



Deciding on a Field of Study

Are you trying to determine where you fit within public health? The following tables arrange some of the questions you may ask yourself as you think about a path in public health. They are grouped by what issues interest you, what tasks interest you, and what skills interest you. These suggestions are neither exhaustive nor absolute.

What issues do you want to study?

- *Access to health care for underserved populations*
- *Social determinants of health*
- *Rural health care*
- *Child, adolescent, and family health*
- *Global health*
- *Health behaviors such as alcohol/tobacco/drug use, physical activity, nutrition, eating disorders, and obesity*
- *LGBT health and wellness*
- *Health disparities and health equity*
- *Healthy aging*
- *Emergency preparedness*
- *Computational modeling, systems theory*
- *Chronic disease prevention*
- *Community-based participatory research*
- *Evaluation of public health promotion and health education programs*

**Behavioral &
Community
Health Sciences**

- *Computational modeling, systems theory*
- *Occupational health issues*
- *Preparedness for disasters, bioterrorism, or disease outbreaks*

Biostatistics

- *Air pollution, water pollution, exposure to hazardous materials*
- *Interaction between genes, behaviors, and the environment*
- *Global health*
- *Preparedness for disasters, bioterrorism, or disease outbreaks*
- *Chronic diseases*
- *Enhancing disease prevention and health promotion programs*
- *Occupational health issues*
- *Food safety*
- *Environmental health risk assessment*

Environmental & Occupational Health

- *Air and water pollution, exposure to hazardous materials*
- *Infectious and chronic disease surveillance and control*
- *Successful aging and longevity*
- *Child, adolescent, and family health / childhood autism*
- *Global health*
- *Women's health*
- *Health-related behaviors such as alcohol/tobacco/drug use, nutrition, eating disorders, and obesity*
- *Physical activity and lifestyle interventions*
- *Cardiovascular health and diabetes*
- *Psychiatric disorders*
- *Design and conduct of clinical trials*
- *Impact of genetics in aging, cancer, and reproduction*
- *Neuroepidemiology / therapies in central nervous system disorders*
- *Cancer prevention*
- *Prevention and treatment of injury*
- *Intersection of public health and medicine (joint MD/PhD)*

Epidemiology

- *Prescription drug use among Medicare D and VA patients*
- *Women's health and Medicaid policy*
- *Health care reform and the Affordable Care Act*
- *Outcomes of investment of information technology in underdeveloped economies*
- *Physician adoption of antipsychotic drugs*
- *Quality management and measurement in long-term care settings*
- *Applying policy analysis and econometrics to evaluate health policies*
- *Variation in medical adherence in coronary care*
- *Social network analysis applied to public health law*
- *Global health and comparative health systems*
- *Decision science applied to clinical decision making*

Health Policy & Management

- *Interaction between genes, behaviors, and the environment*
- *Global health*
- *Healthy aging*
- *Health behaviors such as alcohol/tobacco/drug use, physical activity, nutrition, eating disorders, and obesity*
- *Helping people understand and cope with genetic conditions*
- *Computational modeling, systems theory*
- *Chronic diseases*
- *Enhancing disease prevention and health promotion programs*
- *Intersection of public health and medicine (joint MD/PhD)*

Human Genetics

- *Access to health care for underserved populations; social and class disparities in health*
- *Rural health care*
- *Global health*
- *Health behaviors such as alcohol/tobacco/drug use, physical activity, nutrition, eating disorders, and obesity*
- *Preparedness for disasters, bioterrorism, or disease outbreaks*
- *Outbreaks of infectious diseases*
- *Food safety*

Infectious Diseases & Microbiology

What tasks interest you?

Political action (local/state/federal governments, lobbying)

- Behavioral & Community Health Sciences
- Environmental and Occupational Health
- Health Policy & Management

Evaluate health promotion and disease prevention programs

- Behavioral & Community Health Sciences
- Health Policy & Management

Leadership in community groups (non-profit agencies or health departments)

- Behavioral & Community Health Sciences
- Environmental and Occupational Health
- Human Genetics
- Infectious Diseases & Microbiology

Develop health promotion and disease prevention programs

- Behavioral & Community Health Sciences
- Environmental and Occupational Health
- Epidemiology
- Human Genetics
- Infectious Diseases & Microbiology

Apply quantitative skills or programming to an area of public health

- Biostatistics
- Environmental and Occupational Health
- Epidemiology
- Health Policy & Management
- Human Genetics

What skills do you want to acquire?

Cost-benefit and cost effectiveness analyses

- Health Policy & Management

Geographic Information Systems

- Biostatistics
- Behavioral & Community Health Sciences
- Environmental and Occupational Health
- Epidemiology

Management of clinical trials

- Biostatistics
- Epidemiology

Management of laboratories

- Infectious Diseases & Microbiology

SAMPLE JOB TITLES FOR RECENT GRADUATES

- Administrative Fellow
- Assistant Professor
- Biostatistician
- Business Analyst
- Business Development Coordinator
- Cancer Genetic Counselor
- Chronic Disease Data Analyst
- Clinical Case Planner
- Clinical Content Analyst
- Clinical Quality Management Analyst
- Clinical Research Coordinator
- Community Education Supervisor
- Community Health Strategist
- Data Analyst
- Decision Support Analyst
- Development Associate
- Director of Communication and Health Promotion
- Emergency Preparedness Planner
- Environmental Risk Assessor
- Epidemiologist
- Evaluation Project Coordinator
- Genetic Counselor
- Health Coach Specialist
- Health Educator
- Health Innovation Analyst
- Health Insurance Specialist
- Health Policy Analyst
- Health Systems Engineer
- HIV Educator
- HIV Prevention Analyst
- Industrial Hygienist
- Infection Preventionist
- Laboratory Genetic Counselor
- Laboratory Manager
- Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
- Opioid Compliance Specialist
- Pediatric Genetic Counselor
- Physical Scientist
- Policy Analyst
- Postdoctoral Research Fellow
- Prenatal Genetic Counselor
- Prevention Specialist
- Program and Policy Analyst
- Project Manager
- Public Health Analyst
- Public Policy Fellow
- Qualitative Research Specialist
- Quality Improvement Data Analyst
- Research Facilitator
- Research Fellow
- Research Public Health Analyst
- Research Specialist
- Risk Coordinator
- Services Outreach Coordinator
- Statistician
- Toxicologist
- Transition Care Coordinator
- Women's Health Outreach Specialist

For questions or additional information, please contact:

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