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The Hood College

Public Health, B.A.

hood.edu/public-health



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PUBLIC HEALTH, B.A.

A bachelor's degree in public health offers a health professions option that allows you to address professional and global challenges. The major enriches existing offerings by providing an option for those with an interest in a health-related program that is not nursing, or direct, hands-on care.

Public health encompasses science, math, human behavior, psychology, communication, sociology — all of which are a part of a Hood education. This highly interdisciplinary program epitomizes Hood's mission of providing students a compressive liberal arts education integrated with professional offerings.

The public health degree's core curriculum will include an array of specialized coursework, all of which is purposefully aligned to achieve specific academic competencies of the Council for Education in Public Health (CEPH), the accrediting agency for stand-alone academic programs in public health. As part of the public health core curriculum, you will complete a year-long applied learning experience and may use elective credits to pursue a related course of study (minor or certificate).

An understanding of public health is a critical component of good citizenship and a prerequisite for taking responsibility for building healthy societies. It serves as a vehicle for the development of written and oral communication skills, critical and creative thinking, quantitative and information literacy, and teamwork and problem solving. It incorporates civic knowledge and engagement — both local and global intercultural competence, and ethical reasoning and action, while forming the foundation for lifelong learning.

You will be prepared with a well-rounded educational experience that will prepare you as an entry-level professional in sectors including government, nonprofit consultation and advocacy organizations. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects significant increases in occupations spanning the public health sector, stating, "Health care industries and their associated occupations are expected to account for a large share of new jobs projected through 2026, as the aging population continues to drive demand for health care services."



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The small number of existing undergraduate public health programs, paired with trends in public health occupation needs, make the B.A. in public health a marketable demand that Hood College graduates could help supply. Additionally, the undergraduate program can help transition talented students into graduate public health programs and to a certification in public health (CPH) offered through the National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE).

Accepting students in fall 2020, this program was developed by Hood faculty from nursing, biology, psychology, counseling, social work and sociology, working in consultation with the Dean of the School of Public Health at East Tennessee State University (outside consultant), professionals at CEPH, regional health partners, and program leaders at Northeastern University, George Washington University and Johns Hopkins University.

This program is positioned to become the first accredited Bachelor of Arts in Public Health in the state.

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About Hood

Founded in 1893 in Frederick, Maryland, Hood College is a coeducational, independent, liberal arts college, which offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees and post-baccalaureate certificates. Home to approximately 1,100 undergraduate students from 25 states and 15 countries, Hood offers 28 majors, more than 45 minors, and pre-professional preparation in medicine, veterinary science, pharmacy, dentistry and law. Hood students experience small class sizes, where they receive individual attention from supportive faculty. With its proximity to Washington, D.C., Baltimore and the I-270 biotech corridor, Hood gives its students access to countless internships and research opportunities.

At Hood, we are challenging students to improve their critical thinking, communication and collaborative skills and preparing them not just for their first jobs, but for their careers. For high-achieving students, we offer a four-year honors program with a living and learning setting expanding the curriculum with an emphasis on interdisciplinary education through discussion-based seminars, collaborative projects and experiential learning opportunities. Eighty-five percent of first-year students live on campus; more than 40 campus clubs and organizations as well as 22 NCAA Division III athletic teams and two club-level athletic teams create an active and vibrant campus environment.

Hood, in addition to its exceptional undergraduate programs, also offers 19 master's degrees, 10 certificate programs and two doctoral programs. Our graduate programs are designed to work in tandem with our bachelor's degrees so that students can take advantage of dual-degree programs. Hood is located in a fantastic college town; students are within walking distance of shops, galleries and restaurants and a vibrant downtown. A tremendous alumni network offers students and graduates mentoring, connections, guidance and advice. The Princeton Review, U.S. News & World Report and many other publications have recognized Hood as an affordable top-tier institution.



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