another UIC college must follow the procedures of that college. Students interested in other colleges should contact those colleges directly.

Academic Advising

Advising Policy

The Bachelor of Arts in Public Health program encourages the intellectual growth and development of the student as an individual. Newly admitted students are required to participate in a small group advising session prior to their initial registration. Continuing students should consult their academic advisor at least once each semester. Advisors assist students in individual program planning and course selection, discuss with students the feasibility of various career paths based on interests

and academic performance, and support students in the development of their educational, career, and personal goals. Additionally, advisors explain school and program rules and requirements, help resolve special registration problems, and refer students to additional resources on campus. To arrange an advising appointment, students may call or come to the Undergraduate Program Office.

The responsibility for selecting courses and meeting graduation requirements rests with the students, who must plan intelligently to make their programs consistent with their goals and with school requirements.

Academic Honors

University Honors

The School of Public Health recognizes and conforms with the campus-wide honors program. University Honors are awarded to graduating students who satisfy UIC hours residency requirements with a UIC grade point average that falls within the following honors categories:

- **Summa cum laude:** 3.90 and above
- **Magna cum laude:** 3.75 to 3.89
- **Cum laude:** 3.50 to 3.74

University Honors will be awarded based on the UIC GPA at the end of the term prior to the term of graduation for commencement ceremony purposes. UIC will make permanent adjustments to student transcripts and diploma related to University Honors based on final grades.

Dean's List

Exceptional academic achievement in the School of Public Health is recognized each term by inclusion on the Dean's List. Eligibility is based on a 3.50/4.00 term GPA with a minimum program of 12 semester hours, exclusive of basic military science and basic activity courses in physical education. At least 9 semester hours must be earned for letter grades, in addition to a grade of Credit earned in any course taken on a credit/no credit basis.

Degree Program

- BA in Public Health (<http://catalog.uic.edu/ucolleges-depts/public-health/ba-pubh>)