

COMMUNITY HEALTH, BS

Banner Code: HH-BS-COMH

Academic Advising

Website: chhs.gmu.edu/students/advising-gch.cfm

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 of individuals, families, populations, and communities using evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention programs and policies. This degree provides students with a basic knowledge and understanding of community and public health systems, and issues and policies related to health promotion, 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

Written Communication ¹

ENGH 101	Composition (Mason Core)	3
ENGH 302	Advanced Composition (Mason Core) (social science section recommended)	3

Oral Communication

COMM 100	Public Speaking (Mason Core)	3
or COMM 101	Interpersonal and Group Interaction (Mason Core)	

Quantitative Reasoning

Any Mason Core Quantitative Reasoning course	3-4
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Information Technology

Any Mason Core Information Technology course	3-7
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Literature

Any Mason Core Literature course	3
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Arts

Any Mason Core Arts course	3
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Natural Science ²

Any Mason Core non-lab science course	3
Any Mason Core lab science course	4

Western Civilization

HIST 100	History of Western Civilization (Mason Core)	3
or HIST 101	Foundations of Western Civilization	

Global Understanding

GCH 205	Global Health (Mason Core)	3
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Social and Behavioral Sciences

Any Mason Core Social and Behavioral Sciences course	3
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Total Credits	30-42
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¹ 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.

² 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

Select one of the following: 8

BIOL 124 & BIOL 125	Human Anatomy and Physiology and Human Anatomy and Physiology	
RHBS 270 & RHBS 271	Applied Human Anatomy and Physiology I and Applied Human Anatomy and Physiology II	

Total Credits 8

Community Health Major Core

GCH 300	Introduction to Public Health	3
GCH 310	Health Behavior Theories	3
GCH 332	Health and Disease	3
GCH 335	Applied Health Statistics	3
GCH 350	Health Promotion and Education	3
GCH 360	Health and Environment	3
GCH 376	Health Ethics, Leadership, and Advocacy	3
GCH 380	Public Health Research Methods	3
GCH 411	Health Program Planning and Evaluation (fulfills writing intensive requirement)	3
GCH 412	Fundamentals of Epidemiology	3
GCH 465	Community Health Capstone (Mason Core)	3
GCH 445 or COMM 304	Social Determinants of Health Foundations of Health Communication	3

Total Credits 36

Completing the Degree without a Concentration

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

Additional Courses

Select nine credits of 300- or 400-level courses from the following 9

GCH	
HAP	
HEAL	
NUTR	
RHBS	
Other 300- or 400-level course approved by advisor	

General Electives

Select 30 credits of General Electives 30

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.

Concentration Courses

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

General Electives

Select 21 credits of General Electives 21

Total Credits 39

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.

Concentration Courses

Select a minimum of 20 credits of the following: 20

BIOL 103	Introductory Biology I (Mason Core) ¹
BIOL 213	Cell Structure and Function (Mason Core) ¹
BIOL 246 & BIOL 306	Introductory Microbiology and Biology of Microorganisms Laboratory
BIOL 305 & BIOL 306	Biology of Microorganisms and Biology of Microorganisms Laboratory
BIOL 311	General Genetics
BIOL 483	General Biochemistry
CHEM 211 & CHEM 213	General Chemistry I (Mason Core) and General Chemistry Laboratory I (Mason Core) ¹
CHEM 212 & CHEM 214	General Chemistry II (Mason Core) and General Chemistry Laboratory II (Mason Core) ¹
CHEM 313 & CHEM 315	Organic Chemistry I and Organic Chemistry Lab I
CHEM 314 & CHEM 318	Organic Chemistry II and Organic Chemistry Lab II
PHYS 243 & PHYS 244	College Physics (Mason Core) and College Physics Lab (Mason Core) ¹

PHYS 245 & PHYS 246	College Physics (Mason Core) and College Physics Lab (Mason Core) ¹
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General Electives

Select 26 credits of General Electives	26
Total Credits	46

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