Minor in Public Health

Community Members: Earn college credit for courses by applying through the admissions office. To enroll in any of the courses below as a visiting student, complete the “Community Student” application online: http://www.umkc.edu/apply/visiting.asp

Please note: As of Fall 2018, all courses must be completed with a grade of “C-“ or higher for minor credit.

Required Courses to earn Minor in Public Health:

21 Credit Hours:
PBHL 158 Public Health Principles
HLSC 345 Quantitative Analysis
PBHL 358 Environmental Public Health
HLSC 410 Epidemiology
HLSC 440 Policy and Ethics in Health
PBHL 445 Core Competencies in Health Education
PBHL 458 Communicable Disease Investigation

Course Descriptions

AVAILABLE ONLINE Fall & Spring
PBHL 158 Public Health Principles - 3 credit hours
This course will introduce the student to the core functions of public health, the ten essential services, core public health competencies, and the difference between population-based and individual health services. Through case studies and practice-related exercises, students will examine current health trends and issues applying a public health perspective.
Prerequisites: None

AVAILABLE ONLINE and ON CAMPUS Fall & Spring
HLSC 345 Quantitative Analysis - 3 credit hours
This course focuses upon the skills required for the utilization of scientific findings in evidence-based care. The conceptual basis of descriptive and inferential statistics found in the properties of the normal distribution comprise the core of these skills. Using the normal distribution as a structure for understanding descriptive and inferential procedures, the course presents information necessary to the selection, computation and interpretation of basic statistics relevant to evidence-based care in the health sciences. Discussions of variables, measurement and tabular and graphic presentation of data precede the development of computation skills.
Prerequisites: MATH 110 or Higher
PBHL 358 Environmental Public Health - 3 credit hours
In this course, students will explore environmental factors affecting public health. Students will be introduced to public health and the food industry, vector control and disease, chemical and biological hazards found in the environment, and their impact on population health. During the course students will learn how environmental health policy decisions have the potential to impact the health of the population.
Pre-requisites: HLSC 158

HLSC 410 Epidemiology – 3 credit hours
This course is an introduction to epidemiology with an emphasis on applications in public health. Students will learn the basic principles of epidemiology, including the relationship of biostatistics to epidemiology and public health, methods of disease investigation, epidemiological study designs and their uses and measures of effects. Through the course, students will be able to apply measures of disease incidence and prevalence, determine crude and adjusted rates, and explain the uses of screening tests and criteria for their evaluation, including measures of validity. The class will explore ways that epidemiology is used in environmental health and social sciences, as well as applications in molecular and genetic epidemiology.
Pre-requisites: HLSC 158 and HLSC 345

HLSC 440 Policy and Ethics in Health - 3 credit hours
This course distinguishes biomedical ethics from public health ethics, highlighting the driving principle of justice in public health policy. Historical and present ethical issues will be explored within a variety of health based organizations and settings. The relationship of how ethics drives policy decisions and improves health outcomes will be discussed. The course will also examine how health policy is created in relationship to core ethical theories and public health justifications.
Pre-requisites for current BHS students: HLSC 101 and HLSC 300
Pre-requisites for students pursuing Minor in Public Health or Community Students: HLSC 158 and permission from instructor

PBHL 445 Core Competencies in Health Education - 3 credit hours
This course is designed to enforce the core areas of responsibility required to become a professional health educator. Course content will include the skills required to assess needs, assets and capacity for health education, plan, implement, and evaluate health programs, administer and manage health education programs, serve as a resource person, and communicate and advocate for health and health education. Students will begin preparing for the certification exam offered through the National Commission for Health Education.
Pre-requisites for current BHS students: HLSC 101 OR HLSC 158 and HLSC 430
Pre-requisites for students pursuing Minor in Public Health or Community Students: HLSC 158 and Permission from instructor

PBHL 458 Communicable Disease Investigation- 3 credit hours
This course will introduce students to communicable disease control and investigation. Throughout the course, students will learn how to identify outbreaks, explore disease investigation tools, and identify disease causes. Students will investigate the spread of disease among humans, animals, and the environment. The history of disease containment, evolution of disease control, and specific interventions developed to protect the public will be explored.
Pre-requisites: HLSC 158 Public Health Principles and HLSC 410 Epidemiology