

## **Public Health – Prerequisite Guide**

Given the wide range of specialization please contact your advisor for additional guidance and information.

WHAT IS PUBLIC HEALTH?

<http://www.publichealthonline.org/careers/>

Public health careers might be misunderstood because the field can be difficult to define. At one level, public health involves medical care provided within a community and outside a hospital setting. In a different context, public health can have global repercussions and refer to efforts to prevent epidemics and improve the health of entire nations.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says public health systems are complex and require the coordination of multiple organizations. There is usually a public agency, such as a health department, working in tandem with schools, medical providers, churches, employers and more.

Together, these systems should strive to provide the following 10 essential services outlined by the CDC.

- 1) Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems.
- 2) Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.
- 3) Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.
- 4) Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems.
- 5) Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
- 6) Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
- 7) Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
- 8) Assure competent public and personal health care workforce.
- 9) Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
- 10) Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

As a result, an incredibly diverse number of occupations fall under the umbrella of public health. These may include the familiar jobs of epidemiologists who help prevent the spread of disease, to more outside-the-box career options such as marketing professionals who work on wellness campaigns or law enforcement officials focused on substance abuse prevention.



## Biostatistics and Informatics

- Biostatistician
- Medical and Health Services Manager
- Health Informatics Specialist



## Community Health

- Health Care Administrator
- Health Educator
- Community Health Worker



## Epidemiology

- Epidemiologist
- Field Investigator
- Research Analyst



## Environmental Health

- Environmental Scientist
- Quality Investigator
- Environmental Engineer



## Global Health

- Refugee Coordinator
- HIV/AIDS Educator
- Project Manager



## Health Policy and Management

- Health Services Manager
- Health Department Administrator
- Government Policy Analyst



## Health Promotion and Communication

- Health Education Specialist
- Health Promotion Coordinator
- Public Relations Manager



## Maternal and Child Health

- Breastfeeding Support Coordinator
- Nurse Midwife
- WIC Nutrition Specialist



## Minority Health and Health Disparities

- Public Health Nurse
- Minority Health Office Administrator
- Minority Health Research Analyst



## Social and Behavioral Health

- Social Worker
- Psychologist
- Psychiatric Nurse