

# Major in Public Health: Emphasis 1: General Public Health

College of Health and Human Sciences  
Northern Illinois University

## Transfer Guide for Illinois Community College Students

Working behind the scenes everywhere in health care, public health professionals make the lives of countless individuals healthier and safer. Public health is an exciting, diverse field that focuses on health promotion and disease prevention to address complex health problems at the community level. Through extensive classroom and hands-on experience, students acquire the health care planning and information handling skills needed for a diverse and constantly changing field. Alumni are employed everywhere in health care including hospitals, health care management organizations, county health departments, nursing homes and health care accrediting agencies. As professionals, public health alumni work in a variety of capacities. From among the many health needs addressed by public health professionals, a few are listed below. Public health professionals work to:

- Improve access to health care
- Diagnose and investigate health problems and hazards, including those caused by bioterrorism
- Advocate for effective oral health
- Make our streets and homes safe from violence
- Prevent and treat substance abuse
- Mobilize essential health care personnel in the event of disease outbreaks and emergencies
- Assure the safety of our food supply
- Clean up environmentally contaminated sites
- Plan quality health care for our elders
- Manage the delivery of health services
- Design and implement smoking cessation programs

In Emphasis 1, the NIU public health program offers four different focus areas: [health promotion](#), [environment and health](#) and [aging and health](#) plus a degree completion focus for [applied health professionals](#) including dental hygienists, respiratory care professionals and nurses. Among the hundreds of different position titles for public health professionals are epidemiologist, sanitarian, health educator, and geriatric care manager.

Because of the complexity of the problems public health professionals work to solve, students considering a career in public health need to have a background in the biological, mathematical and social sciences.

This transfer guide is designed as an advising tool to facilitate a smooth transition between institutions by identifying relevant course work recommended to be completed prior to transfer. Community college students are advised to also complete an A.A. or A.S. degree prior to transfer and to consult the [NIU Articulation Handbook](#) for information regarding the transferability of courses. All students planning to transfer are advised to consult with the College of Health and Human Sciences for detailed information.

**Special Note:** Students who enter the public health program with the courses listed here and who have completed an A.A. or A.S. degree can usually expect to complete the NIU program in two years (including summer school).

### **Major in Public Health – Emphasis 1: General Public Health<sup>1</sup>**

#### **Courses Recommended Prior to Transfer**

BIOS 104	General Biology (4) or BIOS 208, Fundamentals of Biology I (3) and BIOS 210, Fundamentals of Biology Laboratory (1)
BIOS 213	Introductory Bacteriology (3) or BIOS 313 Microbiology (4)
BIOS 357	Human Anatomy and Physiology (5)
CHEM 110	Chemistry (3) and CHEM 111, Chemistry Laboratory I (1) or CHEM 210, General Chemistry I (3) and CHEM 212, General Chemistry Laboratory I (1)
CSCI 205	Introduction to Computing (3), or CSCI 210 Elementary Programming (4), or ETT 429 Computers in Classroom Teaching (3),
AHCD 318	Medical Terminology (3)
MATH 210	Finite Mathematics (3)
SOCI 170	Introduction to Sociology (3) or SOCI 250 Contemporary Social Institutions (3)
STAT 208	Basic Statistics (3) or STAT 301 Elementary Statistics (4)

#### **Courses to be Completed at NIU**

PHHE 295	Ecology of Health (3)
PHHE 351	Elements of Environmental Health (3)
PHHE 402	Community Health Programs and Issues (3)
PHHE 455	Public Health Epidemiology (3)
PHHE 461	Principles of the Organization of Public Health and Health Care Programs (3)
PHHE 467	Public Health Research and Evaluation (3)
PHHE 469	Principles of Health Planning (3)
PHHE 487	Public Health Pre-Practicum Seminar (1)
PHHE 489	Practicum in Public Health (6)
ENGL 250	Practical Writing (3)
SOCI 356	Health, Aging, and Society (3) or SOCI 451 Medical Sociology (3), or SOCI 482 Sociology of Death and Dying (3)

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<sup>1</sup> Based on requirements in the 2008/2009 *Undergraduate Catalog*

Two of the following: PHHE 441, PHHE 433, PHHE 451, PHHE 431, PHHE 437, PHHE 439  
One of the following areas of study: *aging and health, applied profession health sciences, environment and health, public health promotion* or a minor offered by the School of Family, Consumer, and Nutrition Sciences, or a minor in biological sciences, chemistry, communication studies, communicative disorders, environmental management systems or psychology.

Specific information about admission requirements to Northern Illinois University and to programs in the College of Health and Human Sciences can be found in the current [NIU Undergraduate Catalog](#). Contact the Office of Admissions to obtain an application for admission. For additional information on programs in the college, contact [HHSAdvisingHelp@niu.edu](mailto:HHSAdvisingHelp@niu.edu)

- ❖ College of Health and Human Sciences (815) 753-1891
- ❖ Department of Military Science (815) 752-7682
- ❖ School of Allied Health and Communicative Disorders
  - Clinical Laboratory Sciences (815) 753-1382
  - Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Rehabilitation Counseling (815) 753-1484
  - Physical Therapy (815) 753-1383
- ❖ School of Family, Consumer, and Nutrition Sciences (815) 753-6350
- ❖ School of Nursing and Health Studies
  - Nursing (815) 753-1231
  - Health Studies (815) 753-1891
- ❖ Gerontology Program (815) 753-0031
- ❖ Office of Admissions (815) 753-0446

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