



Proposed Admission Criteria for the Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) Degree

Michael S. Bisesi, PhD Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Gail Kaye, PhD Director Undergraduate Public Health Programs
January 12, 2012

Introduction

The College of Public Health (CPH) at The Ohio State University (OSU) will implement the new Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) degree in autumn semester 2012. Students will designate one of two interdisciplinary specializations: Public Health Sociology or Environmental Public Health. CPH has established minimum admission criteria for new first-year students, transfer students, and current OSU students who want to be Pre-Public Health majors. During the initial stages of BSPH implementation, the College plans to have a cap of 80 students per year matriculating into the Public Health major.

OSU's incoming freshman class of 2011 had an average ACT score of 28 and a combined SAT Critical Reading and Math score of 1243. These average scores for the respective standardized tests were considered in establishing the admission criteria for both Pre-Public Health and Public Health majors. In addition, many of the undergraduate programs, including most of the health-related programs, at OSU have additional minimum criteria beyond the standardized test score required to apply for and be admitted to their programs as a declared major. The criteria for both Pre-Public Health and Public Health majors are summarized below.

Admission Criteria for Pre-Public Health Major

New First-Year Students/Freshman: To launch the BSPH degree, CPH proposes a minimum ACT score of 26 or a minimum combined SAT score of 1170 for incoming freshman to be directly admitted to the College as a Pre-Public Health major. This will ensure that the College has well-prepared students who will be able to handle the rigor of the academic curriculum and be competitive for admissions to the undergraduate program.

Admitted first year OSU students who do not meet the incoming freshman criteria can enroll in the health professions Exploration program to consider alternative majors. Students who are not declared Pre-Public Health majors can still complete prerequisite courses and apply to the Public Health major.

Transfer Students: For students transferring to OSU, CPH proposes a minimum 2.80 GPA and a minimum of 30 semester credits (or equivalent) to be directly enrolled as a Pre-Public Health major.

Current OSU Students: For current OSU students that want to switch to the College as a Pre-Public Health major, CPH proposes a minimum 2.80 GPA and a minimum of 12 semester credits.

Admission Criteria for Public Health Major and Designated Interdisciplinary Specialization

To be considered as an applicant to the Public Health major, CPH proposes that applicants have an OSU cumulative minimum GPA of 2.80 and a minimum of 30 credit hours by the end of Spring Quarter (Semester). Interested students must complete and submit an application form– which includes an essay, to be considered for admission to the program. Applicants must complete prerequisite courses with a minimum grade of C in each prerequisite course. CPH proposes the following prerequisite courses for each of the two interdisciplinary specializations:

Public Health Sociology: English 1110.xx (110), Math 1116 (116) or higher, one approved GE Natural Science course, Sociology 1101 (101).

Environmental Public Health: English 1110.xx (110), Math 1150 (150) or higher, Biology 1113 (113), Sociology 1101 (101).

Completion of all prerequisite courses and a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.80 are conditions of admission for students accepted into the program.

Application

Incoming students directly admitted into the University Honors program will be directly admitted to the undergraduate Public Health major and do not have to complete an additional application. All other students will have to complete an additional application and apply to the Public Health major.

The application due date for the Public Health major will be April 1st (or the following Monday if the 1st falls on a weekend). When OSU changes to semesters, CPH proposes an application due date of February 15, 2013 to provide the time needed to review applications, make admissions decisions and notify applicants.

The Office of Academic Programs and Student Services (APSS) in the College of Public Health has worked and will continue to work closely with University Exploration to communicate information about the undergraduate program and the advising structure in APSS. The office will communicate continuously with the Regional campus advising staff and the Office of Continuing Education as well as provide information sessions for current Ohio State students and academic advisors during spring quarter.