



Graduate Certificate in Community & Public Health

The Division of Kinesiology & Health (DKH) is pleased to offer a Graduate Certificate in Community & Public (CPH). Those who enroll in the certificate program and complete the four required courses with a grade of B or better will receive a Graduate Certificate in Community & Public Health from the University of Wyoming on their transcript, with additional specializations available.

This entirely online, asynchronous certificate is designed:

- To provide accessible and practical professional development to public health practitioners in the field, in particular those without formal training in CPH or who wish to extend their training.
- To broaden the education of current UW students preparing for clinical careers in CPH.
- To offer current UW students CPH career and higher education preparation.
- To support other residents and professionals in growing healthier communities.

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Required Coursework

All required courses are online, asynchronous and run Monday – Sunday on the UW semester schedule. All required courses are worth 3 credits each.

Successful completion of UW's Graduate Certificate in Community & Public Health requires that students receive a B or A in each of the four required core certificate courses:

1. **HLED 5022: Unlocking the Potential of Public Health.** Using practical exercises and problem based learning, students investigate how social structures shape our health and how to alter them to improve community health.
2. **HLED 5023: Using Epidemiology to Build Healthier Communities.** In this course, students learn how to accurately interpret and weigh the evidence for any public health issue and are required to apply this knowledge to a specific public health topic of their choosing. At the end of the course students have new insight into what our best public health decisions might be based on available evidence.
3. **HLED 5021: Creating Conditions for Community Health.** In this online course we will analyze and discuss how to change environmental causes and influences on individual health behavior or health status. The assignments you do will center on a community and health issue that you chose (e.g., chew tobacco use in school baseball players in Wyoming; texting while driving among UW students; meth use in your hometown). You will assess the issue and the research on its immediate and its “macro” socio-ecological causes. You will then develop an action plan to improve the conditions (the environment) in that community in ways the evidence suggests will help improve health.
4. **HLED 5024: Increasing Support for Public Health Projects.** Students learn how to effectively build support for improving the health of their communities. Support includes funding, coalition and partnership building, effective communications with the public and policy makers, and participatory project planning with community stakeholders. In addition, this course will cover how to establish project evaluation frameworks.

Student Project & Course Sequence

Certificate students are encouraged to choose a public health project on which to focus throughout their core course work. Each core course includes individualized work on a chosen public health problem, and this work on course projects can come together so that students leave the certificate program with an evidence-based, actionable, and funding-ready project. See Table 1 for an explanation of how each individual course project can contribute to the overall student project throughout the certificate curriculum.

Students can take one or two core courses per semester, depending on what best meets their needs. For students who are able, we recommend the course sequence listed in Table 1, but students can take courses in any order.

Table 1. Recommended sequence and student project progress for core courses		
*Recommended Student Project Progress	Course Title	Recommended Course Sequence
Public health problem(s) identified and put into a broader public health context	Unlocking the Potential of Public Health (HLED 5022) Offered every fall	Ideally taken contemporaneously, otherwise taken in the order listed.
Public health problem(s) analyzed from an epidemiological and statistical framework.	Using Epidemiology to Build Healthier Communities (HLED 5023) Offered every fall	
Public health problem(s) situated in an environmental context. Project output in this course is an action plan for improving environmental conditions that create the public health problem.	Creating Conditions for Community Health (HLED 5021) Offered every spring	Ideally taken contemporaneously, otherwise taken in the order listed.
Students develop strategies for building support to intervene in their chosen public health problem. Project output in this course is a drafted federal grant proposal to fund intervention.	Increasing Support for Public Health Projects (HLED 5024) Offered every spring	

Specialization Courses

Students can add a Specialization to their Graduate Certificate in Community & Public Health by completing an additional 3 credits of approved coursework. For example, students who complete their core courses as well as the approved specialization course titled Achieving Rural Community Health would earn a “Graduate Certificate in Community & Public Health, Specializing in Achieving Rural Community Health.” Specialization courses must be taught at the 5000 (graduate) level.

For a list of approved specialization courses, please see our [CPH Graduate Program](#) page. To seek approval of a UW course for specialization, please contact our CPH Certificate Program Coordinator.

Eligibility

Please note that acceptance into the certificate program is not a guarantee of successful completion of the program. To receive a UW Graduate Certificate in Community & Public Health, students must receive a grade of A or B in all required coursework.

The following prospective students are eligible to enroll in the Graduate Certificate in Community & Public Health:

- Any non-degree seeking applicant* with an existing bachelor's degree.
- Any existing UW graduate students in any unit.
- Existing UW undergraduate** students in any unit can pursue the certificate with permission from their advisor and the DKH CPH Coordinator.

*The state of California and some countries may not accept your certificate, as California is not part of the national [State Authorization for Reciprocity Agreement](#). All other US states are part of this agreement as of 1/31/2021

**Undergraduate students may only apply 6 graduate credits toward both their undergraduate degree and the certificate and will not receive the certificate until after their bachelor's degree has been conferred.

To enroll, students must [apply](#).

The following prospective students are eligible to enroll in the Graduate Certificate in Community & Public Health **after the successful completion of an admission exam** to test: reading and writing comprehension, critical thinking, and mathematical competency sufficient to interpret epidemiologic research.

- Associates degree holders with at least 3-years of documented work experience in public health.
- High school diploma equivalent holders with at least 5-years of documented work experience in public health.

Consistent with UW policy, students will not be awarded a graduate certificate until they have completed a bachelor's degree. Students with a high school diploma equivalence and work experience, however, have certificate coursework available to them. Students without bachelor's degrees but who are allowed to complete the certificate coursework will either receive this training without receiving the certificate or may apply CPH certificate credits toward an eventual degree based on program allowances for credit hour transfer or acceptance.

To enroll as a non-degree seeking student without a bachelor's degree, contact our CPH Coordinator.

Applicants without a high school diploma equivalency will not be eligible to pursue certificate coursework.

Enrolling

1. Use our [Application Guide](#) to apply to the Graduate Certificate in Community & Public Health if you have any bachelor's degree or are currently a UW undergraduate student. If you do not have a bachelor's degree and are not currently a UW undergraduate student, please contact our CPH Coordinator.
2. Once you are admitted to the certificate program (assuming you meet eligibility criteria), use UW's Banner system to enroll in the certificate courses that are right for you each semester. Our CPH Coordinator will be your academic advisor for the certificate program and can answer any questions you may have about course enrollment.

Contact

For questions, inquiries, and to begin the enrollment process, contact:

[Lacey Gaechter, MS](#)

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