

Bachelor of Science in Health Community Health Track



Frequently Asked Questions

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Community Health program is to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed for entry-level community health positions, Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) certification, and graduate studies. Graduates will be trained to *plan, implement and evaluate health programs, develop theoretically based strategies, and demonstrate problem solving, critical thinking, and technical skills*. Through excellence in teaching, research, and service the UNF Community Health Program will meet the growing needs of enhancing health at both the individual and community levels.

What can I do with a Major in Health Science following the Community Health Track?

Students gain experience and skills in promoting healthy behaviors and preventing both chronic and infectious disease and injury, while learning the theories and research methods necessary in this profession. Health Education professionals design, conduct and evaluate activities that help improve the health of all people. These activities can take place in a variety of settings that include *schools, communities, churches, worksites, businesses, colleges, government agencies, health care facilities, voluntary health agencies, health maintenance organizations, correctional institutions, private clubs & self help groups*.

Health educators are employed under a range of job titles such as patient educators, health education teachers, trainers, wellness coordinator, community organizers, and health program managers. Additional jobs may include: grant writing, coalition building, advocacy, mass media campaign development & evaluation, coordinated school health program implementation, and risk assessment. With additional training, students with this degree can also teach health in the K-12 school system.

Where have our graduates been hired?

- Area Health Education Centers
- Jacksonville Electric Authority
- Health Fitness
- Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida
- First Coast YMCA
- Duval County Health Department
- Jacksonville Orthopedic Institute
- Centers for Disease Control
- Lifescan
- Health Designs
- American Cancer Society
- American Heart Association
- NAS Wellness Center
- Planned Parenthood
- UNF Office of Health Promotions

Will I have the opportunity to be involved in community outreach services?

Students are encouraged to volunteer in community health settings and to participate in the Eta Sigma Gamma National Health Education Honorary Society. There are a number of varied community outreach projects available for student participation. These types of projects are typically posted on the BSH student website, program display board, and/or announced in various classes.

What can I expect in my Community Health classes?

You will learn health content information in fitness, nutrition, human sexuality, substance abuse and violence prevention, mental/emotional health, chronic and infectious disease, and aging as well as strategies to improve the health knowledge, attitudes, skills, and behavior of individuals and communities. Students are taught to be problem solvers who understand contemporary health issues and ultimately learn how to do the following: assess individual and community health education needs; plan, implement, and evaluate health education programs; coordinate the provision of health education services; act as a resource person in health education; and communicate health and health education needs, concerns and resources.

Does the Community Health Program have a required minor?

Yes, Community Health track students gain an area of specialization (minor) in Health Education.

Health Education encompasses improving the health status of individuals, families and communities, reducing premature deaths, enhancing quality of life, and focusing on prevention through behavior change strategies in any of the following areas: alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, human sexuality, nutrition, weight management, fitness, chronic and infectious disease, or mental/emotional health.

Will I have the opportunity to complete an internship?

Yes, students will complete a six credit hour Community Service Internship after completing all required coursework. The internship is designed as a culminating experience which allows the student to apply the knowledge and skills gained in the program under careful observation and in cooperation with a skilled practitioner in a selected work setting.

Will I have the opportunity to study abroad?

There are opportunities to study abroad in collaboration with other department programs.

Will I be able to pursue a master's degree?

Yes. Depending on your career goals, you may want to pursue the Master's degree in a related field, such as in Public Health or one of the other graduate programs offered in the Brooks College of Health.

***For additional information on this major and its career opportunities, including CHES certification, the following resource and websites are recommended:**

1. Rachel Martin, Career Coordinator: Brooks College of Health Career Services.
(904) 620-3497, r.martin@unf.edu.
2. <http://www.nchec.org/> The National Commission for Health Education Credentialing
3. <http://www.aahperd.org/aahe/> American Association for Health Education