

BS in Health Science

The Bachelor of Science in health science (BSHS) is a preprofessional degree program specifically designed to prepare students for admission to a variety of undergraduate and graduate clinical education programs (nursing, dental hygiene, medical laboratory sciences, physical therapy, physician assistant, occupational therapy, or medical, dental, optometry, and pharmacy school). Departmental courses provide an important and competitive advantage bringing healthcare systems knowledge into students' professional training as a clinical health provider. Students complete courses that provide foundations in hard sciences, mathematics, health services delivery, population health assessment and leadership. Additional program content includes an introduction to public health, health services management, aging studies and ethics. Successful graduates of the BSHS additionally complete an applied learning professional portfolio.

Program Learning Objectives

1. Communicate public health information, in both oral and written forms and through a variety of media, to diverse audiences.
2. Locate, use, evaluate and synthesize public health information.
3. Exhibit understanding of the evolution of public health and the healthcare system and their roles and issues across local, national and global health systems.
4. Demonstrate ability to use data to promote, protect and assure improved health outcomes and knowledge.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of health leadership, management and policy using systems thinking.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of social, behavioral, cultural and environmental factors that impact health.
7. Demonstrate understanding of health ethics.
8. Demonstrate introductory knowledge of clinical sciences.

Admission to the College of Health Professions

Students choosing to study health science are admitted to the BS in health science degree program. They are assigned a college advisor who assists them in meeting the requirements for the degree.

Program Requirements

A minimum total of 120 credit hours is required for the BS in health science. Students in the health science degree program are required to maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.000 with no individual program course generating a grade less than 1.700 credit points per credit hour. In addition to meeting the requirements of the WSU General Education Program (<http://catalog.wichita.edu/undergraduate/academic-information/general-education-program/>) and the requirements of the College of Health Professions, students in the BS in health science program must take the following courses:

Course	Title	Hours
General Education		
Select courses to meet General Education requirements ¹		34-35
Health Science Required Courses		
MLS 203 or MLS 303	Medical Terminology	2-3
PHIL 327	Bioethics	3
PHS 100	Introduction to Aging Studies	3
PHS 101	Introduction to Public Health	3
PHS 310	Introduction to U.S. Healthcare and Administration	3
PHS 300	Careers in Healthcare	3

PHS 325	Epidemiology	3
PHS 344	Culturally Informed Healthcare	3
PHS 356	Foundations of Healthcare Policy, Law and Ethics	3
PHS 408	Adaptive Leadership	3
PHS 410	Health Communication	3

Program Mathematics and Natural Sciences Electives

Select a minimum of 15 credit hours from the following (general education courses from this area may also be used to meet general education program requirements). Courses must be passed with a C- or higher.

Any BIOL, CHEM, HS and MATH course 100 level or above		
ECON 231	Introductory Business Statistics	
HPS 490	Physiology of Exercise	
HPS 762	Statistical Concepts in Human Performance Studies	
MLS 311	Biochemistry for Clinical Scientists	
PHS 331	Principles of Diet and Nutrition	
MLS 405	Medical Immunology	
PHYS 131	Physics for Health Sciences	
PHYS 111	Introductory Physics	
PHYS 213	General College Physics I	
PHYS 214	General College Physics II	
PHYS 313 & PHYS 315	Physics for Scientists I and University Physics Lab I	
PHYS 314 & PHYS 316	Physics for Scientists II and University Physics Lab II	
PSY 301	Psychological Statistics	
STAT 370	Elementary Statistics	

Required Before Graduation

Applied Learning Portfolio

Open Electives

Select enough electives to reach 120 credit hours 37-39

Total Credit Hours 120

¹ Required major courses may also count towards General Education requirements. Students will need to select additional electives to reach 120 credit hours required for graduation with assistance from an advisor.

Requirements for Graduation

Students in the health science degree program are required to complete the applied learning portfolio as part of the degree requirement. Activities required fall under the following areas: career readiness, scholarship, volunteerism and service learning, and professionalism and interprofessional education. Activities will be compiled and submitted as the applied learning component of the HS degree program.

To be eligible for graduation from Wichita State University, students must have 120 acceptable credit hours toward their degree and a grade point average (GPA) in the major of 2.000. Students transferring from a two-year college must complete at least 45 credit hours of upper-division coursework to qualify for graduation. Public health sciences (PHS) departmental policy requires a program cumulative grade point average of 2.000, with no individual program course generating a grade less than 1.700 credit points per credit hour.

Departmental Honors Program

Scholarship and research are encouraged at the undergraduate level. Students who meet the qualifications should explore adding the honors program to their undergraduate major. Students who are not PHS majors and are involved in the Cohen Honors College, should contact the PHS department for permission to enroll in these courses, as appropriate.

Admission requirements include:

1. Status as a PHS major;
2. An overall GPA of 3.500 in all major coursework;
3. A one-page, double-spaced letter describing reasons for applying to the honors track, goals and potential benefits to participating in the program; and
4. Agreement by a PHS faculty member to mentor the final project.

Honors Program Requirements

Students admitted to the PHS honors track must complete the following:

1. Maintain a 3.500 cumulative GPA in all major coursework;
2. Be a participating member of the Health, Education, Advocates for Leadership, Teamwork and Humanity (HEALTH) student organization;
3. Maintain a portfolio of assignments, activities and reflections throughout the honors track;
4. Complete and present a mentored scholarly activity during the last year of the program by enrolling in a 1-3 credit hours of PHS 401H Field Research Public Health Science Honors; and
5. Enroll in and complete the honors assignments with a minimum of 12 credit hours of PHS coursework selected from the following options:

Course	Title	Hours
PHS 325H	Epidemiology Honors	3
PHS 344H	Culturally Informed Healthcare Honors	3
PHS 356H	Foundations of Healthcare Policy, Law and Ethics Honors	3
PHS 408H	Adaptive Leadership Honors	3
PHS 410H	Health Communication Honors	3

Students who have previously taken the courses above without honors can contact their advisor to see how they can earn honors credit.

Applied Learning

Students in the Bachelor of Science in health science program are required to complete an applied learning or research experience to graduate from this program. The requirement can be met by successfully completing the applied learning portfolio (<https://www.wichita.edu/phs/applied-learning-portfolio/>)¹.

¹ Link opens new window.

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For more information and a program handbook, contact the undergraduate coordinator by email: phs@wichita.edu, by phone at 316-978-3060, or visit the department of public health sciences website (<http://wichita.edu/phs/>)¹.