Population Health major

School of Population Health

A guide to the Bachelor of Science Population Health major
Table of Contents

Welcome to the Population Health major 2

What is Population Health? 2

About the School of Population Health 3

The Bachelor of Science (BSc) Population Health major 4

Honours in Population Health 7

Work experience and employment in population health 10

Prizes and Scholarships 12

Helpful websites 13

Health Student Society 15

Student Exchange and Study Abroad 16

Computing facilities 16

Information for new students 17

Student Guild Education Officers 18

Referencing 19

Grading guidelines 20

Appendix 1: Unit descriptions 21
Figure 1: Forge ahead with the Population Health major
Welcome to the Population Health major

We are very pleased to welcome you to the Population Health major, and hope that you find your studies in population health valuable and rewarding. We believe you have made an excellent choice of major. The population health major emphasises the real world application of what we are teaching and gives you a depth of knowledge about health issues. The major also has a focus on what employers want – project management, critical thinking, problem solving, team work and communication.

The aim of this booklet is to give you an overview of the Population Health major, the School of Population Health (SPH), opportunities in population health and areas of employment for graduates in population health. SPH Staff are here to support you throughout your studies as well as in your career progression. Please feel welcome to contact any of us.

If you would like to receive further information please do not hesitate to contact Professor Jane Heyworth at jane.heyworth@uwa.edu.au.

What is Population Health?

Population health (also referred to as public health) plays an important role in protecting people’s health and wellbeing as well as improving the conditions and behaviours that affect the health of each and every one of us. Population health tackles both infectious and non-infectious diseases and promotes healthier lifestyles. Population health looks at the ecology of health – from social and economic circumstances to our environment – and then minimises health risks. From tobacco policy to immunization clinics, from healthy food choices to bike paths, population health is all around us – protecting our health by safeguarding the places where we live, work and play. The dramatic achievements of population health in the 20th century include an improved quality of life, increased life expectancy, a world-wide reduction in infant and child mortality, and a reduction or elimination of many communicable diseases.

One great aspect about a career in population health is that it is never static. It continually presents new challenges and you can be working on the cutting edge of the nation’s public health issues. Some of the career opportunities in population health include: health promotion officer; health policy advisor or consultants; epidemiologist; health researcher; health project officers or managers; health scientist; health advocates health administrators and, when combined with economics, health economist.
About the School of Population Health

The University of Western Australia’s School of Population Health is part of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (FMDHS) at UWA. It is located on UWA’s Nedlands Campus on the corner of Gordon Street and Clifton Street, Nedlands. The SPH has a reputation for award-winning teaching and world-class research excellence and is committed to the discovery and communication of knowledge to improve human health. The Mission Statement of the School of Population Health is:

*We will influence policy and practice to improve the public health through leadership in education and in the discovery and communication of knowledge.*

**Staff**
Our School has high-calibre staff who have national and international reputations, and who are very passionate about population health and teaching.

There are over 100 academic and research staff involved in a vast array of research areas including: aged care research; the Busselton Health Study; ecology and health; health promotion and evaluation; health services research; environmental and occupational epidemiology; cancer epidemiology; social determinants of health; child activity and health and cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. Through the wide range of research areas and funding agencies, strong links have been fostered between the School and the health industry, hospital, government and non-government organisations.

Please see our website for more information: [www.sph.uwa.edu.au](http://www.sph.uwa.edu.au)
The Bachelor of Science (BSc) Population Health major

The Population Health major is a science major within the Bachelor of Science that is offered by the School of Population Health in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences. This major was first offered in 2012. It was developed in response to an identified need within the health sector for graduates with a sound knowledge of population perspectives on health. As such, the major combines a broad base of content knowledge and the application of that knowledge to health issues.

Administration of the Population Health major

The major is coordinated by Professor Jane Heyworth. Jane is located in Room 1.08, Clifton Street Building, Nedlands Campus. Students are encouraged to contact Jane if they need any advice on their career goals, study plans or other issues.

