PROGRAM OVERVIEW

A degree in public health provides students with the knowledge and skills they need to improve the health and wellness of populations and communities locally, nationally and internationally from an evidence-based framework. In this program, students explore why some communities are healthier than others and consider the roles of individual behavior, environment, biology, social structures, and policy in determining health outcomes. This major is a perfect fit for those who like to ask the bigger questions about health and who are interested in service to others, health disparities and social justice.

Additional degree options include:

+ Accelerated Program:
  High achieving students may apply to this competitive program during their junior year of study. Accepted students earn a B.S. in public health in four years and a Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) with one additional year of study.

+ Pre-Med Track:
  Students interested in going to medical school can combine traditional pre-med requirements with public health coursework.

+ Medical Scholars Track:
  Students in the Medical Scholars Program may choose public health as their undergraduate field of study.

+ Minor:
  A minor in public health is an excellent choice for students pursuing other majors but who would still like to expand their knowledge of the subject.

ABOUT THE FACULTY

Classes for public health major are taught by the same faculty as SLU’s Master of Public Health program. Our faculty have an open-door policy and value being able to provide mentoring for students. Our faculty have diverse research interests, including maternal and child health, health disparities, cancer epidemiology, food insecurity, injury prevention and environmental health hazards.

CURRICULUM

This major combines a core curriculum with 36 credit hours of public health courses. Students complete foundational courses in areas such as global health, epidemiology, biostatistics, advocacy and evidence based public health. Service learning is an integral part of the curriculum. Students complete a capstone course in their senior year.

By the completion of the major, students will be able to:

+ Demonstrate foundational knowledge of public health in relation to human cultures, history, science and policy.
+ Identify health characteristics, determinants, and needs across diverse populations.
+ Recognize ways to implement evidence-based approaches to public health issues in communities.
+ Communicate about public health issues with an emphasis on social justice and the core disciplines of public health.

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(800) SLU-FOR-U • (314) 977-2500 • admitme@slu.edu • www.slu.edu • beabilliken.com

Contact
Katie Linnenbrink
314-977-3934
linnenbrink@slu.edu

Graduate Programs
+ Master of Health Administration (M.H.A.)
For a full listing of graduate programs, visit graduate.slu.edu.

Revised March 2018
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Freshman: All applications are thoroughly reviewed with the highest degree of individual care and consideration to all credentials that are submitted. Solid academic performance in college preparatory course work is a primary concern in reviewing a freshman applicant’s file. College admission test scores (ACT or SAT) are used as an additional indicator of the student’s ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University and are used as qualifiers for certain University scholarship programs. To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, the applicant must be graduating from an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the General Education Development (GED) test.

Transfer: Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED. An official high school transcript and official test scores are required only of those students who have attempted fewer than 24 transferable semester hours (or 30 quarter hours) of college credit. Those having completed 24 hours or more of college credit need only submit a transcript from previously attended college(s). In reviewing a transfer applicant’s file, the office of admission holistically examines the student’s academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student’s ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:
+ Scholarships: awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
+ Financial Aid: provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, applicants should apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For more information, visit the student financial services office online at finaid.slu.edu.

WHY CHOOSE THIS PROGRAM?

+ The public health major trains students to make an immediate impact with a curriculum that emphasizes hands on activities, service learning and social justice.
+ As a service-oriented field, public health is a natural fit with SLU’s Jesuit mission.

Although degree credit is not given for internships, students are encouraged and assisted by faculty to participate in internships to further enhance their learning experiences at Saint Louis University. Many local and national organizations are eager to involve SLU students studying public health in their work.

The B.S. in public health at Saint Louis University prepares students for entry-level careers in a variety of settings, including departments of health, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, community health organizations, hospital settings, academic centers, advocacy organizations, the pharmaceutical industry and consulting agencies. The B.S./M.P.H. option prepares students for mid-level careers with similar organizations.

Examples of career options in public health include:
+ Working with a community organization or health department to implement and evaluate community health interventions about issues such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, or cancer.
+ Conducting surveillance of chronic and infectious diseases for local, regional, or state health departments.
+ Analyzing and developing health policy for a governmental agency.
+ Conducting public health research in an academic setting.
+ Monitoring clinical trials in the pharmaceutical industry.
+ Analyzing health outcomes for insurance companies.
+ Collaborating with school districts to bring opportunities for physical activity into elementary and high schools.
+ Designing media campaigns to encourage wearing a seatbelt or discourage the use of tobacco.
+ Researching the effect of air pollution on a population’s health.
+ Implementing programs aimed at violence prevention or women’s empowerment.
+ Studying the barriers to healthy eating at both the personal and societal levels.
+ Working for a nongovernmental organization that designs clean water and sanitation systems in developing countries.

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