FAQs
UNCW – BS – Public Health Studies (PHS)

If you have any other questions please contact Dr. Randall Cottrell at cottrellr@uncw.edu.

**General Questions:**

**How do I become a student in your department?**
- You can declare PHS as your major or you can change your major to PHS at any time through your SeaPort account. There is no application process as this time.

**Are scholarships available?**
- There are currently no UNCW scholarships that are limited to just PHS students. There are many university-wide scholarships that you may qualify for, as well as some external scholarships for students pursuing degrees in Public Health which you could pursue.

**Are summer classes available in PHS?**
- Yes. PHS classes are offered in both Summer I and Summer II sessions.

**What are the prerequisites for your program?**
- Students pursuing the B.S. in PHS are required to take Anatomy and Physiology I and II as well as STT 215. It is recommended that students take those courses as part of their University Studies requirements, but it is not required that you complete those courses before declaring your PHS major.

**What can I do with a degree in PHS?**
- Graduates from the PHS program meet the diverse needs for health educators in a variety of settings such as health departments, public schools, colleges, public and nonprofit health agencies, professional organizations, hospital health promotion centers, government agencies and corporate and commercial wellness centers. Graduates may find themselves implementing and evaluating programs dealing with unhealthy behaviors such as tobacco use, obesity, drugs and alcohol, violence, healthy sexual behavior, as well as programs that promote exercise, nutrition and overall good health practices. Students wishing to pursue graduate education typically go on to programs in Public Health, Health Education/Promotion, and Nutrition.

**How employable will I be with a degree in PHS?**
- The demand for public health professionals continues to rise in response to global concerns such as bioterrorism, potential pandemics, HIV and AIDS, and air and water quality issues. Additionally, rising insurance costs and increased awareness of public health and wellness have generated corporate and government support for prevention and education programs in areas such as diet, diabetes, obesity, tobacco use and workplace safety, among others. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of health educators is expected to grow by 37 percent from 2010 to 2020, much faster than the average for all occupations. Growth will be driven by efforts to reduce healthcare costs by teaching people about healthy habits and behaviors.

**Is there a particular course sequence I must follow?**
- There is not a required sequence in PHS. Once you declare the PHS major you will be assigned an advisor who will review your audit and assist you in developing an individual curriculum plan.
Does your program offer online classes?
- Currently the only CORE PHS course offered online is the Capstone course. Some electives are offered online.

When should I declare my major in PHS?
- You can declare your major through your SeaPort account after completing 24 credit hours.

Am I required to complete all University Studies prior to beginning PHS?
- No

Transfer Questions:

I am a transfer student. Am I required to take a course at UNCW prior to declaring my major in PHS?
- No

I am a transfer student from a PHS program at another school. Will my courses be transferrable to the PHS program at UNCW?
- Any related courses will be evaluated to assess if they meet the competencies of the courses that are required for the UNCW PHS program.