

# PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTITIONER

Public Health is “the science of protecting and improving the health of families and communities through promotion of healthy lifestyles, research for disease, and injury prevention and detection and control of infectious diseases.” Overall, public health is concerned with protecting the health of entire populations, small or large. Public health professionals try to prevent problems from happening or recurring through implementing educational programs, recommending policies, administering services and conducting research.

## CAREER DESCRIPTION\*

- » Typical salary: \$60,000-\$115,000
- » Projected career growth: 20%
- » Monitor health of large populations
- » Detect and investigate health problems
- » Conduct research to enhance disease prevention
- » Develop and advocate public health policies
- » Promote healthy behaviors
- » Foster safe and healthful environments

## TYPICAL EDUCATION\*\*

- » Years of school (including undergraduate): 6–7
- » Approximate cost: \$20,000 - \$60,000
- » Average entering GPA: 3.50
- » GRE required

## NEARBY SCHOOLS

- » University of Nebraska Medical Center
- » University of Iowa
- » Colorado School of Public Health (multiple campuses)
- » Kansas State University
- » University of Kansas

## COMPETITIVE APPLICANTS ALWAYS...

- » Volunteer in the community
- » Maintain a GPA above 3.0
- » Engage in research opportunities

## AREAS OF STUDY

- » Biostatistics
- » Emergency Preparedness
- » Environmental, Agricultural & Occupational Health
- » Epidemiology
- » Health Promotion, Social & Behavioral Health
- » Health Service Research & Administration

\*Data and information from Bureau of Labor Statistics.

\*\*Data and information from UNMC.

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## PUBLIC HEALTH CAREERS

- » Epidemiologist or Infectious Disease Specialist
- » Emergency Preparedness/Response Specialist
- » Biostatistician or Data Specialist
- » Public Health Nurse
- » Legislative Policy Advisor
- » Public Health Analyst

## WHERE DO P.H.P. WORK?

- » Government Agencies
- » Health & Environmental Agencies
- » Healthcare Settings
- » Non-Profit Organizations
- » Various Businesses at the Local, State, and Federal Level

## WHAT PROFESSIONALS ARE SAYING

“

You cannot achieve environmental security and human development without addressing the basic issues of health and nutrition.”

-Gro Brundtland,  
Former Prime Minister of Norway

“

Being a public health professional has given me the opportunity to impact the overall health of my community, which is a key reason that I choose this career.”

-Anonymous

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