School of Public Health

Introduction

The UIC School of Public Health is dedicated to excellence in protecting and improving the health and well-being of the people of the Metropolitan Chicago area, the state of Illinois, and the nation, and others throughout the world. 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 degree holder 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), Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BS), 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.

Public Health Baccalaureate Programs

The School of Public Health offers two baccalaureate degree programs: the Bachelor of Arts in Public Health and the Bachelor of Science in Public Health. The Bachelor of Arts emphasizes the socio-cultural determinants of health and the associated selectivcourse options largely align with social sciences and humanities. The Bachelor of Science positions students who plan to pursue graduate and professional degrees and careers built upon a foundation of basic and applied sciences such as epidemiology and biostatistics, dentistry, environmental and occupational health sciences, medicine, and pharmacy.

The mission of the baccalaureate programs 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.

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**Admission Requirements**

**Admission to Public Health—Undecided (Pre-Public Health)**

New first year applicants interested in pursuing the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science 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 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 or Bachelor of Science 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 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 or Bachelor of Science in Public Health are eligible to apply as intercollege transfer applicants to the Public Health—Undecided (Pre-Public Health) program within the School of Public Health.

**Admission to the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in Public Health**

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 2.50/4.00. A 2.75/4.00 or above is recommended for priority consideration.
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.

**Early Admission to the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in Public Health**

While most students will follow the traditional pathway of entering the major upon completion of 60 hours of specified course work, early admission to the major is possible for high achieving students. Students who have successfully completed at least 30 semester hours including at least one of the three 100-level public health prerequisite courses (PUBH 100, PUBH 110, or PUBH 120) with a minimum cumulative GPA of at least 3.25/4.00, may apply to be admitted to the full major at the beginning of the sophomore year. Students qualifying for early admission will spread their core public health major course work over three years rather than two.

**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 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Program</th>
<th>Degree Conferred</th>
<th>Total Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>BA in Public Health</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>BS in Public Health</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Course Requirements**

See the BA in Public Health or BS 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/ucat/colleges-depts/public-health/).  

**General Education Proficiencies—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:
Quantitative Reasoning
Students in the School of Public Health must demonstrate competency in quantitative reasoning to earn a degree.

Students in the Bachelor of Arts demonstrate competency by:

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 110, MATH 118, MATH 121, MATH 125, MATH 160, MATH 165, MATH 170, MATH 180, STAT 101, or STAT 130. STAT 101 or STAT 130 is recommended.
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.

Students in the Bachelor of Science demonstrate competency by:

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 121, MATH 170, MATH 180, STAT 101, or STAT 130. STAT 101 or STAT 130 is recommended.
3. 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.

Additional Course Requirements

First Year Seminar Requirement
All incoming first year students to the School of Public Health as well as transfer students who enter with less than 24 semester hours earned must complete a first-year seminar, PUBH 105 during their first term at UIC. Satisfactory completion of the seminar is a graduation requirement.

Foreign Language (required for the Bachelor of Arts in Public Health only)
Students in the Bachelor of Arts in Public Health 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 (http://catalog.uic.edu/ucat/colleges-depts/liberal-arts-sciences/#b2) foreign language requirement for further explanation.

While not required for students in the Bachelor of Science, those who have an interest in developing language competencies may opt to enroll in foreign language courses as free electives.

Other Requirements

Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement
A student must earn a cumulative grade point average of 2.50/4.00 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 2.50. The minimum cumulative grade point average for public health major course work is 2.50.

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.

Minors
The School of Public Health offers the following minor.
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 the second week of classes for 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
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 2.50/4.00 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 School of Public Health should complete an Intercollege Transfer Application available on the School of Public Health website. Direct admission to the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in Public Health program is offered for the fall semester only. 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 or Bachelor of Science 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) program within the School of Public Health is selective and limited to those students in good academic standing who have a UIC grade point average of at least 2.50/4.00 and whose combined UIC and transfer grade point average is at least 2.50. A 2.75/4.00 or above is recommended for priority consideration. 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 or Bachelor of Science 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 2.50/4.00 grade point average is required for consideration. A 2.75/4.00 or above is recommended for priority consideration. Please consult the Admissions section of the catalog for more information. See the Office of Admission Transfer Guide 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

Both the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Public Health programs encourage 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 Programs**

- BA in Public Health (http://catalog.uic.edu/ucat/colleges-depts/public-health/bs-pubh)
- BS in Public Health (http://catalog.uic.edu/ucat/colleges-depts/public-health/bs-pubh)

**Minor**

- Minor in Public Health (http://catalog.uic.edu/ucat/colleges-depts/public-health/minor-pubh)