

# Public Health Program – Course Approval Process for Transfer Credit and Study Abroad Credit

University of Colorado Boulder

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For each of the courses below, which are required courses for the BA in Public Health, we enumerate the requirements for a course to be considered equivalent for transfer credit and study abroad credit. This is for use by the Public Health Program Curriculum Committee.

## Fundamentals of Public Health (Required Courses, 10 Credits)

Students may only transfer in credits for two of the three courses in this section (PBHL/GEOG/IPHY 2692 (3) Foundations in Public Health, GEOG 3692 (4) Introduction to Global Public Health, and IPHY 3490 (3) Introduction to Epidemiology). Additionally, for a course to count as one of these courses, it also has to meet the criteria below and be approved by the Public Health Program Curriculum Committee.

### **PBHL/GEOG/IPHY 2692 (3) Foundations in Public Health**

- **Overview of public health.** Students should have an introduction to the history and philosophy of public health, as well as its core values, concepts, and functions across the globe and in society.
- **Human health.** Students should be introduced to the underlying science of human health and disease, including opportunities for promoting and protecting health across the life course.
- **Determinants of health.** Students should be introduced to the socioeconomic, behavioral, biological, environmental, and other factors that impact human health and contribute to health disparities.
- **Overview of the health system.** Students should have an introduction to the fundamental characteristics and organizational structures of the U.S. health system, as well as to the differences in systems in other countries.
- **Data Reliability.** Students should be able to identify reliable resources for data on morbidity and mortality and evaluate public health interventions using an evidence-based approach.

### **GEOG 3692 (4) Introduction to Global Public Health**

- **Overview of public health.** Students should have an introduction to the history and philosophy of public health, as well as its core values, concepts, and functions **across the globe.**
- **Human health.** Students should be introduced to the underlying science of human health and disease, including opportunities for promoting and protecting health across the life course.
- **Identifying and addressing population health challenges.** Students should be introduced to the concepts of population health and the basic processes, approaches, and interventions that identify and address the major health-related needs and concerns of populations.
- **Determinants of health.** Students should be introduced to the socioeconomic, behavioral, biological, environmental, and other factors that impact human health and contribute to health disparities.

- ***Biosocial.*** Students should understand the biosocial approach to global health concerns, considering historical, political, economic, and other root causes for the differential distribution of the global burden of disease.
- ***Critical view of data.*** Students should be able to critique the global burden of disease data quality and limitations and articulate critiques of global health metrics.

#### **IPHY 3490 (3) Introduction to Epidemiology**

- ***Role and importance of data in public health.*** Students should be introduced to the basic concepts, methods, and tools of public health data collection, use, and analysis and why evidence-based approaches are an essential part of public health practice.
- ***Determinants of health.*** Students should be introduced to the socioeconomic, behavioral, biological, environmental, and other factors that impact human health and contribute to health disparities.
- ***Study design.*** Students should be able to differentiate among the types of study designs used in etiologic investigation of disease such as cross-sectional, case-control, exposure- and population-based cohort, cross-sectional, and experimental studies.
- ***Uses of Epidemiology in Public Health.*** Students should be able to discuss the modern uses of epidemiology as it relates to assessing disease trends, establishing the natural history of disease, monitoring community health, identifying risk and disease causality.
- ***Calculations.*** Students should be able to identify and calculate epidemiological measures including but not limited to counts, incidence, prevalence, morbidity, mortality, relative risk, risk difference, etiologic fraction, sensitivity, specificity, predictive values, odds ratios, and attack rates.
- ***Critical view of data.*** Students should be able to identify potential sources of bias in epidemiological studies.
- ***Epidemiology and Policy.*** Students should be able to describe epidemiology's role in risk assessment and health policy.

#### **Other Required Courses**

##### **Bioethics, one of PHIL 1160 or PHIL 3160**

- Students should be able to analyze and discuss (in written and oral forms) ethical concerns related to public health issues

##### **Introduction to Biology Course, one of EBIO 1100, EBIO 1210, MCDB 1030, or MCDB 1150**

- For the biology course, we will follow the Colorado Public Health articulation of courses approved for transfer credit for Public Health under the GT-SC1 approval. This will be done by the registrar's office or transfer credit office and not by the Public Health Program.

##### **Introduction to Statistics Course, one of ANTH 4000, ECON 3818, GEOG 3023, IPHY 3280, MATH 2510, PSCI 2075, PSYC 2111, SOCY 2061, STAT 2600**

- Students should learn to use basic statistical software, find appropriate data, bring the data into the software, clean the data, and analyze it to answer testable research questions
- Students should be able to apply and correctly interpret descriptive statistics, hypothesis tests, ANOVA, and linear regression
- Students should learn when to use which statistical tests and on which kinds of data (e.g. continuous, categorical, binary)

## **Capstone Course in Public Health**

- Students majoring in Public Health at CU Boulder must take the Capstone course through CU Boulder or continuing education run by CU Boulder.

## **Electives in Public Health**

Students may only use three courses (up to 9 credits) from outside of the CU Boulder campus for the BA degree in Public Health. For the minor in Public Health, only one elective can be from an institution other than CU Boulder.

For a course from outside of CU Boulder to count as an elective for the BA in Public Health or the minor in Public Health, it must do one of the following:

- Be counted as equivalent to a course on the current list of approved electives that are taught at CU Boulder. Equivalency of these courses will be done by the department that teaches that course at CU Boulder OR
- Meet the following criteria:
  - Cover a topic of relevance to public health, which means that it is addressing a health outcome at the population level (not solely the individual level) and discussing determinants beyond just biological determinants (to include potentially environmental, social, political, economic, or behavioral determinants). This can be from a historical or current perspective. AND
  - Have a public health rather than a medical focus such that it is more about prevention rather than treatment of health outcomes (or if there is a treatment focus, that it addresses treatment as a means of prevention which applies in the case of infectious diseases) AND
  - Discusses health equity (including health disparities/inequalities/inequities, unequal exposures, environmental injustice, or structural violence) in some way.

