

**Bachelor of Science
In Public Health
Handbook
2021-2022**

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Program Background

[Beginnings](#)

The Joseph J. Zilber School of Public Health (Zilber School) was established as a new graduate school on the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) campus in 2009 by the UW Board of Regents. The founding vision was that the Zilber School, in drawing on UWM resources and a partnership with the City of Milwaukee Health Department, would advance population health and health equity in Milwaukee, the state of Wisconsin, and beyond. In 2018, the Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) program was approved by the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents, and we began admitting our first BSPH students in spring 2019. In 2020, the accelerated MPH program was approved that allows select students to complete their BSPH and MPH degrees in five years.

[Accreditation](#)

The Zilber School attained national accreditation from the [Council on Education for Public Health \(CEPH\)](#) in June of 2017 for a 5-year period (the maximum that is allowed on an initial accreditation), making the Zilber School the [first nationally accredited school of public health in Wisconsin](#).

Accreditation by CEPH is a very rigorous process in which peer institutions judge whether an applicant has met standards in more than 20 areas, including curriculum, research, community engagement, faculty and student recruitment, and retention.

Accelerated BS/MPH Program

The accelerated MPH program began enrolling students in fall 2021. The program allows high achieving undergraduate students in the Public Health major an opportunity to earn both a bachelor's and master's degree in public health in five years, rather than the usual six. The 5-year program consists of 3.5 years in undergraduate status and 1.5 years in graduate status.

Mission, Values, and Goals

[Mission](#)

The mission of the UWM Joseph J. Zilber School of Public Health is to advance population health, health equity, and social and environmental justice among diverse communities in Milwaukee, the state of Wisconsin, and beyond. This is to be completed through education, research, community engagement, and advocacy for health-promoting policies and strategies.

[Values](#)

We, the Faculty, Administration, Staff, and Students of the Joseph J. Zilber School of Public Health, accept and adopt the [core values of the University of Wisconsin –](#)

[Milwaukee](#). We are also committed to carrying out the following values in our individual and collective public health research, teaching, community engagement, and practice:

- Integrity – We cultivate and sustain trust through transparent, open, and honest communications and decision-making. We uphold standards of public health ethics* in all that we do.
- Accountability – We hold ourselves and each other responsible to the highest quality, excellence, and measurable impact in our work.
- Collaboration – We emphasize and support collaborative, interdependent, mutually-respectful engagement and relationships within our school, across our campus, and with our communities.
- Diversity and Inclusion – We welcome, support, include, encourage, and respect diverse voices, experiences, perspectives, disciplines, and approaches in our work together.
- Health Equity – We strive to eliminate health inequities through research, teaching, community engagement, and advocacy.
- Social and Environmental Justice – We maintain an unwavering commitment to social and environmental justice, focusing our work on the fundamental, underlying requirements for healthy communities by addressing individual, structural, and institutional barriers to health.

*For example: APHA Public Health Code of Ethics.

Goals

- Education Goal E1 – Educate current and future public health professionals in the science, practice, critical thinking, and leadership skills necessary to promote population health and reduce health inequities.
- Education Goal E2 – Collaborate with diverse community partners through mutual learning to increase knowledge in order to improve population health and reduce health inequities.
- Research Goal R1 – Conduct relevant, rigorous and collaborative research that advances public health knowledge and promotes population health and health equity.
- Research Goal R2 – Disseminate and translate research findings to influence the development of health- and equity-promoting policies and strategies.
- Community Engagement/ Service Goal CE/S1 – Engage with public health practitioners, policy stakeholders, and community partners through a variety of approaches to improve population health and health equity.
- Organization Goal O1 – Attract, support, and sustain a diverse student, faculty, and staff community to ensure an inclusive and collaborative work environment.
- Organization Goal O2 – Invest in people, resources, and infrastructure to foster excellence and advance the mission of the Joseph J. Zilber School of Public Health.

