

Public health practitioners work to solve the world's most pressing health problems.

Their work focuses on preventing disease, implementing educational programs, conducting research and optimizing health systems. Public health professionals change lives by creating healthier communities, reducing the impact of natural disasters and global epidemics and addressing health disparities.

Through a variety of undergraduate and graduate degree options, faculty in the School of Public and Community Health Sciences (SPCHS) provide students with multidisciplinary skills to address the unique challenges of rural and global public health issues. Accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health, the SPCHS at the University of Montana is the first and only public health accredited program in Montana.

Through collaborative work at the intersection of many disciplines, UM Public Health students:

- Conduct undergraduate and graduate research related to public and community health.
- Through internships and capstones, gain experience in health departments, at nonprofits, at primary health care sites, and internationally.
- Become highly marketable through multidisciplinary coursework.
- and much, much more!

Public health graduates work in health education and behavioral health, in health administration, as epidemiologists and biostatisticians, and in the area of environmental health. Overall employment of health educators and community health workers is projected to grow 16 percent by 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations.



Joshua Brown

Graduate Student from St. Ignatius, Montana

"When you're doing research working with communities, the process takes longer, but it'll be more rewarding and sustainable in the long run," Brown said. "UM teaches you to work with a community to solve a problem, not outside or above it."



Delaney Wells

Undergraduate student from Bakersfield, California

"UM has that homey feeling to it, it's really a community. Students and faculty want to see everyone be successful in their own ways – whatever that might look like. I've found a really supportive and encouraging group here."



Julia Goar

Graduate Student from Silverdale, Washington

"I view public health as the science and art of improving life for everybody."



Bobby Sonsteng

Alumnus from Lake Stevens, Washington

"The professors are all very caring and passionate teachers. They aren't there just to give you your slides and your tests and go home. They are actually there to try and make a difference in the world. We are their tools for that, so they supply us with everything they can to get us as prepared as possible."