

2009-2010

B.S. in Community Health

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

What Is the Study of Community Health?

The Community Health degree consists of two to three years of course work in Health Education and supporting areas. This includes required course work in both content and process-oriented Health Education courses, Social Sciences (Anthropology, Psychology, and Sociology), Biological and Physical Sciences (Anatomy and Physiology, Exercise Physiology, and Chemistry), Nutrition, and electives that complement a student's interests and professional needs.

Why Should I Consider This Major?

Community Health Educators assess individual and community needs for health education; plan, implement and administer health education strategies, interventions and programs; conduct evaluation and research; serve as a health education resource; and communicate and advocate for health and health education. Effective Health Education is ecological in its approach. When planning the focus of interventions, trained Health Educators consider all factors that contribute to health and disease: individual behavior; group dynamics; environmental conditions; economics; politics, laws and policies; culture, ethnicity, and gender; and the availability, accessibility, and quality of health services.

Students who are accepted into the Community Health major explore the biological, social, environmental and individual determinants of health. The curriculum is based on the skills and competencies to become a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) through the National Commission on Health Education Credentialing, Inc. The program is rigorous and faculty members emphasize diverse classroom projects and community outreach. At the end of the program, a full-time internship (40 hours per week for 10 weeks) in a health education setting is required.

The Community Health major is appropriate for students who want to work in community, public, and global health; health communication; governmental and non-profit agencies and organizations; medical care settings; worksite wellness programs; and college and university student service health education programs. It can also serve as a preparatory program for graduate or post-baccalaureate study in Health Education, Public Health, and related areas.

How to Declare:

Students can pre-major in Community Health in order to access entry-level courses. To pre-major, a student must have at least a 2.5 GPA. To major, a student must submit a program application by October 15 of the year prior to senior 400-level courses. Majors must maintain a 2.5 GPA in all major courses to enroll in the required full-time internship at the end of the program of study.

Further information is available from the Program Coordinator.

Mid-Program Checkpoint:

Students who intend to complete a Bachelor's of Science degree in Community Health within four years should complete the following courses during their sophomore and junior years and prior to the start of their senior year. Students are expected to follow all prerequisite requirements for courses and seek early departmental advisement.

Coursework:

BIOL 348 and 349

CHEM 121; CHEM 251 or 351

HLED 150, 151, 152, 330 or 345, and 350

Contact Information:

Physical Education, Health,
and Recreation Dept. Website:
<http://www.wvu.edu/pehr/>

Program Coordinator:
Billie J. Lindsey, EdD, CHES
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Sample Careers:

Community Health Educator

Tobacco Control Specialist

Sexuality Education
Coordinator

HIV/AIDS Educator

Hospital-based Wellness
Program Director

Public Health Educator

Substance Abuse Educator

College Health Educator

Injury Prevention Specialist

Curriculum Development
Specialist

Health Consultant

Health Information Specialist

Nutrition and Physical
Activity Coordinator



Community Health Major Requirements: 101 Credits

Health Education Core: 66 Credits

- HLED 150 Consumer and Environmental Health (4)
- HLED 151 Society and Drugs (2)
- HLED 152 Society and Sex (2)
- HLED 330 Contemporary Health Issues (4)
 - Or HLED 345 Health Promotion/Disease Prevention (4)
- HLED 350 Nutrition (3)
- HLED 407 Principles and Foundations of Health Education (4)
- HLED 410 Health Communication/Social Marketing (4)
- HLED 420 Epidemiology and Biostatistics (5)
- HLED 432 Organization and Administration of Community Health Programs (4)
- HLED 447 Community Health (4)
- HLED 450 Methods and Materials in Health Education (5)
- HLED 460 Program Planning & Implementation of Health Education (5)
- HLED 465 Program Evaluation and Research Design (5)
- HLED 471 Internship I (3)
- HLED 472 Internship II (12)
 - Or HLED 473 Internship III (15)

Supporting Required Courses: 25 credits

- CHEM 121 General Chemistry I (5)
- CHEM 251 Elementary Organic Chemistry (5)
 - Or CHEM 351 Organic Chemistry (4)
- BIOL 348 Human Anatomy & Physiology (5)
- BIOL 349 Human Physiology w/Lab (5)
- KIN 413 Physiology of Exercise (5)

Electives under advisement: 10 Credits

Students select supporting courses that contribute to their professional interests and to the settings in which they wish to practice. Students should consult with their major advisor when choosing elective courses. **Students interested in becoming lifestyle advisors in the WWU Peer Health Education Program may include HLED 250 as one of their electives.**

- ANTH 353 Sex and Gender in Culture (5)
- ANTH 424 Medical Anthropology (5)
- HLED 250 Health of the College Student (4)
- HLED 435 Work Site Health Promotion (5)
- SOC 333 Aging in America (5)
- SOC 260 The Family in Society (5)
- SOC 338 Sociology of Sexual Behavior (5)
- SOC 340 Sociology of Organizations (5)
- SOC 380 Sociology of Youth (5)
- COMM 224 Small Group Processes (4)
- PSY 230 Developmental Psychology (5)
- PSY 240 Social Psychology (5)
- KIN 414 Physical Activity and Nutrition (3)
- KIN 415 Physical Fitness Assess & Exercise Prescription (5)
- ENG 302 Introduction to Technical & Professional Writing (5)
- Other electives with advisor approval

NOTE: Program prepares students for the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) exam.

Exit Requirement:

Standard First Aid/CPR certification

These courses are required (or advised) for this major and may be used to satisfy GUR or Writing Proficiency requirements.

LSCI: CHEM 121, 251; BIOL 101

WP: Three Writing Proficiency points are required for graduation (they are noted as WP1, WP2, and WP3). Check [Classfinder](#) or [Online Timetable](#) for departmental offerings each quarter.