

Public Health and Communication Studies, BA (Oakland)

The combined Bachelor of Arts in Public Health and Communication Studies offers an interdisciplinary approach to public health communication. Students combine courses from public health, social sciences, and communication studies to study the important role of communication in shaping the public's understanding of health issues. The interdisciplinary curriculum is enhanced by experiential learning opportunities and is designed to prepare students for challenging careers that involve crafting messages about health, developing strategies for promoting access to healthcare services, and specific applications such as disease awareness and prevention.

Program Requirements

Complete all courses listed below unless otherwise indicated. Also complete any corequisite labs, recitations, clinicals, or tools courses where specified and complete any additional courses needed beyond specific college and major requirements to satisfy graduation credit requirements.

Universitywide Requirements

All undergraduate students are required to complete the Universitywide Requirements (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/university-academics/university-wide-requirements/>).

BA Language Requirements

All BA students are required to complete the BA degree language requirements, for a total of 12 semester hours of language study or demonstrated equivalent proficiency, as described in Additional Requirements for BA students (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/university-academics/nupath/ba-requirements/>). Successful demonstration of proficiency does not reduce total minimum semester hours of study required to earn the BA degree.

NUpath Requirements

All undergraduate students are required to complete the NUpath Requirements (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/university-academics/nupath/>).

Public Health Requirements

PUBLIC HEALTH CORE

Code	Title	Hours
PHTH 1260 or PHTH 1261	The American Healthcare System Comparative Healthcare Systems	4
PHTH 2210	Foundations of Biostatistics	4
PHTH 2300 or PHTH 2301	Communication Skills for the Health Professions Communication Skills for the Health Professions—Global	4
PHTH 2350 or PHTH 2351	Community and Public Health Community and Public Health - Global	4
PHTH 2515	Healthcare Policy and Administration	4
PHTH 4120	Global Perspectives on Discrimination and Health	4
PHTH 4202	Principles of Epidemiology in Medicine and Public Health	4
PHTH 4540	Health Education and Program Planning	4

SCIENCE REQUIREMENTS

Code	Title	Hours
Psychology		
PSYC 1101	Foundations of Psychology	4
Biology		
Complete one of the following options:		8-10
<i>Option 1</i>		
BIOL 1141 or BIOL 1143	Microbes and Society Biology and Society	
BIOL 1147	The Human Organism	
<i>Option 2</i>		
BIOL 1111 and BIOL 1112	General Biology 1 and Lab for BIOL 1111	
BIOL 1113 and BIOL 1114	General Biology 2 and Lab for BIOL 1113	

PUBLIC HEALTH SOCIAL SCIENCE REQUIREMENTS

Code	Title	Hours
Introductory Course		
Complete one of the following:		4
ANTH 1101	Peoples and Cultures	
ECON 1115 and ECON 1125	Principles of Macroeconomics and Recitation for ECON 1115	
ECON 1116 and ECON 1126	Principles of Microeconomics and Recitation for ECON 1116	
ENGL 1300	Introduction to Health and Humanities	
HUSV 1101	Social Change and Human Services	
INTL 1101	Globalization and International Affairs	
PHIL 1101	Introduction to Philosophy	
POLS 1160	International Relations	
SOCL 1101	Introduction to Sociology	
Upper-Level Course		
Complete one of the following (categories are provided for reference):		3-4
<i>Society and Behavior</i>		
ANTH 3441	Medical Anthropology	
CRIM 3040	Psychology of Crime	
HLTH 5280	The (in)Visibility of (dis)Ability in Society	
PHTH 5222	Health Advocacy	
PSYC 3402	Social Psychology	
PSYC 3404	Developmental Psychology	
PSYC 3450	Learning and Motivation	
SOCL 3241	Violence and Society	
SOCL 3441	Sociology of Health and Illness	
SOCL 4520	Race, Class, and Gender	
<i>Globalization and Global Health</i>		
AFCS 3424	Epidemiology of Pandemic Diseases and Health Disparities in the African Diaspora	
ECON 3404	International Food Policy	
INTL 3200 or INTL 3201	Cities in a Global Context Cities in a Global Context (Abroad)	
INTL 3400	International Conflict and Negotiation	
POLS 3487	Politics of Developing Nations	
<i>Environmental Health and Climate Change</i>		
ECON 3423	Environmental Economics	
INTL 5100 or PPUA 5100	Climate and Development Climate and Development	
PPUA 5238	Climate Change and Global Urbanization	
<i>Law, Policy, and Human Rights</i>		
ECON 3424	Law and Economics	
PHIL 5001	Global Justice	
PHIL 5002	Ethics and Public Policy	
POLS 3307	Public Policy and Administration	
<i>Healthcare Administration and Management</i>		
ECON 3413	Health Economics and Healthcare Policy	
MGMT 3340	Healthcare Management, Innovation, and Design	
ORGB 3201	Organizational Behavior	
PHTH 4511	Healthcare Management	
PHTH 5232	Evaluating Healthcare Quality	
PHTH 5234	Economic Perspectives on Health Policy	

Communication Studies Requirements

REQUIRED COURSES

Code	Title	Hours
COMM 1101	Introduction to Communication Studies	4
COMM 1112 or COMM 2301	Public Speaking Communication Research Methods	4

FOUNDATION COURSE

Code	Title	Hours
Complete one of the following:		4
COMM 1210	Persuasion and Rhetoric	
COMM 1225	Communication Theory	
COMM 1231	Principles of Organizational Communication	
COMM 1255	Communication in a Digital Age	

CLUSTER COURSE

Code	Title	Hours
Complete one of the following:		4
COMM 1131	Sex, Relationships, and Communication	
COMM 2303	Global and Intercultural Communication	
COMM 2304	Communication and Gender	
COMM 2501	Communication Law	
COMM 2551	Free Speech in Cyberspace	

