

PUBLIC HEALTH ... NOW WHAT?

What You Can Do with a Public Health Degree

Research, health promotion, education, management, and policy development are some of the many focal areas for public health professionals. Public health careers offer something for everyone. Epidemiology and biostatistics involve mathematics and modeling. Environmental health includes a wide range of science skills. Health administration incorporates business and management skills. Health education involves skills required to develop community-wide prevention programs. Health policy includes an understanding of the law and law-making process. The variety of public and private sector careers in public health means that there are a wide range of public health career opportunities that could fit your personal goals.

Careers in Public Health

- Health Policy and Management
 - Academic Policy Advisor
 - Legislative Policy Advisor
 - Management Policy Advisor
- Epidemiology
 - State Epidemiologist
 - Research Epidemiologist
 - Pharmacoepidemiologist
- Behavioral Science and Health Education
 - Behavior Scientist
 - Health Educator
 - Mental Health Educator
- Health Communications
 - Communications Specialist
 - Journalist
- Occupational Safety and Health
 - Corporate Medical Director
- Environmental Health Sciences
 - State Environmentalist
 - Federal Environmentalist
- International and Global Health
 - Reproductive Health Specialist
 - International HIV Specialist
 - Tropical Disease Specialist
- Public Health Preparedness and Function
 - State Epidemiologist
 - Laboratory Director
 - Public Health Lawyer
- Oral Health
 - Public Health Dentist
- Family Health
 - Local Health Officer
 - Nurse Educator
 - Nutritionist

Source: **WorldWideLearn**[^]

Still wondering...now what?

Stop by SPHHS Career Services in Arnold 136 for a walk-in with a Career Ambassador Peer Advisor. They can help you navigate your job search, review your resume, or cover letter. For their hours or to make an appointment with your Career Advisor visit:

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List of organizations where UMass students have had internships in the past (This is in no way an all-inclusive listing, it is provided to give you some ideas only)

- Berkshire Hills Music Academy, South Hadley, MA
- UMass Amherst Environmental Health & Safety, Amherst, MA
- UMass Amherst Center for Health Promotion, Amherst, MA
- Whole Children, Hadley, MA
- People's Institute, Northampton, MA
- Neighboring Food Co-op Association, Amherst, MA
- Massachusetts Legislature, MA
- Mt. Sinai, Stoughton, MA
- Congressman Bill Keating, MA
- Family Empowerment, a division of Association for Community Living, Springfield, MA
- National EMS Institute, Hadley, MA
- Criterion-Heritage Early Intervention Program, Palmer, MA

Career Planning Resources & Websites

[American Public Health Association](#) (APHA) Holds a wealth of information from: what is Public Health, policy & advocacy, professional development, news, media, meetings, events and jobs.

[Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health](#) (ASPPH) Scroll down home page and click on "Public Health Professionals" to get a drop down list of people in different career profiles filtered by area of study.

[Healthcare Careers](#) - Compare occupations in the health field by reading job descriptions, comparing salaries, and identifying academic requirements.

[Public Health Online](#) - Learn about different graduate programs in public health and salaries.

[The Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) Updated regularly by the government. Search tabs include what Epidemiologists, Health Educators, Occupational Health and Safety Specialist etc. do, the work environment, how to become one, pay, job outlook, similar occupations and additional information.

For specific occupations, salary information, skills, future outlook of career etc... go to the government website.

UMass Amherst Specific Job Search Resources

[UMass Handshake](#) UMass Amherst's database for jobs, networking, and internships.

The Job Seeker

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UMassAmherst

School of Public Health & Health Sciences

Office of Career Planning

[UMass Amherst Department of Environmental Conservation Career Links Page](#)- Includes internships and summer positions as well as general environmental conservation related job sites.

[UMass Amherst School of Public Health and Health Sciences website](#) Look for Internships, Jobs, Fellowships, Scholarships, Volunteer Opportunities

[Office of Undergraduate Research & Studies \(OURS\)](#) Located in the Learning Resource Center in the Library 1020, OURS can help you find research opportunities.

Internship / Job Search Links

[ASPPH Internships and Fellowships](#) Graduate Training Programs fellowships & Internships.

[Bio Careers](#) Job search, networking, interview and resume writing skills.

