

Public Health and Communication Studies, BA

Overview

The combined Bachelor of Arts in Public Health and Communication Studies offers an interdisciplinary approach to public health communication. Students combine courses from public health, social sciences, and communication studies to study the important role of communication in shaping the public's understanding of health issues. The interdisciplinary curriculum is enhanced by experiential learning opportunities and is designed to prepare students for challenging careers that involve crafting messages about health, developing strategies for promoting access to healthcare services, and specific applications such as disease awareness and prevention.

Program Requirements

- Concentrations and course offerings may vary by campus and/or by program modality. Please consult with your advisor or admissions coach for the course availability each term at your campus or within your program modality.
- Certain options within the program may be *required* at certain campuses or for certain program modalities. Please consult with your advisor or admissions coach for requirements at your campus or for your program modality.

Complete all courses listed below unless otherwise indicated. Also complete any corequisite labs, recitations, clinicals, or tools courses where specified and complete any additional courses needed beyond specific college and major requirements to satisfy graduation credit requirements.

Universitywide Requirements

All undergraduate students are required to complete the Universitywide Requirements (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/university-academics/university-wide-requirements/>).

BA Language Requirements

All BA students are required to complete the BA degree language requirements, for a total of 12 semester hours of language study or demonstrated equivalent proficiency, as described in Additional Requirements for BA students (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/university-academics/nupath/ba-requirements/>). Successful demonstration of proficiency does not reduce total minimum semester hours of study required to earn the BA degree.

NUPath Requirements

All undergraduate students are required to complete the NUPath Requirements (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/university-academics/nupath/>).

Public Health Requirements

PUBLIC HEALTH CORE COURSES

Code	Title	Hours
PHTH 1260 or PHTH 1261	The American Healthcare System Comparative Healthcare Systems	4
PHTH 2210	Foundations of Biostatistics	4
PHTH 2300 or PHTH 2301	Communication Skills for the Health Professions Communication Skills for the Health Professions—Global	4
PHTH 2350 or PHTH 2351	Community and Public Health Community and Public Health - Global	4
PHTH 2515	Healthcare Policy and Administration	4
PHTH 4120	Global Perspectives on Discrimination and Health	4
PHTH 4202	Principles of Epidemiology in Medicine and Public Health	4
PHTH 4540	Health Education and Program Planning	4

SCIENCE CORE REQUIREMENTS

Code	Title	Hours
PSYC 1101	Foundations of Psychology	4

Biology

Complete one of the following options: 8-10

Option 1

BIOL 1141	Microbes and Society
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or BIOL 1143	Biology and Society
BIOL 1147	The Human Organism

Option 2

BIOL 1111 and BIOL 1112	General Biology 1 and Lab for BIOL 1111
BIOL 1113 and BIOL 1114	General Biology 2 and Lab for BIOL 1113

SOCIAL SCIENCE REQUIREMENTS

Code	Title	Hours
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Introductory Course

Complete one of the following: 4

ANTH 1101	Peoples and Cultures
ECON 1115 and ECON 1125	Principles of Macroeconomics and Recitation for ECON 1115
ECON 1116 and ECON 1126	Principles of Microeconomics and Recitation for ECON 1116
ENGL 1300	Introduction to Health and Humanities
HUSV 1101	Social Change and Human Services
INTL 1101	Globalization and International Affairs
PHIL 1101	Introduction to Philosophy
POLS 1160	International Relations
SOCL 1101	Introduction to Sociology

Upper-Level Course

Complete one of the following: 3-4

Society and Behavior

ANTH 3441	Medical Anthropology
CRIM 3040	Psychology of Crime
ECON 3420	Urban Economic Issues
HLTH 5280	The (in)Visibility of (dis)Ability in Society
PHTH 5222	Health Advocacy
PSYC 3402	Social Psychology
PSYC 3404	Developmental Psychology
PSYC 3450	Learning and Motivation
SOCL 3241	Violence and Society
SOCL 3441	Sociology of Health and Illness
SOCL 4520	Race, Class, and Gender

Globalization and Global Health

AFCS 3424	Epidemiology of Pandemic Diseases and Health Disparities in the African Diaspora
ECON 3404	International Food Policy
INTL 3200 or INTL 3201	Cities in a Global Context Cities in a Global Context (Abroad)
INTL 3400	International Conflict and Negotiation
POLS 3487	Politics of Developing Nations

Environmental Health and Climate Change

ECON 3423	Environmental Economics
INTL 5100 or PPUA 5100	Climate and Development Climate and Development
PPUA 5238	Climate Change and Global Urbanization

Law, Policy, and Human Rights

ECON 3424	Law and Economics
PHIL 5001	Global Justice
PHIL 5002	Ethics and Public Policy
POLS 3307	Public Policy and Administration

Healthcare Administration and Management

ECON 3413	Health Economics and Healthcare Policy
MGMT 3340	Healthcare Management, Innovation, and Design
ORGB 3201	Organizational Behavior
PHTH 4511	Healthcare Management
PHTH 5232	Evaluating Healthcare Quality
PHTH 5234	Economic Perspectives on Health Policy

Communication Studies Requirements**REQUIRED COURSES**

Code	Title	Hours
COMM 1101	Introduction to Communication Studies	4
COMM 1112	Public Speaking	4
or COMM 2301	Communication Research Methods	

FOUNDATION COURSE

Code	Title	Hours
Complete one of the following:		4
COMM 1210	Persuasion and Rhetoric	
COMM 1225	Communication Theory	
COMM 1231	Principles of Organizational Communication	
COMM 1255	Communication in a Digital Age	

