COMMUNITY HEALTH, BS

Banner Code: HH-BS-COMH

Academic Advising

Website: https://chhs.gmu.edu/students/academic-advising/undergraduate-advising/global-and-community-health-advisors

Community, global, and public health are the fastest growing, most exciting, and versatile areas of study on college campuses across the United States today. Community health is the applied science of protecting and improving the health and well-being of individuals, families, populations, and communities using evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention programs and policies. Accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), the BS in Community Health prepares students with the knowledge and understanding of community and public health systems, issues and policies related to health promotion, and health education and disease prevention in populations of all sizes. Community, public, and global health specialists work with a variety of health-related organizations and are expected to confront complex behavioral, cultural and social health and well-being issues at the local, national and global levels.

Community health students develop the competencies and skills necessary for entry-level positions in a variety of professional settings such as local, state, and federal health and social service agencies and non-governmental and voluntary health organizations, health care, and private industry. This program is unique in that it provides a solid foundation for students interested in pursuing graduate degrees in public health or advanced training in a health profession (see the Clinical Science concentration). Students completing this degree are eligible for and strongly encouraged to take the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) exam.

Optional Concentrations

Students may wish to complete an optional concentration in Global Health or Clinical Science.

Global Health Concentration

The Global Health concentration focuses on understanding diseases and other health security threats reflecting the new global landscape, such as tobacco use and obesity, and emerging pandemics such as avian influenza, Ebola, and the Zika virus. Students complete the required coursework for the BS in Community Health and specialized coursework in global health in addition to interdisciplinary coursework. This concentration is designed for students interested in public health at the global level and is particularly focused on improving health conditions in less developed countries.

Clinical Science Concentration

The Clinical Science concentration prepares students for post-graduate clinical training in a health profession field such as medicine, dentistry, nursing, optometry, occupational and physical therapy, and pharmacy. This concentration provides students the flexibility to design their curriculum to satisfy prerequisites for these programs. Students choosing this option are encouraged to check coursework requirements for their desired health profession because such requirements vary.

Admissions & Policies

Policies

• For all policies governing bachelor's degrees, see A.5.3.2 Requirements for Bachelor's Degrees.
• A criminal background check and proof of vaccination status may be required of students prior to beginning the internship if required by the internship organization.
• A minimum grade of C must be earned in all major courses.
• Students must check with their advisor to ensure that all requirements have been met prior to graduation and should assess their own degree evaluation in Patriot Web each semester.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 120

Students must fulfill all requirements for bachelor's degrees, including the Mason Core requirements.

Mason Core

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 101</td>
<td>Composition (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 302</td>
<td>Advanced Composition (Mason Core) (social science section recommended)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Oral Communication

COMM 100 | Public Speaking (Mason Core) | 3 |

Quantitative Reasoning

Any Mason Core Quantitative Reasoning course | 3-4 |

Information Technology

Any Mason Core Information Technology course | 3-7 |

Literature

Any Mason Core Literature course | 3 |

Arts

Any Mason Core Arts course | 3 |

Natural Science

Any Mason Core non-lab science course | 3 |

Western Civilization

HIST 100 | History of Western Civilization (Mason Core) | 3 |

Global Understanding

GCH 205 | Global Health (Mason Core) | 3 |

Social and Behavioral Sciences

Any Mason Core Social and Behavioral Sciences course | 3 |

Total Credits | 30-42 |
Nonnative speakers of English with limited proficiency in the language may substitute ENGH 100 for ENGH 101. Students must attain a minimum grade of C in ENGH 100 or ENGH 101, as well as in ENGH 302, to fulfill degree requirements.

Only for students who choose either the Global Health concentration or no concentration. Students in the Clinical Science concentration complete the Mason Core Natural Science requirement within their concentration courses.

Required Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 124 &amp; BIOL 125</td>
<td>Human Anatomy and Physiology and Human Anatomy and Physiology</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHBS 270 &amp; RHBS 271</td>
<td>Applied Human Anatomy and Physiology I and Applied Human Anatomy and Physiology II</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits: 16

Community Health Major Core

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GCH 300</td>
<td>Introduction to Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 310</td>
<td>Health Behavior Theories</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 332</td>
<td>Health and Disease</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 335</td>
<td>Applied Health Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 350</td>
<td>Health Promotion and Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 360</td>
<td>Health and Environment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 376</td>
<td>Health Ethics, Leadership, and Advocacy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 380</td>
<td>Public Health Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 411</td>
<td>Health Program Planning and Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 412</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 465</td>
<td>Community Health Capstone (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 445</td>
<td>Social Determinants of Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits: 36

Completing the Degree without a Concentration

Students completing the BS without a concentration follow the coursework outlined below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 103</td>
<td>Introductory Biology I (Mason Core)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 213</td>
<td>Cell Structure and Function (Mason Core)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 246 &amp; BIOL 306</td>
<td>Introductory Microbiology and Biology of Microorganisms Laboratory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 305 &amp; BIOL 306</td>
<td>Biology of Microorganisms and Biology of Microorganisms Laboratory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 311</td>
<td>General Genetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 483</td>
<td>General Biochemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 211 &amp; CHEM 213</td>
<td>General Chemistry I (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 212 &amp; CHEM 214</td>
<td>General Chemistry II (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits: 39

Global Health Concentration (GLOH)

The optional global health concentration enables students to look at public health issues through a global lens and increases understanding of the differences in health, well-being, disease, and interventions that exist within an international context.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GGS 101</td>
<td>Major World Regions (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or GGS 103</td>
<td>Human Geography (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or GGS 340</td>
<td>Health Geography</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLOA 101</td>
<td>Introduction to Global Affairs (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or SOCI 120</td>
<td>Globalization and Society (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVPP 337</td>
<td>Environmental Policy Making in Developing Countries</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 405</td>
<td>Global Health Interventions: History and Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 406</td>
<td>Global Health Interventions: Emerging Issues</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One 3-credit 300- or 400-level GCH course</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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General Electives

Select 21 credits of General Electives

Total Credits: 21

Clinical Science Concentration (CLNS)

The optional clinical science concentration prepares students to apply for graduate programs in fields such as medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, dentistry, pharmacy, and optometry. This concentration does not guarantee entrance into a graduate health professional program. It is important to note that, depending on the type of graduate program in which a student is interested, additional coursework may be required. It is the student’s responsibility to determine the essential criteria for admission to their target schools in consultation with the health professions advising office.

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Total Credits: 39
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Core Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 313</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; CHEM 315</td>
<td>and Organic Chemistry Lab I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 314</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; CHEM 318</td>
<td>and Organic Chemistry Lab II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 243</td>
<td>College Physics I (Mason Core)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; PHYS 244</td>
<td>and College Physics I Lab (Mason Core)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 245</td>
<td>College Physics II (Mason Core)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; PHYS 246</td>
<td>and College Physics II Lab (Mason Core)</td>
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</table>

**General Electives**

Select 26 credits of General Electives  

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<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Core Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| Total Credits | 46 |

1 At least 8 of these credits must be selected from these courses to fulfill the Mason Core Natural Science requirement.