Academic Program

Undergraduate Course Competencies

1. Explain the importance of respect for diverse values, beliefs, cultures, and the dignity of individuals and communities in public health practice
2. Explain the history and philosophy of public health, including its core values, theories, concepts, and functions in society
3. Collect and analyze public health data using fundamental quantitative and qualitative methods and instruments
4. Locate and evaluate primary scientific literature and other information sources (e.g., media) to inform evidence-based public health approaches
5. Outline evidence-based approaches—using data, assessment, and evaluation—to address public health problems
6. Explain why and how public health professionals should ethically engage in interactions with study/program participants, community (partners and stakeholders), and others to address population health and health equity
7. Develop advocacy strategies for multi-level social policies and interventions to promote population health
8. Assess the advantages and disadvantages of health promotion interventions for specific populations
9. Discuss ethical social, ecological, political, and community approaches to public health dilemmas
10. Explain the natural history of human health and disease, their biological and environmental origins, distribution among populations, and strategies for their prevention, management, and control
11. Explain the interrelationship between hazards in the natural and built environment, and human and population health
12. Explain multilevel and ecosocial pathways through which social, economic, legal, and political structures and systems affect population health and health inequities across the life course
13. Interpret environmental, regulatory, legal, and economic structures, as well as their interactions within communities and health systems, from the perspective of social justice and human rights
14. Apply fundamental concepts and features of public health interventions and programs, including their planning, implementation, assessment, and evaluation
15. Communicate public health evidence and concepts to diverse audiences using a variety of modalities and media.

Undergraduate Curriculum

Students **must earn a minimum of 120 credits** to complete the Bachelor of Science degree in Public Health.

General Education Requirements (GER) (0–20 credits)

Admission to GER courses may require additional prerequisite coursework as a result of each student's [English and math placement levels](#). Degree credit is not granted for Math 92, 94, and 98.

Foundations (33 credits)

Undergraduates must complete 33 credits composed of specific Arts, Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and Cultural Diversity Courses. Students should see the [Public Health Requirements page](#) in the UWM Course Catalog to find more detailed information. Individualized student plans may reflect more than 33 credits of Foundations courses.

Public Health Major Requirements (54 credits)

- PH 101: Introduction to Public Health (3 credits)
- PH 142: Exploring Global Environmental Health (3 credits)
- PH 201: Public Health from Cells to Society I (3 credits)
- PH 202: Public Health from Cells to Society II (3 credits)
- KIN 270: Statistics in the Health Professions¹ (3 credits) OR
- SOC 261: Introduction to Statistical Thinking in Sociology (3 credits)
- HCA 307: Epidemiology for the Health Sciences (3 credits)
- PH 302: Health and Disease: Concepts and Contexts (3 credits)
- PH 303: Climate Change, the Environment & Human Health (3 credits)
- PH 319: Introduction to Health Disparities (3 credits)
- PH 327: Foundations for Action in Public Health (3 credits)
- PH 355: Public Health Research Methods I (3 credits)
- PH 346: Environmental Health and Disease (3 credits)
- PH 408: Comparative Health Systems: A Social Determinants Approach (3 credits)
- PH 410: True Lies – Consuming & Communicating Quantitative Information (3 credits)
- PH 427: Strategies for Action in Public Health (3 credits)
- PH 428: Project Implementation & Evaluation for a Healthy Society (3 credits)
- PH 455: Public Health Research Methods II (3 credits)
- PH 600: Public Health Integrative Experience** (3 credits)

**The Public Health Integrative Experience serves as a senior capstone seminar and is taken during the final semester. The course involves discussion and reflection on competencies related to public health practice in parallel with a 120-hour field placement. Students will spend time in the placement working on a public health project for a community organization.

Electives (7-33 credits)

Undergraduates are required to meet a certain number of electives before they can graduate. Students must meet the minimum GER, Foundations, and Major requirements and then the total required credits of electives can be determined.

