

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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The Department of Public Health offers academic programs which prepare students for a wide variety of health careers. An important responsibility is to carry out applied research and other scholarly activities which provide opportunities for student engagement, maintain the academic strength of the faculty, expand knowledge in various fields, and improve health in the communities served. The department also conducts service with multiple agencies, institutions, and organizations in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and across the nation. In addition, the department provides a service to the University's Colonnade program through instruction to improve the knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of students related to Colonnade goals.

Students may pursue one of several major or minor programs. Specialized programs prepare individuals for careers in public health, health care administration, environmental health and safety, occupational safety and health, health information management, health science, and related areas.

All majors and minors are expected to work closely with their academic advisors in planning their courses of study. Special interests and abilities will be considered in planning the individual course of study. More information about the department is available at: <http://www.wku.edu/publichealth> (<http://www.wku.edu/publichealth/>).

Departmental Academic Regulations

Students who have completed a minimum of 30 semester hours, including the courses required for seeking admission status, with an overall GPA of 2.3 (an overall GPA of 2.5 for Health Care Administration majors), qualify for admission into a program in the Department of Public Health.

Students whose grade point average falls below 2.3 for two successive semesters will be dropped from the program. Students who receive a grade below a "C" in two or more courses required in a major or minor will be dropped from the program. A student may be reinstated in the program when the overall grade point average is elevated to at least 2.3 and all courses in which a grade of less than "C" has been earned have been repeated and a grade of "C" or better was earned. Students must have an overall grade point average of at least 2.5 before enrolling in the internship. Grades below "C" in major or minor courses will not be counted toward meeting graduation requirements.

Academic regulations for Health Information Management and Health Sciences majors are described subsequently with the full descriptions of the programs.

Internships/Off-Campus Experiences

Students may be required to undergo criminal background checks and drug testing, and to provide proof of health insurance, liability insurance, and/or immunization records prior to participating in any required

experiences at selected off-campus facilities/agencies. Additionally, there may be certifications, training seminars, or other requirements specified by the facility/agency that a student must meet in order to be eligible for field or practical experiences at the facility. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that all institutional and/or facility requirements are met as a condition of participating in the off-campus experiences; students may be responsible in part or in full for any costs incurred to meet such requirements. Students are also responsible for transportation to and from off-campus experiences.

Degrees

- Environmental and Occupational Health Science, Bachelor of Science (548P, 548) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/public-health/environmental-health-science-bs/>)
- Health Care Administration, Bachelor of Science (559P, 559) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/public-health/health-care-administration-bs/>)
- Health Information Management, Bachelor of Science (529P, 529) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/public-health/health-information-management-bs/>)
- Health Sciences, Bachelor of Science (564) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/public-health/health-sciences-bs/>)
- Public Health, Bachelor of Science (521P, 521) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/public-health/public-health-bs/>)

Minor

- Health Care Administration, Minor (386) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/public-health/health-care-administration-minor/>)

Certificates

- Environmental Health, Certificate (1743) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/public-health/environmental-health-certificate/>)
- Health Education and Promotion, Certificate (1741) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/public-health/health-education-promotion-certificate/>)
- Health Informatics, Certificate (1740) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/public-health/health-informatics-certificate/>)
- Long-Term Care Administration, Certificate (1717) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/public-health/long-term-care-administration-certificate/>)
- Occupational Safety & Health, Certificate (1705) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/public-health/occupational-safety-health-certificate/>)
- Public Health, Certificate (1742) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/public-health/public-health-certificate/>)
- Worksite Health Promotion, Certificate (1707) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/public-health/worksite-health-promotion-certificate/>)

Faculty

Professor

Tania B. Basta PhD (Health Promotion and Behavior), University of Georgia, 2006
 Grace K. Lartey PhD (Health Education), University of Toledo, 2006
 William N. Mkanta PhD (Health Services Research), University of Florida, 2005
 Ritchie D. Taylor PhD (Environmental Science), University of North Texas, 2002

Associate Professor

Xiuhua Ding PhD (Epidemiology and Biostatistics), University of Kentucky, 2016
 Gregory E. Ellis-Griffith PhD (Administration/Health Services), University of Alabama at Birmingham, 2010
 Gretchen M. Macy EdD (Kinesiology and Health Promotion), University of Kentucky, 2012
 Michelle C. Reece PhD (Public Health), East Tennessee State University, 2014

Assistant Professor

Kristen L. Brewer PhD (Education (Health Education)), Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 2021
 Susan S. Eagle PhD (Anthropology), Tulane University, 2005
 Edrisa Sanyang PhD (Occupational & Environmental Health (Industrial Hygiene)), University of Iowa, 2016

Pedagogical Associate Professor

Janice R. Hunt-Shepherd MHA (Health Administration), Western Kentucky University, 2005

Pedagogical Assistant Professor

Sabita Shrestha PhD (Education), Southern Illinois University, 2017

Instructor I

Jacqueline R. Basham MPH (Public Health, Environmental Health), Western Kentucky University, 2015
 Pamela A. Chandler MED (Education), Indiana Wesleyan University, 2008
 Melanie D. Eaton MBA, Western Kentucky University, 2003
 Nadia F. Houchens MHA, Western Kentucky University, 2017
 Jae J. Kim MS (Health), Western Kentucky University, 1987
 Roberta D. Pope MS (Health Informatics), University of Illinois at Chicago, 2013
 Angel N. Shoemake MPH (Public Health), Western Kentucky University, 2020