[Bottom Line](#) Resources for first-generation and low-income college students

[Brad Traverse Jobs](#) Policy-related careers

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) Intern and Fellowship Programs

[Explore Health Careers](#) Public Health Overview

[Handshake](#)

[Health Promotion Career Network](#)

[Idealist](#) Dedicated to connecting idealists – people who want to do good – with opportunities for action and collaboration

[Indeed](#)

[Internships.com](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Mass Department of Public Health \(DPH\)](#)

[MHA](#) Hospital Jobs in MA

[MPHProgramsList.com](#)

[My Health Career Navigator](#) – lists numerous other opportunities- scroll down.

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[NACCHO](#) National Association of County & City Health Officials

[National Network of Public Health Institutes](#)

[Partners In Health](#) Worldwide opportunities with the goal to bring the benefits of modern medical science to those most in need of them.

[Projects Abroad](#) Volunteers and internship

[Public Health Institute](#)

[Rusk Rehabilitation HCOP Summer Internship Opportunities](#)

[Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital](#) Internships and clinical observation program

[Simply Hired](#)

[The Nonprofit Network](#) Nonprofit job postings and networking

[Tufts Medical Center](#)

[UMass Amherst Public Health Sciences website](#) information on internships for credit etc.

[UMass Public Health Internship, Practicum & Volunteer Opportunities](#) Look for fellowships, scholarships, employment opportunities and check out Career Resources as well

[USA Jobs](#) Federal government's official employment site

[50 Fortune 1000 Companies](#) Offering Healthcare Internships

Volunteer Opportunities

[Corporation for National & Community Service](#) (Americorps/Vista)

[Public Health Institute](#)

[Go Abroad](#) Online search engine for international travel programs.

[Go Overseas](#) Medical & Healthcare Internships Abroad

[Habitat for Humanity](#) Volunteer opportunities to build houses locally and around the world

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[Volunteers for Peace](#) Voluntary service opportunities in the USA and abroad to provide intercultural education, service learning, and community development

[Volunteer Match](#) Connects volunteers to nonprofits

[Volunteer.gov](#) America's Natural and Cultural Resources Volunteer Portal

National and Federal Agencies

[Agency for Health Care Research and Quality \(AHRQ\)](#)

[American Red Cross](#)

[Centers for Disease Control \(CDC Jobs\)](#) Also, check out [Public Health Training Fellowships](#)

[Children's Defense Fund](#)

[Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\)](#)

[Environmental Protection Agency](#)

[Federal Jobs Network](#)

[Human Resources & Services Administration](#)

[National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health \(NIOSH\)](#)

[National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#)

[National Partnerships](#)

[Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\)](#)

[Peace Corps](#)

[U.S. Department of Health & Human Services](#)

International Public Health Organizations

[Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#)

[Doctors without Borders/Medecins Sans Frontieres](#)

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[Family Health International](#)

[International Training and Education Center on HIV \(I-TECH\)](#)

[The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria](#)

[PATH](#)

[Unicef](#)

[Washington Global Health Alliance](#)

[World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

[World Wide Service Organizations](#)

Professional Associations

[American Public Health Association Global Health](#) (APHA) Holds a wealth of information from: what is Public Health, policy & advocacy, professional development, news, media, meetings, events and jobs.

[ASTHO](#) Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

[Council on Education for Public Health](#)

[Department of Health](#)

[Massachusetts Public Health Association](#)

[National Association of County and City Health Officials \(NACCHO\)](#)

[Society for Public Health Education](#)

[This Is Public Health](#)

[What is Public Health?](#)

[The World Federation of Public Health Associations](#) promotes Global public health, hosts events worldwide and has ongoing projects that they are working on.

[The Global Law Enforcement and Public Health Association](#) a not for profit, membership based association whose mission is to promote research, understanding and practice at the intersection of law enforcement and public health.

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[World Public Health Nutrition Association](#) a professional association that brings together people with a common interest in promoting and improving public health nutrition. We work to ensure that in all possible circumstances, adequate nourishing food is available to and affordable by all.

For specific occupations, salary information, skills, future outlook of career etc. go to the [government website](#).

Other University Websites with Helpful Resources

[School of Public Health at Boston University](#)

[Harvard School of Public Health jobs](#)

[Emory School of Public Health](#) Public Health Employment Section link

[School of Public Health Jobs MN](#)

It has become difficult to advance in the field of public health without significant experience or a master's level degree. With a bachelor's degree, look for entry-level positions, often working in a support role. Bachelor graduates may also qualify to work as health education teachers after the additional completion of a state-approved educator program. Organizations in smaller or rural communities, or communities abroad, may be more flexible about hiring public health professionals with undergraduate degrees.