Foreign Language Requirement

A foreign language requirement went into effect September 1999. This is a graduation requirement and can be met in three different ways, including through two consecutive years of high school-level instruction in a single foreign language; by completing (with passing grades) at least two consecutive semesters (minimum of 6 credits) of college-level instruction in a single foreign language; or by earning a satisfactory score on an approved placement, proficiency, departmental, or other appropriate examination. Please see the [University Degree requirements](#) for details.

Sample Undergraduate Curriculum*:

Fall 2021 PH 100 1cr PH 101 3cr Math102/105/108 3cr English 102 3cr BIO SCI 102 3cr Commun 103 3cr <p style="text-align: right;">16cr</p>	Winter 2022 	Spring 2022 PH 142 3cr English 201 3cr Historical Persp. 3cr PSYCH 101 3cr Minor/Elective 3cr <p style="text-align: right;">15cr</p>	Summer 2022
Fall 2023 PH 201 3cr KIN 270/SOC 261 3cr Social Inequality 3cr Minor/Elective 3cr English 207/214 3cr <p style="text-align: right;">15cr</p>	Winter 2023 	Spring 2023 PH 202 3cr HCA 307 3cr Humanities 3cr Minor/Elective 3cr Minor/Elective 3cr <p style="text-align: right;">15cr</p>	Summer 2023
Fall 2024 PH 303 3cr PH 327 3cr PH 355 3cr Minor/Elective 3cr Political Sci 3cr <p style="text-align: right;">15cr</p>	Winter 2024 	Spring 2024 PH 319 3cr PH 427 3cr PH 455 3cr Minor/Elective 3cr Minor/Elective 3cr <p style="text-align: right;">15cr</p>	Summer 2024
Fall 2025 PH 408 3cr PH 410 3cr PH 428 3cr Ethics 3cr Minor/Elective 3cr <p style="text-align: right;">15cr</p>	Winter 2025 	Spring 2025 PH 302 3cr PH 346 3cr PH 600 3cr Arts & CD 3cr Minor/Elective 3cr <p style="text-align: right;">15cr</p>	Summer 2025

**Individual course plans may vary. Consult with your academic advisor before enrolling in courses.*

Zilber School Undergraduate Policies

Academic Advising Policy

Students must meet with their advisor at the beginning of their first year at UWM in order to determine an academic path in the major. It is expected that students arrive at the assigned appointment time. An appointment time must be confirmed either directly with their advisor, or by email. If not, the appointment is no longer standing. Additionally, if a student arrives more than 10 minutes late, the meeting may need to be rescheduled. Often appointments are booked back-to-back, and it is imperative that students and

advisors have at least 30 minutes for each meeting.

Attendance

Student attendance is expected at every class. All information and activities in lecture, lab, and discussion are important. In the event you miss a class, you will be responsible for obtaining information from the instructor, handouts, and notes from another student. Students must notify the instructor by email or phone prior to missing class. An absence may be excused for serious illness or death in the immediate family. Excused absences also include: (1) Religious observances, (2) Military duty or veteran status, (3) Required University related absences, including but not limited to athletic match, presentation of research at a conference, (4) Pregnancy or childbirth, and (5) Legally mandated absences such as jury duty or court subpoena. For an absence to be excused, the student must provide verification (e.g., note from physician, etc.). Faculty members have the discretion to determine what constitutes an appropriate assignment for make-up work. Please see each course's syllabus for more specific information regarding attendance policies and procedures.

Dates and Deadlines

Students are responsible for knowing when [registration and financial dates](#) are that directly affect their attendance. Academic and financial implications are important for students to consider when viewing academic dates and deadlines. It is recommended that students write these dates and deadlines down in an academic planner or calendar that they use frequently to keep track of all this important information.

Accommodation for Disabilities

UWM provides reasonable accommodation to qualified students with a disability. Upon admission, a public health student who discloses a disability and requests accommodation may be asked to provide documentation of their disability for the purpose of determining appropriate accommodations, including modification to the program. Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities is a shared faculty and student responsibility. Students are expected to inform faculty of accommodations identified by the Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) before the end of the third week of the semester, or as soon as possible after a disability has occurred or been recognized. Disability information is confidential and is protected under FERPA. Requests for accommodation should be directed to the [UWM Accessibility Resource Center](#), phone: (414) 229-6287.