The School of Population Health is very receptive to feedback from students on the program. Please feel welcome to raise any issues, negative or positive, with Jane on 6488 7370 or by email: jane.heyworth@uwa.edu.au. The SPH Administration team can be contacted on 6488 1271 or at enquiries-sph@uwa.edu.au.

The Bachelor of Science (BSc) Population Health major

The Population Health major is a science major within the Bachelor of Science that is offered by the School of Population Health in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences. This major was first offered in 2012. It was developed in response to an identified need within the health sector for graduates with a sound knowledge of population perspectives on health. As such, the major combines a broad base of content knowledge and the application of that knowledge to health issues.

Administration of the Population Health major

The major is coordinated by Professor Jane Heyworth. Jane is located in Room 1.08, Clifton Street Building, Nedlands Campus. Students are encouraged to contact Jane if they need any advice on their career goals, study plans or other issues.

The School of Population Health is very receptive to feedback from students on the program. Please feel welcome to raise any issues, negative or positive, with Jane on 6488 7370 or by email: jane.heyworth@uwa.edu.au. The SPH Administration team can be contacted on 6488 1271 or at enquiries-sph@uwa.edu.au.

Major structure

Upon completion of the Population Health major, graduates are expected to have a sound knowledge of: the principles that underpin population health; the Australian health system; prevention and management of ill-health; health promotion; health policy and health leadership.

In the first and second years of the Population Health major, you are introduced to the fundamental principles of population health and are provided with a framework for assessing and managing issues of public health importance. This framework provides the ability to assess current and emerging health issues. You are also introduced to the complexity of the structure and function of the Australian health system. Through the complementary units, you gain knowledge in Aboriginal health and communication and project planning.

In the first year of the Population Health major, we ask the questions:

- What is population health? How do we measure the scope of a health problem? Why is it important? Who is at risk?
What are the major risk factors or determinants of a given public health problem? What historical, environmental, social, economic, political, biological and physical influences exist?

What are the major global developments and their consequence on health? What are the global actions aimed at reducing disease and promoting health and wellbeing?

In the second year of the Population Health major, we build upon these fundamental principles. We focus on the following:

- How do we determine or measure the size of the problem and who is at risk?
- How do we determine the causes or risk factors for diseases?
- What is the potential for prevention of ill-health or improved management of ill-health?

In the third year, we consider in more depth:

- The approaches to influencing behaviour and promoting and advocating for good health through the development of health promotion programs
- How health systems and policy are organised to support the health needs of a community.
- How to develop leadership skills for contemporary health industry issues in Australian and globally.
- How to undertake quantitative and qualitative research to investigate important health issues.

Also in third year we offer students the opportunity to undertake a practicum in health (PUBH3308) as an elective.

The core and complementary units undertaken are shown in Table 1 and the unit descriptions are provided in Appendix 1. Elective units offered by the School of Population Health and FMDHS are shown in Table 2.
Table 1: Core and Complementary units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Semester 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>PUBH1101 Health and Illness in Human Populations</td>
<td>PUBH1102 Health &amp; Globalisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>AHEA2201 Aboriginal Health &amp; Wellbeing</strong></td>
<td><strong>PUBH2203 Foundations of Epidemiology &amp; Biostatistics</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PUBH2216 Communication &amp; Project Planning in Health</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>PUBH2204 Disease Prevention &amp; Control</td>
<td>PUBH2203 Foundations of Epidemiology &amp; Biostatistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>AHEA2201 Aboriginal Health &amp; Wellbeing</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PUBH2216 Communication &amp; Project Planning in Health</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>PUBH3301 Health Industry Leadership</td>
<td>PUBH3302 Health Promotion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PUBH3305 Health Research Design &amp; Methods</td>
<td>PUBH3307 Health Systems &amp; Policy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Elective units offered by SPH and FMDHS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Semester 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>IMED1108 Issues in Women’s Health Across the Lifespan*</td>
<td>PHAR1101 Drugs that Changed the World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>IMED2200 Mental Wellbeing for Today’s World</strong></td>
<td>PUBH2208 Food &amp; Nutrition in Population Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SCIE2100 Social Responsibility in Action</td>
<td>PUBH2209 Plagues Pox &amp; Pandemics: The History of Death &amp; Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IMED2208 Issues in Women’s Reproductive Health: Major Diseases &amp; Health Problems*</td>
<td>PUBH2211 India Field Trip ** (NS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>IMED3301 Issues in Women’s Reproductive Health: Research &amp; Evidence-based Practice*</td>
<td>PUBH3308 Population Health Practicum ** (NS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>HSMD3316 Health Industry Practicum ** (NS)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Not available in 2015
** Available from 2015

