HEALTH SCIENCE

The health science program leading to the Bachelor of Health Science (BHS) degree includes didactic and experiential activities for students to learn the foundation skills necessary for success in the dynamic health environment.

About this Program

• College: Public Health and Health Professions
• Degree: Bachelor of Health Science
• Credits for Degree: 120
• Specializations: General Health Science | Pre-Occupational Therapy | Pre-Physical Therapy | Preprofessional
• Additional Information
• Related Health Science Programs

To graduate with this major, students must complete all university, college, and major requirements.

The program has two major goals: to teach foundational skills to students whose career goal is to work in health care, particularly for those who want to become health care providers, and to teach foundational skills to students who want to work with individuals, groups or communities who face social, economic or health challenges. In addition, interested students have the opportunity to explore a combined-degree program in public health.

The college offers four specializations in the freshman and sophomore years: health science general, preprofessional, pre-occupational therapy, and pre-physical therapy.

• The health science general specialization is designed for students who want to work in a health care field not mentioned in the other specializations below. The number of electives allowed in this specialization affords the student the opportunity to incorporate a range of prerequisites for different career paths.
• The health science preprofessional specialization is designed for students pursuing careers in fields such as medicine, physician assistant and dentistry, all of which require significant basic science prerequisites. This specialization is set up to integrate commonly required preprofessional courses with requirements for the health science major.
• The pre-occupational therapy specialization offers the core health science curriculum plus OT prerequisites necessary for the Master of Occupational Therapy program at UF.
• The pre-physical therapy specialization offers a suggested prerequisite course sequence for students interested in pursuing entry-level physical therapy education at the graduate/professional level.

The health science general, preprofessional and pre-PT specializations collapse into one track beginning in the junior year and follow the same core curriculum, focusing on the health care system, different diseases and disabilities, the role of the health care provider in prevention and treatment, research methods and understanding core public health concepts. The senior year focuses on patient provider communication, effective leadership and critical-thinking skills important to clinical problem solving and the bioethical and legal issues impacting health care.

Regardless of specialization selected, students complement core courses with electives to round out their academic skills and interests.

Upon successful completion of the health science program, students receive the Bachelor of Health Science degree. While the majority of students pursue graduate or professional training in a health field (e.g. occupational therapy, physical therapy, medicine, physician assistant, health administration, dentistry, public health), some students seek employment in hospital or related community organizations after completing the B.H.S.

Course Sequence

While all specializations are designed for students interested in health care, students should select the specialization that most closely approximates their career plans and overall academic performance. Included in specific tracks are typical prerequisites for UF graduate and professional programs.

All course specializations in the health science program require a minimum 3.0 overall and prerequisite GPA for admission at the junior level.

Each specialization incorporates general education math and writing requirements and health science prerequisites. All specializations accept AP or IB credit for one prerequisite course. All other prerequisite courses must be completed with minimum grades of C at the university level. Students should consult a college advisor if they need assistance or have questions about a specific course schedule.

Students must apply by February 1 for Summer B or Fall admission. All prerequisites must be completed by the end of Summer A. However, for admission consideration at the junior level, all students must have completed the following or equivalents before the application deadline:

- BSC 2005 or BSC 2010: Biological Sciences
- PSY 2012: General Psychology
- STA 2023 or DEP 3053: Statistics
- CLP 3144 or Integrated Principles of Biology 1: Abnormal Psychology

Other remaining prerequisites should be in progress at the time of application or completed by the end of the Summer A term.

Related Health Science Programs

• Bachelor of Public Health
• Health Science minor

Academic Learning Compact

The Bachelor of Health Science prepares students for a career in health care systems or organizations that provide health or general human services to individuals/communities with health concerns. Students will learn the foundational interprofessional skills necessary to succeed in the dynamic healthcare environment and/or enter postbaccalaureate academic programs such as medicine, physical therapy and public health.
Before Graduating Students Must

• Receive a satisfactory grade (S) in the BHS capstone portfolio.
• Complete requirements for the baccalaureate degree, as determined by faculty.

Students in the Major Will Learn to

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Content
1. Describe key elements of the U.S. healthcare system.
2. Comprehensively describe major chronic illnesses and disabilities.
3. Describe the core functions of public health.
4. Apply knowledge and application of core bioethical principles to contemporary health issues.
5. Develop appropriate professional behaviors for health careers.

Critical Thinking
6. Develop and apply critical analysis skills to contemporary health issues.

Communication
7. Apply effective basic communication skills for health professionals.

Curriculum Map

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Assessment Types

• Assignment
• The Bachelor of Health Science (BHS) capstone exam in the final semester
• The degree candidate’s exit survey