Academics Requirements for Continued Progression

Required Grade Point Average

A minimum of 120 semester credits is required to complete the BS in Public Health degree. A cumulative GPA of 2.25 or greater, including transferable credits and all credits earned at UWM, is required for graduation. Students must also maintain an average GPA of 2.5 in all public health major courses required for graduation (54 credits

total).

If, during the program, a student falls below these minimum GPA requirements, the student will be placed on academic probation. A student who remains on probation for more than two consecutive semesters will be dismissed from the major.

Students who earn a C- or lower in any public health major course required for graduation (54 credits) must repeat the course and earn at least a C-. Courses required for the BS in Public Health degree may be repeated only **once**. Students who twice earn a grade lower than these requirements will be dismissed from the public health major.

Students who are struggling in their courses for any reason are encouraged to access the retention services available in the Zilber School of Public Health.

Grade Ranges

A	4.000
A-	3.670
B+	3.330
B	3.000
B-	2.670
C+	2.330
C	2.000
C-	1.670
D+	1.330
D-	0.670
F	0.000

Course Progression

Students are expected to complete courses in the sequence shown in the Undergraduate Curriculum. The student's advisor and the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs must approve any changes in course sequencing.

Dropping Courses

Students should refer to a current class schedule for information concerning existing UWM drop policy guidelines and exceptions for individual courses. If the student is considering dropping a course, they should make an appointment to speak to their

Public Health academic advisor as soon as possible.

A student who wishes to drop from a required or elective course, or to withdraw must discuss the matter with the instructor and the curriculum or course coordinator. In addition, the student must discuss the matter with an academic advisor in the Student Affairs Office. Written approval to drop must be secured from the instructor and the Academic Affairs Manager regardless of the week of the semester.

Zilber School Appeals Procedure

The Zilber School has an Undergraduate Student Complaints, Grievances, and Appeals policy. Students are encouraged to contact their advisor to obtain a copy of this policy. If a student believes they have been received a grade based on incorrect or unfair assessments of their performance, the policy specifies a three-step process for appealing a grade. If a student believes they have been treated unfairly by a Zilber School representative (e.g., an instructor, administrator, or staff member) with regard to an academic matter other than grade (e.g., evaluation, graduation decision, scholastic standing, or policy), the policy specifies a progressive three step grievance process. There are very specific deadlines for each step of the Appeals Procedure so it's extremely important for any students interested in filing a Grievance to work closely with their advisor.

Summary of UWM Policies

Academic Misconduct

The University has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity and to develop procedures to deal effectively with instances of academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors.

Instructors may require (it will be noted in the syllabus) students to add the following statement to work submitted to meet course requirements: "By submitting this paper for grading, I am certifying that it is entirely my own work, with any words and/or ideas from other sources properly indicated (words with quotation marks), cited in text, and referenced. I have not submitted this paper to satisfy the requirements of any other course."

Violations of the academic honor code carry severe sanctions, including failing a course or even suspension or dismissal from the University. More at <https://uwm.edu/deanofstudents/academic-misconduct/>

Accommodation for Religious Observances

Students will be allowed to complete examinations or other requirements that are missed because of a religious observance. (UWM Faculty Document #1853)

Complaint Procedure

Students may direct complaints to the head of the academic unit or department in which the complaint occurs. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific University policy, it may be directed to the head of the department or academic unit in which the complaining occurred or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy. All complaints should be directed to the Professor first. If you are unsatisfied with results of this meeting, then the next step is to go to the Professor's program director. If the complaint is in reference to the Zilber School or public health courses, please contact your advisor for a copy of the Zilber School's Undergraduate Student Complaints, Grievances, and Appeals policy.