NS: non-standard teaching period
Learning outcomes of the Population Health major

The graduate outcomes of the Population Health major are provided here so that students can see what they should achieve by the end of this major.

Major-specific outcomes

A student who has successfully completed the BSc Population Health major should be able to:

1. Discuss major health issues locally and globally.

2. Evaluate biological, cultural, social, environmental, economic, historical and political influences that determine health locally and globally.

3. Recognise the historical, social, environmental, economic and political contexts that frame public health approaches.

4. Appraise current and emerging issues in health.

5. Integrate scientific knowledge and skills to understanding health locally and globally.

6. Demonstrate knowledge of the socio-cultural context of the health of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and other indigenous peoples.

7. Develop, implement, and critically review quantitative and qualitative research relevant to health.

8. Use evidence-based approaches to health issues.

9. Critically evaluate approaches to managing health at a population level.

10. Analyse population health needs and promote healthy behaviours and environments through actions with individuals, communities and society.

11. Demonstrate the ability to plan and evaluate effective strategies to promote and improve health and evaluate effective ways of delivery.

12. Describe and compare the organisation and delivery of Australian and other health systems.
13. Critically review and evaluate policies in resource allocation and health systems.

14. Discuss equity from a population health perspective.

15. Appraise cultural appropriateness of health strategies.

Degree-specific outcomes

A student who has successfully completed a degree including Population Health major should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an ability to work in a team and recognise the diverse contributions of team members.

2. Appraise the importance of being able to work and think across discipline boundaries.

3. Demonstrate ability to think and reason logically and creatively.

4. Identify and analyse problems and their solutions.

5. Analyse accepted wisdom and assess new ideas and possibilities.

6. Illustrate mature judgement and responsibility in ethical, moral, social and practical, as well as academic matters.

7. Use effective communication skills.

8. Apply principles of life-long learning - that is, the skills required to learn, and to continue through life to learn - from a variety of sources and experiences.

Honours in Population Health

There is the opportunity to undertake honours within the School of Population Health at the end of your degree. If you have achieved a weighted average of 70% in level 3 units in the Population Health major, you will be invited to do honours in Population Health. Honours students participate in original research by developing and undertaking supervised research project, presenting a seminar and preparing a dissertation.

There is a wide range of interesting projects available for honours research. Some of the projects we offer are shown in our Research Projects booklet at sph.uwa.edu.au/students/honours. As part of the honour program, students also undertake four coursework units: Epidemiology 1 (PUBH4403), Biostatistics 1 (PUBH4401), Honours Research Process (PUBH4402) and Research Conduct and Ethics (PAED4401).

If you would like more information about honours, please contact the honours coordinator, Dr Ian Li at ian.li@uwa.edu.au.

