The Bachelor of Science in Public Health (B.S.) at NIU provides a career track for students interested in pursuing a variety of positions in health care administration, health promotion, environmental health, and gerontology to name a few.

The program involves extensive classroom and hands-on experience to give students a solid foundation in understanding community health issues and developing programs to meet the needs of those issues, including improving access to health care; controlling infectious diseases; reducing environmental hazards; preventing violence and substance abuse; and eliminating injuries and other health-related issues that affect our society.

As professionals, public health alumni work in a variety of capacities to:
- Improve access to health care
- Clean up environmentally contaminated sites
- Make our streets and homes safe from violence
- Advocate health programs for communities, including oral and respiratory health
- Plan quality health care for the elderly
- Manage the delivery of health services
- Contain the spread of infectious diseases

Careers in Public Health
Practice Manager
Home Health Coordinator
Managed Care Coordinator, HMO
Elder Rights Specialist
WIC Coordinator
Environmental Health Inspector
Health Educator
County Health Epidemiologist
Patient Service Representative
Accreditation Specialist
Activities Coordinator
Insurance Quality Analyst
Sanitarian

Public Health Emphases
Health Administration †
The health administration emphasis teaches students administrative, supportive, planning, and assessment skills to qualify them for careers in managed-care settings; long-term care; hospitals; federal, state, and community health agencies; and other health-related organizations.

Environment and Health
The environment and health emphasis prepares students to work in a variety of environmental settings and teaches them to assess and control for factors that influence health and health disparities. Students focus on both natural and built environments that can affect health.

Health Promotion *
The health promotion emphasis prepares students to become health educators in health care or social assistance settings. They educate individuals and communities about behaviors that can prevent diseases, injuries, and other health issues.

General Public Health *
The general public health emphasis allows students to complete a broad educational foundation in public health while pursuing a minor outside the school, or qualifying for the public health degree completion program.

Minor
A minor in public health is also available.

Students say...

“From the first handshake hello to being handed your diploma, this program has the full complement of components to turn out educated, experienced public health professionals. The faculty and staff challenge every student to do their personal best – to go beyond course requirements – to leave their comfort zone. Students leave this program ready to lead.”
—Deb Gory, B.S. ’12

“The faculty and staff in the public health program gave me real-world knowledge and experience in the health administration field that ultimately lead me to a successful internship and job after graduation! I am grateful for the guidance, support, and learning opportunities I received in my major at NIU!”
—Arth Patel, B.S. ’11

Contact Us Public Health and Health Education, Wirtz Hall 235, (815) 753-1384, Fax (815) 753-5406, phhe@niu.edu, www.chhs.niu.edu/public_health