

# Public Health

Department of Health Sciences and Social Work, College of Education and Human Services



**THIS IS PUBLIC  
HEALTH.**

[thisispublichealth.org](http://thisispublichealth.org)

## Program of Study

The Bachelor of Science in public health prepares students to work in public health, community health, educational, health care, governmental and non-governmental settings. Students in this major develop competence in the public health core disciplines of behavioral health/health education, epidemiology, biostatistics, health services administration and environmental health and can choose an emphasis in either community health education, environmental and occupational safety or public health preparedness. Students also take courses in other public health disciplines such as women's health, multicultural health and public health preparedness. All majors in the B.S. in Public Health complete a "capstone" internship during their final semester before graduation. Additional information about careers in public health can be found at [ExploreHEALTHCareers.org](http://ExploreHEALTHCareers.org).

Community health educators are professionally prepared in the disciplines of community and public health education. They demonstrate competence in planning, implementation and evaluation of health-promoting and health-enhancing programs for individuals, groups and communities. Environmental and occupational safety professionals are concerned with the relationships between the characteristics of the natural environment (air, water, soil, chemicals, etc.) and mental and physical health. This information is used to establish limits on pollutants the environment can absorb without detrimental effects; to develop control technology and to implement controls as necessary for the benefit of human and animal populations. Public health emergency preparedness professionals are involved with mitigating, preparing for, responding to and assisting with long-term recovery from disasters and emergencies. They work in many settings, such as public health, health care, educational and state and local governmental agencies.

## Faculty

WIU Department of Health Sciences and Social Work courses are taught by faculty holding doctoral and graduate degrees from distinguished universities across the United States, such as:

- Johns Hopkins University
- Oklahoma State University
- Oregon State University
- Penn State University
- Southern Illinois University–Carbondale
- University of New Mexico
- The University of Toledo
- Virginia Tech

Faculty are dedicated educators, seeking to foster active student participation and active scholars with numerous published articles and scholarly presentations.

## Scholarships

The department offers four scholarships for majors. All are named after distinguished former faculty members in the department: the Willis and Rosemary Zorn Scholarship for demonstration of commitment to self-education; the W. I. Taylor Memorial Scholarship for achievement in professional development; the V. F. Lowell Award for undergraduate professionalism in health sciences and the John H. and Mary M. Leach Scholarship, which is awarded in even years to an incoming freshman. Detailed information on scholarships is available from the department advising office, (309) 298-1438; the University's Scholarship office, (309) 298-2001; or on the Web at [wiu.edu/coehs/health\\_sciences/scholarships/hs\\_undergrad.php](http://wiu.edu/coehs/health_sciences/scholarships/hs_undergrad.php).

## Honors in Public Health

To be eligible for the Centennial Honors College, entering freshmen must have an ACT composite score of at least 28 OR have a 26 or 27 composite ACT and be in the top 15 percent of their graduating class OR have an ACT composite score of at least 24 and be in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class. A comparable SAT score is acceptable. Transfer and current WIU students who wish to join the Centennial Honors College (including the Quad Cities Honors Program) must have a 3.4 grade point average on a 4.0 scale based on 12 or more semester hours. Honors credit is given for honors coursework completed at other accredited institutions. To find out more, visit [wiu.edu/Honors](http://wiu.edu/Honors).

General honors seminars in the humanities, sciences and social sciences provide students with the opportunity to explore key academic issues with distinguished faculty members. In the public health major, honors students take courses for honors credit and, as seniors, prepare an honors thesis under the direction of a department faculty member.

## Student Activities

Eta Sigma Gamma is the National Professional Health Education Honorary. Pi Chapter has been honored four times by the Eta Sigma Gamma national office as the outstanding national chapter. Five Pi Chapter students received national Gamman of the Year honors. The department also has a new student organization for future healthcare professionals. There are a wide variety of student activities and organizations available to all Western students, as well. Learn more at [wiu.edu/osa](http://wiu.edu/osa).

## After College

WIU public health graduates are prepared in the disciplines of community and public health education and are extremely marketable. They have been successful in gaining employment in positions focused on planning, implementation and evaluation of health-promoting and health-enhancing programs for individuals, groups, and communities. They work in business and industry; healthcare facilities; community organizations and local, state and federal governmental agencies.

Western's public health environmental and occupational safety graduates are prepared to address a variety of issues related to health and the environment, including water quality, food safety, air quality and pollution control, solid and toxic waste disposal and public policy. They have been successful in gaining employment in local, state and federal environmental agencies; business and industry and environmental consulting agencies.

## For More Information

The department welcomes visitors. Contact the WIU Department of Health Sciences and Social Work chair at [HealthSciences@wiu.edu](mailto:HealthSciences@wiu.edu) or (309) 298-1076, or e-mail the advisor at [SE-Dorsett@wiu.edu](mailto:SE-Dorsett@wiu.edu). Learn more about the department by visiting [wiu.edu/health](http://wiu.edu/health).

## Higher Values in Higher Education

Located in Macomb (population 20,000), with a campus in the Quad Cities (Moline, IL), Western offers a caring and supportive learning environment to more than 10,000 students in west-central Illinois. Western students have all the advantages of a large public university—strong faculty, state-of-the-art technology and facilities, and a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities—in an atmosphere free from distractions. Western offers a broad-based athletics program, sponsoring 19 NCAA Division I intercollegiate varsity sports. Football competes in the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision through the Missouri Valley Football Conference; all other varsity sports compete at the Division I level through The Summit League. Western's presence in the Quad Cities spans more than 40 years, and that campus offers undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 1,400 students. The core values that are at the heart of the University are academic excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth and social responsibility.

Western's GradTrac and Cost Guarantee programs ensure that students can achieve their degrees within four years while paying a fixed rate for tuition, fees and room and board.

Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including, but not limited to, minorities, women and individuals with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes discrimination based on an individual's membership in the following classes: sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, genetic information, veteran status, and any other classes protected by state or federal law.



[wiu.edu/hssw](http://wiu.edu/hssw)

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Updated May 2017



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