Previous honours projects can be perused in the SPH library. Examples of projects done by honours students include:

- A quality assurance audit of treatment procedures for febrile neutropenic patients at Princess Margaret Hospital.
- A spatial case-control study investigating the effect of vehicle emissions on asthma hospitalisations.
- Assessing the relationship between a general exposure questionnaire and a food frequency questionnaire regarding supplemental folate intake in and around pregnancy.
- An economic evaluation on the installation of footpaths to increase levels of neighbourhood walking.
- Promoting neighbourhood walkability: a content analysis of new housing development marketing materials.
- An evaluation of the health impacts of fluoride in drinking water in India.
- Post-surgical changes in obesity, cardiovascular risk factors and blood glucose regulation among patients undergoing laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy.
- Social justice and cancer control - an evaluation of distributive utilisation of cancer support services provided by the Cancer Council of Western Australia.
- Estimating the burden of disease consequential to childhood obesity in Western Australia.
Work experience and employment in population health

Work experience in population health is a great opportunity to develop new skills, meet potential employers and see public health in action. At the School of Population Health we offer students the opportunity to gain work experience as part of a voluntary program. There are many opportunities for students to work with SPH staff on current projects to gain experience in research and administration or to work with external health agencies on some of their exciting programs. If you are interested in joining this program or would like to hear more about it, please e-mail Ania Stasinska: ania.stasinska@uwa.edu.au. As you complete each level of the program, you will be awarded a certificate of participation.

Population Health graduates may find employment broadly in the areas of population health planning and policy, health research, health administration, health economics or health promotion and evaluation. Please visit Figures 2 and 3 for a taste of the paths and possibilities that can begin with a population health major. This major is also an excellent base degree for medicine, dentistry, nursing, social work, podiatry, and other health-based professional qualification postgraduate courses.

Figure 2: Potential career pathways with population health.
Figure 3: Six areas of population health career directions.
Prizes and Scholarships

Prizes for Excellence in Population Health

Four prizes, each comprising a book voucher for $250 and a certificate, are awarded for units completed as part of the Population Health major sequence as follows:

(a) A prize is awarded to the student who achieves the highest aggregate mark in Health and Illness in Human Populations (PUBH1101) and Health and Globalisation (PUBH1102).

(b) A prize is awarded to the student who achieves the highest aggregate mark for Foundations of Epidemiology and Biostatistics (PUBH2203) and Disease Prevention and Control (PUBH2204).

(c) The D’Arcy Holman Prize for Population Health is awarded to the student achieving the highest aggregate score for the following units:

Health Industry Leadership (PUBH3301); Health Promotion (PUBH3302);

Health Systems and Policy (PUBH3307) and Health Research Design and Methods (PUBH3305).

(d) The Department of Health prize is awarded to the student who achieves the highest score for the dissertation component of the BSc Population Health Honours degree.

A fifth prize, The Faith Stewart Book Prize, is awarded to the Population Health Practicum (PUBH3308) student whose learning portfolio is judged to be the best.

Scholarships

The undergraduate learning and teaching research internship scheme (ULTRIS) provides opportunities for selected students to have a practical research experience in the area of teaching and learning. For more information please visit student.uwa.edu.au/learning/resources/ultris

Summer Research Scholarship - The Australian National University offers Summer Research scholarships for undergraduate students completing the third or fourth year of a full-time course in an Australian or New Zealand university: anu.edu.au/sas/scholarships/srs
A range of scholarships and grants offered by the Department of Health WA are available to health professionals or health students committed to rural health. For example, 12 WA Country Allied Health Scholarships to the total value of up to $5000 are awarded each year. See wacountry.health.wa.gov.au for further details.

CEED (Co-operative Education for Enterprise Development) projects are tax free studentships which have been developed in conjunction with industry partners and are offered for either the industry practicum, or honours. Projects available and further information is available atceed.uwa.edu.au

Each year a number of awards valued at $2,000 are offered to students by The Cancer Council WA for tenure during the long Christmas vacation. Projects must broadly relate to cancer. Applicants must have successfully completed the first two years of an appropriate degree course in the disciplines relevant to cancer control (in the case of medical students, this would be at the end of their third year). Awards are for a period of 4 to 10 weeks. More information can be found at cancerwa.asn.au/research/funding/usher