WRITING-INTENSIVE COURSES

Code	Title	Hours
Complete two of the following:		8
COMM 3200	Mobile Communication	
COMM 3201	Health Communication	
COMM 3230	Interpersonal Communication	
COMM 3304	Communication and Inclusion	
COMM 3320	Political Communication	
COMM 3415	Communication Criticism	
COMM 3445	Public Relations Principles	
COMM 3500	Environmental Issues, Communication, and the Media	
COMM 3501	Free Speech: Law and Practice	
COMM 3530	Communication and Sexualities	
COMM 3532	Theories of Conflict and Negotiation	
COMM 4535	Nonverbal Social Interaction	
COMM 4605	Youth and Communication Technology	
COMM 4631	Crisis Communication and Image Management	

COMMUNICATION STUDIES ELECTIVES

Code	Title	Hours
Complete three additional COMM courses.		12

Supporting Course Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Introduction to College (based on home college)		
Complete one of the following:		1
COMM 1000	Communication Studies at Northeastern	
HSCI 1000	College: An Introduction	
Co-op Preparation (based on home college)		
Complete one of the following:		1
EEAM 2000	Professional Development for Co-op	
HSCI 2000	Professional Development for Bouvé Co-op	

Writing Courses

ENGW 1111	First-Year Writing	4
<i>Advanced Writing in the Disciplines</i>		
Complete one of the following:		4
ENGW 3306	Advanced Writing in the Health Professions	
ENGW 3314	Advanced Writing in the Arts, Media, and Design	

Capstone and Integrative Course

Complete one of the following:		3-4
COMM 4102	Health Communication Campaigns	
HINF 5301	Evaluating Health Technologies	
HSCI 4720	Health Science Capstone—Service ¹	
HSCI 4730	Health Science Capstone—Research ¹	
HSCI 4740	Health Science Capstone Seminar	
HSCI 4970 and HSCI 4971	Junior/Senior Honors Project 1 and Junior/Senior Honors Project 2 ²	
PHTH 4515	Critical Issues in Health and Public Health Policy	
PHTH 4602	Private Guns, Public Health	
PHTH 4616	Addressing Rural Health Inequities	
PHTH 4717	Advancing Health Justice Through the Law	
PHTH 5214	Environmental Health	
PHTH 5230	Global Health	
PHTH 5236	Food, Nutrition, and Health	
PHTH 5603	Qualitative Methods	

¹ Must complete 0-semester-hour Health Science Capstone Introduction (HSCI 4700) course as a prerequisite.

² Junior/Senior Honors Project 1 (HSCI 4970) will count as a 4-semester-hour general elective.

General Electives

Code	Title	Hours
Complete remaining semester hours and NUPath requirements with general electives courses.		

Public Health Major Requirement

A grade of C or higher is required for the public health core, science requirement, public health social science requirement, and HSCI and PHTH capstone courses. Students who take College: An Introduction (HSCI 1000) and Professional Development for Bouvé Co-op (HSCI 2000) must achieve a C or higher.

Communication Studies Grade Requirement

No more than two grades below a C in COMM courses may be used to fulfill degree requirements.

Program Requirement

128 total semester hours required

Plan of Study**Sample Plans of Study****FOUR YEARS/TWO CO-OPS IN SPRING/SUMMER FIRST HALF—BOUVÉ STUDENT**

Year 1					
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours
HSCI 1000		1 ENGW 1111		4 General elective	4
PHTH 1260	4	BIOL course (see options)	4	PHTH core course	4
PSYC 1101	4	Elementary language course	4		
BIOL course (see options)	4	General elective	4		
Elementary language course	4				
17		16		8	

Year 2							
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
HSCI 2000		1 Co-op		0 Co-op		0 ENGW 3306	4
PHTH 2210	4			General elective		4 PHTH core course	4
COMM 1101	4						
COMM 1112 or 2301	4						
COMM elective	4						
	17			0		4	8

Year 3							
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
PH social science course (introductory)	4	Co-op		0 Co-op		0 PHTH core courses	8
PHTH core course	4			General elective		4	
COMM foundation course	4						
COMM elective	4						
	16			0		4	8

Year 4							
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
COMM cluster course	4	COMM elective	4				
PHTH core course	4	COMM writing-intensive course	4				
COMM writing-intensive course	4	PH social science course (upper)	3-4				
Capstone course	3-4	Intermediate language course	4				
	15-16		15-16				

Total Hours: 128-130

FOUR YEARS/TWO CO-OPS IN SUMMER SECOND HALF/FALL—CAMD STUDENT

Year 1							
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
COMM 1000		1 PSYC 1101		4 General elective		4	
PHTH 1260	4	BIOL course (see options)		4 PHTH core course		4	
ENGW 1111	4	Elementary language course		4			
BIOL course (see options)	4	General elective		4			
Elementary language course	4						
	17			16		8	

Year 2							
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
COMM 1101		4 EEAM 2000		1 ENGW 3314		4 Co-op	0
COMM 1112 or 2301	4	PHTH 2210		4 PHTH core course		4	
COMM foundation course	4	COMM cluster course		4			
COMM elective	4	PHTH core course		4			
		PH social science course (introductory)		4			
	16			17		8	0

Year 3							
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
Co-op	0	PHTH 4202		4 PHTH core courses		8 Co-op	0
General elective	4	COMM writing-intensive course		4			
		COMM elective		4			

		Intermediate language course	4		
		4	16	8	0
Year 4					
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours		
Co-op		0 COMM elective	4		
General elective	4	Capstone course	3-4		
		COMM writing-intensive course	4		
		PH social science course (upper)	3-4		
		4	14-16		

Total Hours: 128-130