Discriminatory Conduct Policy

The University will not tolerate discriminatory conduct as defined: 1) intentional conduct, either verbal or physical by a member of the faculty, staff or student body, which 2) occurs on property under the jurisdiction of the Regents or under circumstances where an affiliation with UWM is significant in the occurrence; and 3) is predicated on considerations of any of the following: race, color, national origin, creed, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, or other status protected under the law; and 4) which has the purpose and effect of adversely affecting any aspect or condition of an individual's education, employment, housing or participation in a

university activity. (UWM Faculty Document #1670) Please be respectful of yourself, your peers, and the Professor. Disciplinary action for Non-Academic misconduct will be filed for anyone violating this policy.

Financial Obligation

The submission of your registration form and your subsequent assignment to classes obligates you to pay the fee-tuition for those classes or to withdraw your registration in writing no later than the date specified in the Schedule of Classes. It is important to both you and the University to make payment ontime. A complete description of UWM Fee Facts may be obtained from the Department of Enrollment Services. Please see the One Stop Enrollment and Financial Services site for further information on Tuition and Fees.

Grade Appeal Procedure

A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides. These procedures are available in writing from the respective program director or the Academic Dean of the School. (UWM Faculty Document #1243)

Inclement Weather

UWM students should contact the University at 414-229-4444 to ascertain the status of class cancellation due to inclement weather. These cancellations are displayed on the UWM homepage and university social media forums. Even when classes are canceled, University offices and services remain available, unless the entire University is closed by the Governor.

Incompletes

A notation of "Incomplete" may be given in lieu of a final grade to a student who has carried a subject successfully until the end of a semester, but who, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond the student's control, has been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of term work. An incomplete is not given unless you prove to the instructor that you were prevented from completing course requirements for just cause as indicated above. (UWM Faculty Document #1558 and #1602). A course marked Incomplete must be completed during the next succeeding semester, excluding summer sessions and UWinteriM. If the student does not remove the Incomplete during this period, the report of "I" will lapse to "F." It is the student's responsibility to work with their instructor regarding course completion.

Participation by Students with Disabilities

If you need special accommodations to meet any of the requirements of a course, please contact your instructor as soon as possible.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is reprehensible and will not be tolerated by the University. It subverts the mission of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience, and well-being of students, faculty, and staff. The University will not tolerate behavior between or among members of the University community that creates an unacceptable working environment.

Student Support Services

Accessibility Resource Center

The Accessibility Resource Center (nee: Student Accessibility Center) is in Mitchell Hall, Room 112. Assistance is available to students who need supports in learning due to physical, psychological, or learning disabilities. Contact this office at 229-6287 if you would like to check out their services.

E-mail

You have been given a university e-mail account and the faculty and staff of the Zilber School expect you to use it, since the Zilber School relies on this method of communication to inform you of important events, such as changes in class meetings, class timings and assignments. It is mandatory that you check your e-mail on a consistent basis to stay informed. If you have problems with your email account, contact your campus Help Desk immediately. Your public health advisors rely primarily on email as a mode of communication. The Zilber School faculty and staff will not correspond with you from a non UWM email account.

Norris Health Center

Your on-campus health and mental health services are here to assist you in identifying, understanding, and responding to your health care needs through medical and mental health care and health promotion programs; and to assist the UWM campus community through collaborative partnerships designed to enhance the university's academic and community service mission. The Norris Health Center staff will be your partner, providing treatment if you are ill, injured, or in distress, and assist you in understanding your health needs. Phone: 414-229-4716 Email: nhc-help@uwm.edu

Scholarships for Public Health Students

Information about any scholarships that are being offered will be posted in the student newsletters that are emailed to students.

Student Affairs Office

You are assigned to an academic advisor in the Zilber School who is available to assist you personally and academically. They are located on the fifth floor of the Kenwood Interdisciplinary Research Center (KIRC/KEN) in room 5090.

Technology Use and Electronic Media Policy

Electronic communications as well as online social media platforms allow UWM public health students to engage in both professional and personal conversations. The ability to connect, collaborate, and communicate with the learning community is important for professional growth. The goal of this policy is to protect both UWM Public Health students as well as the Zilber School by providing standards of conduct which must be followed when students use social media platforms.

