PUBLIC HEALTH

Associate of Applied Science Degree

The associate of applied science degree in public health provides the initial coursework to prepare students for a career in public health. Public health is an exciting area of practice which takes a population-based focus to health. Individuals in this field interpret community data to determine health needs and intervention priorities. In addition to needs assessment, they work with community leaders to plan, implement, and evaluate community health education interventions such as smoking cessation, chronic and infectious disease awareness campaigns, vaccination programs, and family planning and prenatal care initiatives. This program is ideal for those who like to work with the public, yet who also like to take the broader view of how to promote the health of communities and groups of citizens.

The associate degree program fully articulates with the bachelor of public health degree program offered at the main NMSU campus in the Department of Health Science, which also offers the master of public health in community health education at the graduate level. The courses in this associate of applied science in public health curriculum at DACC will meet the majority of NMSU’s general education degree requirements and are designed to give students a full overview of what public health and community health education practice is all about. There are no special admissions criteria for this program, but prospective majors should arrange an initial degree advising session with a health occupations faculty member in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Division. The faculty member will also be able to advise students regarding choices for elective courses.

NOTE: The Associate Degree in Public Health may be obtained entirely online.

PHLS 100. Introduction to Health Science
1 Credit
An overview of professional career opportunities in the realm of health science as well as the functional roles of practice, education, administration, and research. Some field trips will be required.

PHLS 150G. Personal Health and Wellness
3 Credits
A holistic and multi-disciplinary approach towards promoting positive lifestyles. Special emphasis is placed on major problems that have greatest significance to personal and community health. Topics to include nutrition, stress management, fitness, aging, sexuality, drug education, and others.

PHLS 275. Foundations of Health Education
3 Credits
Role and responsibility of the health educator with emphasis on small group dynamics, oral and written communication skills, building community coalitions and an introduction to grant writing. Taught with HL S 375. Cannot receive credit for both HL S 275 and HL S 375. Prerequisite(s): Either HL S 100 or HL S 150G, or consent of instructor.

PHLS 295. Essentials of Public Health
3 Credits
The course will focus on principles and major areas if public health, including ecological and total personal concept of health care system, epidemiological approaches to disease prevention and control. Consent of Instructor required.

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