A focus on preventive, population-level solutions to health issues in domestic and international settings

The Global and Public Health Sciences (GPHS) major applies comprehensive, multidisciplinary perspectives to public health research, problems, and solutions. Sustained improvement of the health of populations requires an approach that involves the biomedical, social, behavioral, political and environmental sciences, and consideration of the cultural context.

Students interested in improving the health of communities and the actions that will protect or improve the lives of large numbers of individuals should consider the Global and Public Health Sciences major.

The work of public health professionals is distinct from that of clinical professionals who typically treat individuals after they have become sick or injured. Public health actions often involve educational and/or governmental approaches that influence many people simultaneously to address issues such as obesity and chronic disease (e.g. type 2 diabetes); food insecurity; clean water and air; HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases; and access to health care.

The major is particularly appropriate for students who wish to pursue leadership positions in governmental or non-governmental organizations that deal directly with current and emerging health concerns in the U.S. and abroad.

Curriculum

Students complete college requirements in the biological and social sciences, humanities, writing, and math. The major also requires courses in introductory biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, biochemistry, and physiology. These courses collectively provide a foundation with which to understand the biomedical basis of public health issues.

All majors take “Introduction to Public Health” and “Introduction to Global Health” in their first year as an introduction to the principles of public health practice and research. Through case studies, students...
Program, and PhD programs.

through the College of Human Ecology's Sloan
4+1 Masters in Health Administration offered
also be prepared to enter Masters of Public
dentistry, nursing), law, and business. They will

professional graduate education in medicine,
Students will be prepared to pursue advanced
globally.

In addition, students can pursue public service,

management, epidemiology or biostatistics.

Opportunities in public health are numerous
and growing given an anticipated gap in public
health workers at the local, state, and federal
levels.

The GPHS major will prepare the next
generation of leaders in public health through
analytical and methodological skills; broad
interdisciplinary perspectives; and exposure
to complex settings, organizations, and
specialties.

With this rigorous and comprehensive
curriculum that exposes students to
foundational knowledge in the biological
sciences, as well as the social and behavioral
sciences, career tracks may include health
education, international health, infectious
disease, environmental health, health policy
management, epidemiology or biostatistics.

In addition, students can pursue public service,
research, social entrepreneurship, and other
health-related careers domestically and
globally.

Students will be prepared to pursue advanced
professional graduate education in medicine,
public health, allied health sciences (e.g.,
dentistry, nursing), law, and business. They will
also be prepared to enter Masters of Public
Health programs or programs such as the
4+1 Masters in Health Administration offered
through the College of Human Ecology's Sloan
Program, and PhD programs.

learn about the achievements, challenges,
controversies, and career opportunities in the field of public health.

Coursework in epidemiology and biostatistics augments this foundational
coursework.

The following program focus areas include topics in public health, micro-
biology, nutrition and disease, nutrition and global health, social inequalities
in physical and mental health, the U.S. healthcare system, reproductive health,
and risk analysis and management.

Social and Behavioral Health
focuses on the role and understanding
of social and behavioral determinants
of health in individual, community, and
societal contexts.

Biological Aspects of Public Health
explores the underlying biological
mechanisms and processes in disease
causation to inform the development of
preventive and therapeutic interventions.

Environmental Health
examines the role of the natural, built, and social
environments in human health, including
pathogenesis and prevention of environ-
ment-related health conditions.

Health Policy and Management
focuses on the translation of scientific
evidence to public health policy and
practice, implementation of interven-
tions, and design and performance of
health systems.

Experiential Learning
GPHS students are required to complete
supervised experiential learning in a
research or community setting where
they are challenged to engage with
the content of their courses. Students
gain a deeper understanding of public
health issues and problems, and have
the opportunity to enhance research,
writing, and critical thinking by applying
knowledge and skills learned in the
classroom in a greater context.

A portfolio of approved experiences in
the local community and on/off-campus
academic settings (e.g., Urban Semester
in NYC, Cornell in Washington), or in
an international setting (e.g., Dominican
Republic, India, Tanzania, and Zambia)
from which students will make their
selection is available.

Seniors enroll in the "Global and Public
Health Capstone" course upon comple-
tion of the experiential learning compo-
nent. Students demonstrate their ability
to collaborate, develop a holistic under-
standing of a public health problem,
and design practical, effective, and ethi-
cal solutions through the integration
of knowledge and experience gained
through the program in this senior-level
course.

Special Opportunities
Research opportunities with Cornell
faculty are available in a broad range of
topics. Some students can qualify for
graduation with Honors by completing
an honors thesis and presentation.
Along with the experiential learning
component required by the major, a
research experience further prepares
students for advanced degree programs.
Students with interests in medicine who
intend to apply to medical school can
complete a pre-medical program by
adding several additional courses, such
as two semesters of physics and at least
one semester of calculus. Those inter-
ested in other allied health fields can
pursue prerequisite courses needed for
those professional graduate programs
as well.

Students interested in nutrition prac-
tice can meet the requirements of the
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics by
adding courses in foods, nutrition and
disease, microbiology, food service
management, and counseling.

Prehealth advisors and other counselors
in the College of Human Ecology help
students plan their course of study to
prepare for medical and other health
related professional schools and gradu-
ate programs, identify opportunities for
practical experience, and consider career
options.

For More Information
www.human.cornell.edu/dns
Office of Undergraduate Admissions
College of Human Ecology
Cornell University
170 Martha Van Rensselaer Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853-4401
Tel: 607.255.2293 Fax: 607.255.2293
E-mail: humec_admissions@cornell.edu
www.human.cornell.edu/admissions

Cornell University is an equal opportunity, affirmative
action educator and employer.
Printed by Cornell Digital Print Services.
Printed on recycled paper. 7/16 700