Social media platforms are technology and online spaces for integrating and sharing user-generated content that allow individuals to engage in conversations with others and to participate in content creation. Examples of social media platforms include, but are not limited to, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, blogs and e-mail.

Students are personally responsible for the content they publish on blogs, wikis, social networks, forum boards, or any other form of user-generated media. It's important to remember that all content contributed on online platforms becomes immediately searchable and is immediately shared. This content may leave the contributing individual's control forever and may be traced back to the individual after long periods of time.

Standards for Online Professional or Personal Activity: The below technology use and social media standards apply to all students affiliated with the Zilber School:

- *Protect confidential information!* Students must follow University and UW System policies and maintain academic integrity!
- A variety of web-based technologies are used to facilitate and evaluate your learning. Failure to maintain this confidentiality standard will be considered cheating.
- *Do not speak on behalf of UWM or the Zilber School!* In your communications, you need to ensure that you are not speaking for UWM, and what you say represents your own individual personal views and opinions and not necessarily the views and opinions of UWM. Whenever you identify yourself on social media and/or the web as a UWM Public Health student or use a UWM email address, your postings and personal web pages may be viewed by your colleagues, UWM faculty/staff, as well as potential employers.
- *Use good judgment!* As a UWM Public Health student, you are preparing for a career providing services to the public. The Zilber School and future employers hold you to a high standard of behavior. Ensure that any content associated with you is consistent with your professional goals.
- *Be civil and respectful!* Civility is an important component of online communication. There is great value in sharing and communicating one's opinion. The Zilber School is an organization whose students, faculty, and clients have a diverse set of customs, values, and points of view. Don't be afraid to be

yourself, but respect others. This includes not only the obvious (no ethnic slurs, personal insults, obscenity, pornographic images, etc.) but also proper consideration of privacy and of topics that may be considered objectionable or inflammatory.

Failure to abide by this policy, other University and UW System policies and procedures, including UWM's Acceptable Computer Use Policy, state and federal laws and state privacy laws could lead to discipline or other adverse action.

Student Participation in the Zilber School

Students are encouraged to participate actively as individuals and/or as a group to enhance their professional development and the progress of the Zilber School. This is *your school* and the faculty and administration want to hear from you to continue to meet the needs of students. Some of the ways you can become involved include participating in or serving as an officer for the Zilber School Public Health Student Association, serving on Zilber School (e.g., Undergraduate Program Committee) or University (e.g., Student Senate) committees, giving feedback to faculty regarding courses and faculty teaching methods; getting involved in any of the many UWM [student organizations](#); and attendance at UWM and Zilber School social events.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the [Council on Education for Public Health](#)?

The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) is an independent, nonprofit organization that accredits public health schools and programs. Programs and schools awarded accreditation meet criteria established by CEPH to ensure students are prepared to work in their chosen field. Once a school or program is CEPH-accredited, it becomes a member of ASPPH.

What is the difference between a CEPH-accredited school and program?

CEPH accredits both schools of public health and Master of Public Health (MPH) programs. Schools of public health have requirements that are more stringent than programs, which are only required to offer a single MPH degree. In addition, schools of public health offer doctoral programs. The Joseph J. Zilber School of Public Health is the only CEPH-accredited school of public health in the State of Wisconsin.

What is the [Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health](#)?

The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) is a national organization representing accredited public health schools and programs. ASPPH promotes efforts to improve the public's health through education, research, and policy.

What is the [National Board of Public Health Examiners](#)? Will I be able to take the Certified in Public Health exam?

The National Board of Public Health Examiners offers the Certified in Public Health

credential. The voluntary certification, administered in exam form, demonstrates that an individual has mastered the core competencies of public health. Individuals, who graduate from an accredited school of public health or graduated after the school becomes an applicant for accreditation, are eligible to take the exam.

In addition, an individual who has a “bachelor’s degree and at least five subsequent years of public health work experience” may also take the exam. More information about this eligibility category is available at the [NBPHE web site](#).