There is no better time in history to enroll in a Public Health major at UC Irvine, home to innovative and resourceful public health research, practice, and education initiatives. Our mission is to create, integrate, and translate population-based knowledge into preventive strategies for reducing the societal burden of human disease and disability through excellence in research, education, and public service. We push forward the frontiers of knowledge in crucial areas of public health; we reframe and answer questions that emerge with new societal challenges; and we train a cadre of public health scientists and policy makers who are versatile in the interdisciplinary language necessary to succeed in today’s world.

The Program in Public Health offers a sophisticated opportunity to explore the interdisciplinary dimensions that effective public health demands. This opportunity engages students in our curriculum beginning at the freshmen level, up to the award-winning culminating experience of graduating seniors integrating upper division writing with practicum at a public health agency in the community.

It is arguable that very few, if any, contemporary human health issues are permanently limited to national or geographical boundaries. Rapid mobility of populations and disease vectors, international trade and commerce, trans-boundary conflicts, natural disasters, and the increasingly international flavor of regulatory issues have all demanded a broadening of the scope of public health research and training. The faculty members in the Program in Public Health at UC Irvine are uniquely positioned to take full advantage of rapid progress in the molecular sciences, informatics and communication, global environmental assessments, occupational health, human behavior, policy analysis, international relations, disease control and clinical and translational sciences. These are all existing areas of scholarly strength that public health contributes to our campus, our country, and the world.

We are delighted by the opportunity to share with you our individual and collective excitement about the UC Irvine undergraduate majors in Public Health. We look forward to engaging you in meaningful and productive excursions, inside and outside the classroom, leading to deeper understanding of the determinants of the quality of health in populations, and to reward you with the knowledge and passion to act to improve the health status of diverse communities.

The public health curriculum focuses on multidisciplinary approaches to public health practice and research, exploring both quantitative and qualitative aspects of public health at all levels of analysis. Undergraduates explore topic areas including epidemiology, genetics, health informatics; chronic and infectious diseases; environmental and global health sciences, social and behavioral health sciences; and health policy and administration. The program places emphasis on learning through research on critical issues including vector biology, communicable diseases, exposure assessment, air and water pollution, natural disasters and emergency health response; toxicology and environmental microbiology, occupational health and industrial ecology, community and neighborhood health assessments, risk mapping and health disparities, maternal and child health, comprehensive and alternative medicine, health promotion and communication, and international health. The program is fully accredited by the Counsel on Education for Public Health.

The Bachelor of Sciences (B.S.) in Public Health Sciences and the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Public Health Policy degree programs train students in multidisciplinary approaches to public health practice and research. The degrees explore both quantitative and qualitative aspects of public health at all levels of analysis. Graduates will advance, through selective employment or further education to become the new generation of public health professionals prepared to face the emerging challenges to human health from a population perspective using cutting-edge approaches to prevent disease.

The minor in Public Health provides students with the fundamental knowledge of principles, applications, and skills needed to develop a firm appreciation of health and disease prevention at the population level, and to use this special knowledge to transform the experience of their major education into innovative approaches for solving problems in health care and assessment.

Graduate students admitted to the Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) program complete core courses in biostatistics, environmental health science, epidemiology, health policy and management, and social and behavioral health. Emphasis areas in environmental health, epidemiology, or sociocultural diversity and health are available to M.P.H. students. An MD/MPH is under development, as well as a Ph.D. in Public Health with concentrations in Global Health and Disease Prevention.
honors is based on grade point average (GPA). A minimum overall GPA of 3.5 is required for consideration. In addition, outstanding Public Health students can be accepted into the Honors Research program, which requires completion of a sequence of Honors courses, and submission of a thesis developed under the supervision of a faculty member. Upon completion students will receive an Honors Certificate and an Honors notation on their transcript.

GHREAT

The Global Health Research Education and Translation (GHREAT) program at the University of California, Irvine is an extension of the UCI Global Health Framework Program, committed to developing a comprehensive global health education and training program at the university.

At GHREAT, we believe that healthy populations – in all regions of our living planet – are the foundation of sustainable societies, creating conditions that allow individuals to live to the full extent of human potential. We are dedicated to research and education, to expanding knowledge of the boundless interconnectedness of determinants of illness, and the translation of specific knowledge to improve the health and quality of life for peoples globally. We engage students, faculty and members of the community in our quest through specialized courses, seminars, degree programs, research projects, and community outreach activities. For more information: http://ghreat.uci.edu/

Scholarships, Awards, and Prizes

The Program in Public Health is cherishes the outstanding academic, research, and community-oriented accomplishments of our undergraduates. Each year, we present awards and prizes to recognize exceptionally strong performances in various aspects of public health. Faculty members typically nominate students and the recipients are presented with their awards at the annual Public Health undergraduate convocation ceremony.

Careers in Public Health

For graduates with bachelor’s degrees who wish to enter the job market directly, there is a plethora of opportunities in private agencies and public organizations for entry-level personnel in public health. These include statewide and regional health care agencies, community clinics focusing on preventive health, water and air quality management districts, biomedical companies, health-education institutions, and activist non-governmental organizations. In addition to supplying practitioners for the entry-level workforce in public health, the undergraduate degrees also prepare students to enter graduate programs in public health. Many of the graduates from our Bachelor’s degree programs are employed in the following fields:

- Consumer Health Research
- Counseling
- Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Environmental Consulting
- Epidemiology
- Global and International Health
- Health Care Administration
- Health Informatics
- Health Promotion
- Medical, Clinical or Laboratory Technology
- Medicine
- Occupational Health
- Policy Analyst/Administration
- Public Health Administration
- Public Health Law
- Public Health Nursing
- Public Health Services
- Research
- Social Work

Accommodations: Upon request, this publication will be made available in alternative formats for people with disabilities. Contact the UCI Disability Services Center; telephone (949) 824-7494, TDD 824-6272. The campus and all buildings are accessible by wheelchair.

Campus Safety: Pursuant to the Federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, UCI annually makes available to the public statistics on reported occurrences of criminal activity on and off campus and at UCI Medical Center at www.police.uci.edu/wrap/emic/jca.html.

Nondiscrimination Policy: The University of California, in accordance with applicable Federal and State law and University policy, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, medical condition (Cancer related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or service in the uniformed services. The University also prohibits sexual harassment. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission, access, and treatment in University programs and activities. For more information, call (949) 824-5594.