

# PUBLIC HEALTH

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## Associate of Public Health Degree

*The Associate of Public Health (APH) teaches the first four responsibility areas of health education: assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation of public health programs, to improve the health of our communities.*

The associate of 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 program offered at NMSU-Las Cruces campus in the Department of Public Health Science (<https://publichealth.nmsu.edu/>), which also offers the master of public health at the graduate level. The courses in this associate of 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 public health and community health education. There are no special admissions criteria for this program, but prospective majors should arrange an initial degree advising session with a public health 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.

## Community Health Worker Certificate

The sixteen-credit Community Health Worker (CHW) certificate is embedded within the DACC Associate of Public Health. The Community Health Worker certificate will train students to have a basic understanding of key public health issues like maternal and child health, chronic disease and environmental health. The program includes competencies such as: effective communication, interpersonal skills, health coaching, service coordination, capacity building, advocacy, community health outreach, and community knowledge and assessment. Upon completion of the DACC CHW Certificate, students may apply for CHW endorsement from the NM Department of Health.

**NOTE:** The Associate Degree in Public Health and the Community Health Worker Certificate may be obtained entirely online.

Visit the public health program website here. (<https://dacc.nmsu.edu/academics/programs/public-health/>)