DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES

Overview

207 Surzeyecker Health Sciences Center
610-436-2931
Department of Public Health Sciences (http://www.wcupa.edu/health/)
James Brenner (jbrenner@wcupa.edu), Chairperson
Whitney Katirai (wkatirai@wcupa.edu), Assistant Chairperson

The Department of Public Health Sciences offers four programs leading to a Bachelor of Science degree.

- The B.S. in Public Health prepares students for a career as a public health practitioner in hospitals, health departments, health agencies, and industry. The program provides a comprehensive basic science background, as well as a strong public health foundation.
- The B.S. in Environmental Health prepares students for careers as environmental scientists in industry, consulting firms, government, hospitals, and academia. The program synthesizes a general scientific preparation with specialized applied courses in a wide range of environmental health science disciplines, such as industrial hygiene, toxicology, risk assessment, water quality, solid & hazardous waste management, and stormwater management. This program is accredited by the National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council (EIHAC).
- The B.S. in Health Science: General is for students who have completed a certificate, license, diploma, or associate’s degree program in such health science areas as dental hygiene, respiratory therapy, occupational therapy, medical technology, alternative/complementary medicine, and cardiovascular technology. The program gives professionals the chance to build on their technical education already received and to develop academic competency in a related field. General education requirements and health courses are needed for completion of the B.S. in Health Science.
- The B.S. in Health Science - Respiratory Care Concentration is offered in association with Bryn Mawr Hospital. Graduation from the program satisfies the entrance requirement for the Written Registry Examination and the Clinical Simulation Examination given by the National Board for Respiratory Care. Successful completion of these examinations qualifies the candidate as a registered respiratory therapist. Most respiratory therapists are employed by hospitals and home health care agencies.
- The Minor in Health Sciences is designed to provide you with focused coursework and learning experiences to complement your major program and enhance your post-graduate career options.
- The Minor in Contemplative Studies is designed to provide you with focused coursework and learning experiences to complement your major program and enhance your post-graduate career options.
- The Minor in Environmental Health is designed to provide you with focused coursework and learning experiences to complement your major program and enhance your post-graduate career options.

Programs

Majors

- B.S. in Environmental Health (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/undergraduate/health-sciences/public-health-sciences/environmental-health-bs/)
- B.S. in Health Science: General (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/undergraduate/health-sciences/public-health-sciences/health-science-bs-general/)
- B.S. in Health Science: General - Sports Medicine Studies Concentration (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/undergraduate/health-sciences/public-health-sciences/health-science-bs-general-sports-medicine-studies-concentration/)(no longer accepting students)
- Accelerated B.S in Health Science: General - Sports Medicine Studies Concentration to M.S. in Athletic Training (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/undergraduate/health-sciences/public-health-sciences/health-science-bs-general-sports-medicine-studies-concentration/)(no longer accepting students)
- B.S. in Health Science - Respiratory Care Concentration (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/undergraduate/health-sciences/public-health-sciences/health-science-bs-respiratory-care/)
- B.S. in Public Health (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/undergraduate/health-sciences/public-health-sciences/public-health-bs/)
- Accelerated B.S. in Public Health to Master of Public Health (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/undergraduate/health-sciences/public-health-sciences/public-health-bs/)

Minors

- Contemplative Studies (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/undergraduate/health-sciences/public-health-sciences/contemplative-studies-minor/)
- Environmental Health (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/undergraduate/health-sciences/public-health-sciences/environmental-health-minor/)
- Health Sciences (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/undergraduate/health-sciences/public-health-sciences/minor-health-sciences/)

Graduate Opportunities

See the graduate catalog for more information on the Public Health Sciences programs. (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/health-sciences/public-health-sciences/)

Policies

- See undergraduate admissions information. (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/general-information/admissions-enrollment/undergraduate-admissions/)
- See academic policies. (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/)

All undergraduate students are held to the academic policies and procedures outlined in the undergraduate catalog. Students are encouraged to review departmental handbooks for program tips, suggested course sequences, and explanations of procedures. When applicable, additional policies for specific department programs may be listed below.

