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B.S. in Public Health

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Program Information

The Bachelor of Science in public health, offered through the School of Health Professions, provides an opportunity to explore the history and principles of public health, community health, public health leadership, health promotion, multicultural populations, marketing, health informatics, and health policy.

We prepare students to succeed in a public health environment (e.g. community health, health education, health/safety administration) and/or pursue advanced studies in public health, public policy, health administration, biostatistics and epidemiology.

The emphasis is on addressing the health concerns affecting people locally, nationally and worldwide. Our Western New York location provides students with a special opportunity to understand the unique issues and opportunities associated with rural public health.

Program Structure & Delivery

A variety of instructional techniques are utilized to help students build critical social skills during class discussions while also completing online activities that enhance their ability to teach others in digital environments.

Public health majors complete a 150-hour internship, working directly with a public health professional in their chosen area of expertise.

Because public health professionals must constantly and consistently exercise sound judgment and reasoning, our program has a strong ethical component grounded in our Franciscan heritage.

We prepare students to be thinking, moral citizens of a global community, inspiring in them a lifelong commitment to service and citizenship.

Two Concentrations

Occupational Therapy

This prepares students for graduate studies in occupational therapy (MSOT, OTD). Occupational therapists help people participate in the things they want and need to do through the therapeutic use of everyday activities (occupations). SBU offers a Master of Science in OT.

Education Specialist

The health education specialist concentration is a 25-credit program that, upon graduation, allows graduates with a degree in public health to sit for the Health Education Specialist Practice Analysis credentialing exam to become a certified health education specialist (CHES).

High Demand & Satisfaction

Public health offers a broad array of career possibilities that suit many types of people with all sorts of skills. The COVID-19 pandemic underscores the value of professionals committed to helping others and improving society.

Public health careers offer job security, opportunities for growth, and versatility. In addition to being highly impactful, they are very rewarding. Public health professionals are motivated by their mission to improve the welfare of all, with 95% saying the work they do is important and that they are motivated to give their best effort every day.