CLUSTER COURSE

Code	Title	Hours
Complete one of the following:		4
COMM 1131	Sex, Relationships, and Communication	
COMM 2303	Global and Intercultural Communication	
COMM 2304	Communication and Gender	
COMM 2501	Communication Law	
COMM 2551	Free Speech in Cyberspace	

WRITING-INTENSIVE COURSES

Code	Title	Hours
Complete two of the following:		8
COMM 3200	Mobile Communication	
COMM 3201	Health Communication	
COMM 3230	Interpersonal Communication	
COMM 3304	Communication and Inclusion	
COMM 3320	Political Communication	
COMM 3415	Communication Criticism	
COMM 3445	Public Relations Principles	
COMM 3500	Environmental Issues, Communication, and the Media	
COMM 3501	Free Speech: Law and Practice	
COMM 3530	Communication and Sexualities	
COMM 3532	Theories of Conflict and Negotiation	
COMM 4535	Nonverbal Social Interaction	
COMM 4605	Youth and Communication Technology	
COMM 4631	Crisis Communication and Image Management	

COMMUNICATION STUDIES ELECTIVES

Code	Title	Hours
Complete three additional COMM courses.		12

Supporting Course Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Introduction to College (based on home college)		1
HSCI 1000	College: An Introduction	
COMM 1000	Communication Studies at Northeastern	
Co-op Preparation (based on home college)		1
HSCI 2000	Professional Development for Bouvé Co-op	
EEAM 2000	Professional Development for Co-op	
Writing Courses		
ENGW 1111	First-Year Writing	4
<i>Advanced Writing in the Disciplines</i>		
Complete one of the following:		4
ENGW 3306	Advanced Writing in the Health Professions	
ENGW 3314	Advanced Writing in the Arts, Media, and Design	
Capstone and Integrative Course		
Complete capstone through a capstone course, a capstone project, or through an Honors Project.		3-4
<i>Capstone Course Options</i>		
COMM 4102	Health Communication Campaigns	
HINF 5301	Evaluating Health Technologies	
HSCI 4720	Health Science Capstone—Service (Must complete 0-credit prerequisite course -#HSCI#4700)	
HSCI 4730	Health Science Capstone—Research (Must complete 0-credit prerequisite course -#HSCI#4700)	
HSCI 4970 and HSCI 4971	Junior/Senior Honors Project 1 and Junior/Senior Honors Project 2	
PHTH 4515	Critical Issues in Health and Public Health Policy	
PHTH 4616	Addressing Rural Health Inequities	
PHTH 5214	Environmental Health	
PHTH 5230	Global Health	
PHTH 5236	Food, Nutrition, and Health	
PHTH 5603	Qualitative Methods	
<i>Capstone Project Options</i>		
<i>Honors Project Option (must meet GPA requirement and complete both courses*)</i>		
*HSCI 4970 will count as 4 semester hours toward general electives		

General Electives

Code	Title	Hours
Complete 16 semester hours of general electives.		16

Public Health Major Requirement

A grade of C or higher is required for all BIOL, HSCI, and PHTH courses.

Communication Studies Grade Requirement

No more than two grades below a C in COMM courses may be used to fulfill degree requirements.

Public Health and Communication Studies Major Credit Requirement

Minimum of 91 semester hours required

Program Requirement

130 total semester hours required

Plan of Study**Four Years/Two Co-ops in Spring/Summer 1—Bouvé Student Sample**

Year 1							
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours		
HSCI 1000		1 ENGW 1111		4 General elective		4	
PHTH 1260		4 BIOL course—see options		4 Public Health Core Course		4	
PSYC 1101		4 Elementary language course		4			
BIOL course—see options		4 General elective		4			
Elementary language course		4					
		17			16	8	
Year 2							
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
HSCI 2000		1 Co-op		0 Co-op		0 ENGW 3306	4
PHTH 2210		4		General elective		4 Public Health Core Course	4
COMM 1101		4					
COMM 1112 or 2301		4					
COMM elective		4					
		17			0	4	8
Year 3							
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
Social science course		4 Co-op		0 Co-op		0 Public Health Core Courses	8
Public Health Core Course		4		General elective		4	
COMM foundation course		4					
COMM elective		4					
		16			0	4	8
Year 4							
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours				
COMM cluster course		4 COMM elective		4			
Public Health Core Course		4 COMM writing-intensive course		4			
COMM writing-intensive course		4 Social science course		4			
Capstone Course		4 Intermediate language course		4			
		16			16		

Total Hours: 130

Four Years/Two Co-ops in Summer 2/Fall—CAMD Student Sample

Year 1							
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours		
COMM 1000		1 PSYC 1101		4 General elective		4	
PHTH 1260		4 BIOL course—see options		4 Public Health Core Course		4	
ENGW 1111		4 Elementary language course		4			
BIOL course—see options		4 General elective		4			
Elementary language course		4					
		17			16	8	
Year 2							
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
COMM 1101		4 EEAM 2000		1 ENGW 3314		4 Co-op	0

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COMM 1112 or 2301	4	PHTH 2210	4	Public Health Core Course	4		
COMM foundation course	4	COMM cluster course	4				
COMM elective	4	Public Health Core Course	4				
		Social science course	4				
	16		17		8		0
Year 3							
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
Co-op	0	PHTH 4202	4	Public Health Core Courses	8	Co-op	0
General elective	4	COMM writing-intensive course	4				
		COMM elective	4				
		Intermediate language course	4				
	4		16		8		0
Year 4							
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours				
Co-op	0	COMM elective	4				
General elective	4	Capstone Course	4				
		COMM writing-intensive course	4				
		Social science course	4				
	4		16				

Total Hours: 130