Minor in Public Health

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.

Teaching and learning. Public Health education demands interdisciplinary engagement. The minor curriculum is intended to engage students from majors across the campus by introducing them to the main concepts and branches of public health, while also giving them the skills and values needed to translate their major education into meaningful projects in population health assessment and disease prevention. In concert with the major degrees in public health, the minor emphasizes learning through the ecological model of public health where the linkages and relationships among multiple determinants affecting health are examined to identify critical nodes of opportunities to improve the health of populations at various scales of analysis.

Research. Public Health education is most firmly embedded in knowledge systems through research and practice. The minor curriculum requires a period of directed or special studies where students have the opportunity to translate their didactic knowledge into tangible projects within the rubric of public health practice.

Service. Public Health education also demands community engagement. All students of Public Health are encouraged to incorporate public health impacts and benefit assessments into societal functions that ground their understanding of public problems. Experience in public health service may be acquired through participation in learning opportunities and by reflecting critically on those experiences under the auspices of vigorous campus organizations such as the Public Health Association (www.pha-uci.org).

Requirements for the Minor:

Nine courses are required (36 units), no more than two of which may be taken on a Pass/Not Pass basis, distributed as follows:

A. Public Health 1 and 2.

B. Six upper-division courses in Public Health with a minimum of one course from at least four of the five subject cluster areas:
   1. Epidemiology, Genetics and Health Information (Public Health 102-107, 119)
   2. Health Policy and Management (Public Health 120-139, 166, 170, 190, 193)
   3. Social and Behavioral Health Science (Public Health 140-159, 176)
   4. Environmental and Global Health Science (Public Health 126, 160-179, 190, 193)
   5. Infectious and Chronic Diseases (Public Health 180-189)

C. Four units of Public Health 198 or Public Health 199 or equivalent, working on topics demonstrably related to public health research and/or practice. (PH 195W will NOT substitute for PH 198 or PH 199).

   *Public Health 194C, with the submission of a petition, may count for either an upper division topic area or 198/199.

*Students are required to submit a petition for research completed from departments other than Public Health.*

**The courses selected to fulfill this requirement must have Public Health number designations. Petitions to use alternative courses will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

*No more than two courses may overlap between the student’s major degree and the minor in Public Health.

*Residence Requirement: A minimum of six courses required for the minor must be completed at UCI. Approved courses taken in the Education Abroad Program are considered to be in-residence courses.*