IMPORTANT TRANSFERABLE QUALITIES TO INCLUDE ON YOUR RESUME (WHETHER YOU'RE PURSUING A JOB IN THE VARIETY OF PUBLIC HEALTH FIELDS OR NOT)

Analytical skills. Many public health professionals analyze data and other information to evaluate programs and to determine the needs of the people they serve. Many others must be able to understand and follow current regulations and be able to adapt to new laws.

Instructional skills. There are some fields of public health (such as education) where professionals should be good at teaching and public speaking so that they can lead programs and teach classes.

People skills. Public health professionals interact with many people. They must be good listeners and be culturally sensitive to respond to the needs of the people they serve. Many need to be able to discuss staffing problems and patient information with other professionals, such as physicians and health insurance representatives. They must be able to motivate and lead staff.

Problem-solving skills. Public health professionals need to think creatively about how to improve the health of their audience through health education programs. In addition, they need to solve problems

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that arise in planning programs as they are often responsible for finding creative solutions to staffing or other administrative problems.

Writing skills. Public health professionals develop written materials to convey health-related information. They also write proposals to develop programs and apply for funding.

Communication skills. Professionals in the public health field must be able to communicate effectively with other health professionals

Detail oriented. Public health professionals such as occupational health and safety specialists must pay attention to details. They need to recognize and adhere to specific safety standards and government regulations. Others must pay attention to detail. They might be required to organize and maintain scheduling and billing information for very large facilities, such as hospitals.

Technical skills. Some professionals in the field must be able to use advanced technology. They often work with complex testing equipment. Many must be able to follow advances in health care technology. For example, some may need to use coding and classification software and electronic health record (EHR) systems as their facility adopts these technologies.



Some information taken from Occupational Outlook Handbook, University of Washington School of Public Health, University of North Carolina School of Public Health, and www.whatispublichealth.org

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What Do Employers Look For? (NACE 2015 Job Outlook for Students)

WHAT DO RECRUITERS LOOK FOR ON YOUR RESUME?	EXPERIENCE IS EXPECTED!
 <p>65% of employers want a high GPA (3.0 or above)</p> <p>Leadership, ability to work in a team, communication skills, problem-solving skills, a strong work ethic, analytical/quantitative skills, technical skills, plan, organize, and prioritize work, and obtain and process information.</p>	<p>Internship/Co-op 60% Any work experience 40%</p> 

Competency*	Definition
Critical Thinking/Problem Solving	Exercise sound reasoning and analytical thinking; obtain, interpret, and use knowledge, facts, and data to analyze situations, make decisions, and solve workplace problems; and demonstrate originality and inventiveness in work.
Oral/Written Communications	Articulate thoughts, ideas clearly and effectively with persons inside and outside of organization; demonstrate public speaking skills; and communicate new ideas to others; write/edit memos, letters, and complex technical reports clearly and effectively.
Teamwork/Collaboration	Build collaborative relationships with colleagues and customers representing diverse cultures, races, ages, genders, religions, lifestyles, and viewpoints; be able to work within team structure; and be able to negotiate and manage conflicts.
Information Technology Application	Select and use appropriate technology to accomplish a given task and apply computing skills to problem solving.
Leadership	Leverage the strengths of others to achieve common goals; use interpersonal skills to coach and develop others; demonstrate ability to assess and manage one's own emotions and those of others, using empathetic skills to guide and motivate; and prioritize and delegate work.
Professionalism/Work Ethic	Demonstrate personal accountability, effective work habits, e.g. punctuality, working productively with others, and workload management, and understand impact of non-verbal communication on professional work image; demonstrate integrity and ethical behavior; act responsibly with the interests of the larger community in mind; and be able to learn from one's mistakes.
Career Management	Identify and articulate one's skills, strengths, knowledge, and experience relevant to position desired and career goals; identify areas necessary for professional growth; be able to navigate and explore job options and how to take the steps necessary for pursuing opportunities; and understand how to self-advocate for opportunities in the workplace.

*Content adapted from *Are They Really Ready to Work*, with permission from authors Linda Barrington, Jill Casner-Lotto, and Mary Wright; in collaboration with *Partnership for 21st Century Skills*, *Corporate Voices for Working Families*, the *Society for Human Resource Management*, and *The Conference Board, Inc.*, 2006.

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