Academic Policies

1. Repeating courses
   a. Department of Public Health Sciences majors who earn less than a C (2.0) in selected program requirements may be required to repeat such courses. Students should discuss these requirements with their advisors.

2. Overall GPAs for internships and field experiences
   a. A minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA is required of environmental health majors for internships or field experience assignments.
   b. A minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA is required for public health majors for internships.

Accelerated Program Policy

Refer to the Accelerated Programs page (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-programs/) for more information.

B.S. in Public Health Minimum Grade Requirement for MAT 121

Students in the B.S. in Public Health program must complete MAT 121 or equivalent with a grade of C or higher.
Faculty

Professors
James W. Brenner (jbrenner@wcupa.edu) (2004)
Chairperson, Public Health Sciences
B.S., West Chester University; M.Ed., College of New Jersey; Ph.D., Temple University
Tammy C. James (tjames@wcupa.edu) (1994)
B.S., M.E., Kent State University
Donald McCown (dmccown@wcupa.edu) (2011)
B.A., Eastern University; M.S.S., Bryn Mawr College; Ph.D. Tilburg University
Stacie Metz (smetz@wcupa.edu) (2006)
Graduate Coordinator, Public Health Sciences
B.A., Bloomsburg University; M.A., Towson University; M.P.H., M.S.W., Ph.D., Saint Louis University
Gopal Sankaran (gsankaran@wcupa.edu) (1989)
B.S., M.B., Maulanaazad Medical College (India); M.D., All India Institute of Medical Sciences; M.P.H., Dr.P.H., University of California, Berkeley
Ramona E. Stone (rstone@wcupa.edu) (2017)
B.A., Babes-Bolyai University; M.S., Technical University of Cluj; Ph.D., University of Louisville; M.P.H., Harvard School of Public Health
Christine Williams (cwilliams3@wcupa.edu) (2009)
B.S., M.S., University of Delaware; Ph.D., Middle Tennessee State University

Associate Professors
Lorenzo Cena (lcena@wcupa.edu) (2016)
B.S., Brigham Young University; M.S., Iowa State University; Ph.D., University of Iowa
Sharon Bernecki Dejoy (sdejoy@wcupa.edu) (2012)
A.S., Miami-Dade College; B.A., Columbia University; M.P.H., Ph.D., University of South Florida
Heather B. Edelblute (hedelblute@wcupa.edu) (2018)
B.A., College of William and Mary; M.A., M.P.H., University of Georgia; Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Harry Holt (hholt@wcupa.edu) (2016)
B.S., Indiana University; Juris Doctorate, MBA, Case Western University; Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University
Whitney Katirai (wkatirai@wcupa.edu) (2016)
Assistant Chairperson, Public Health Sciences
B.A., University of Louisville; M.P.H., Ed.D., University of Kentucky
Nene Okunna (nokunna@wcupa.edu) (2022)
B.S., Nnamdi Azikiwe University; M.P.H., M.P.P.A., Ph.D., University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Neha Sunger (nsunger@wcupa.edu) (2014)
M.S. Indian Institute of Technology– Kanpur; Ph.D. Drexel University
Chiwoneso Tinago (ctinago@wcupa.edu) (2016)
B.S., William Carey University; M.P.H., University of Southern Mississippi; Ph.D., University of South Carolina

Assistant Professors
Erin K. Knight (eknight@wcupa.edu) (2021)
B.A., University of Virginia; M.P.H., University of Minnesota; Ph.D., University of Delaware
Zeinab Mohamad Baba (zbaba@wcupa.edu) (2018)
B.A., The University of Kansas; M.S., The University of Iowa; Ph.D., Drexel University
Rebecca Rich (rrich@wcupa.edu) (2021)
B.S., Lock Haven University; M.A., Ph.D., The University of Alabama
Melanie A. Vile (mvile@wcupa.edu) (2020)
B.S., M.S., Villanova University; Ph.D., University of Notre Dame

Courses