JASON. The Joint Academic Scholarship ON-line network was developed by a number of universities to assist students in accessing scholarship information for postgraduate studies either within Australia or internationally: jason.edu.au

Further information on scholarships for undergraduate, vacation, honours and postgraduate scholarships is available from the University of Western Australia Scholarship Office at scholarships.uwa.edu.au/home

Helpful websites

A number of helpful websites are available to you:

sph.uwa.edu.au
The School of Population Health homepage. From here you can get further information about our courses, research and news and events. You can also get to main links via Current Students sph.uwa.edu.au/students for access to studentConnect, OLCR (Online Class Registration), LMS (Learning Management System) and Webmail.

meddent.uwa.edu.au
The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences homepage. Here you can get more information on what is happening in your Faculty.
handbooks.uwa.edu.au
The UWA Handbook site contains comprehensive information on undergraduate and postgraduate courses and units, including unit outlines, rules and contacts. It also contains links to handbooks of past years.

science.uwa.edu.au/students/science-student-office
The Science Student Office is based at the Faculty of Science, just down from the Science Library. Undergraduate and postgraduate students can just drop in for:
- advice about courses and majors;
- assistance with unit selection;
- submitting a range of applications including special consideration, credit transfer, advanced standing and recognition of prior learning;
- information about study abroad, exchange and cross-institutional study; and
- submission of applications for postgraduate study.

studentadmin.uwa.edu.au
Student Administration can help with all the general administrative details regarding your course, including academic transcripts, enrolments and changes to units, fees, important dates, forms, campus cards and much more.

uwa.edu.au/askuwa
askUWA is the information gateway to your questions about enrolments, fees, examinations and graduations. Browse the numerous questions and answers in the FAQ section or submit your question and have it answered by a subject expert.

library.uwa.edu.au
Many libraries are situated across the campus. Library locations and general information regarding loans, photocopying, etc. is available in the booklet “Library Services for Undergraduate Students”, distributed in Library training sessions and available from all UWA Libraries. The Library Home Page is essential to your studies.

studentconnect.uwa.edu.au
Student Connect is the student portal for all enrolment, fees, personal information, as well as results, examinations timetable, etc. Students must activate their Pheme account first (pheme.uwa.edu.au) and can then access Student Connect using their student ID and password.

studentservices.uwa.edu.au
Student Services offers students a number of services to assist students in their university
life and study. These include a Careers Centre, Housing Services, Financial Aid Service, Chaplaincy, Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and Medical Centre.

studentservices.uwa.edu.au/ss/learning
Study Smarter. If you want to improve your study skills, Learning, Language and Research Skills will be able to help you. They provide assistance with assignment research and writing, oral presentation, examination preparation. We encourage you to use their excellent services. Please go to the Study Smarter website to see the range of services provided.

timetable.uwa.edu.au
The academic timetable is the document that sets out the times and places of lectures, tutorials, laboratories and any other activities. It is a student’s responsibility to check this timetable. Students should consult the timetable when selecting units for enrolment to avoid unit clashes.

Health Student Society

Prospective students
So you’ve heard about Population Health and how great studying at UWA is….well we’re here to make your time as a UWA student even better. The Health Student Society (HSS) is a student-run Faculty society tailored to meet the social and educational needs of Population Health major students. HSS holds regular events for members – a great opportunity to network with other Population Health students and meet staff as well. Since its inception, the enthusiasm and hard work of students has seen HSS grow to constantly reach new heights and push the boundaries of achievement and opportunity.

Current and prospective students
Here are three easy options for getting involved and benefiting from HSS:

- Visit the HSS stall on James Oval during Orientation Day (O-Day), and sign up as a member. This entitles you to discounts at all events and some freebees.

- Annual Elections for two year representatives per year group are held early in semester 1 for first years and semester 2 for other years. So get on board.

- Get involved! We’d love to have you, so nominate for a position on the HSS Executive Committee.
HSS contact details

Interested in more information on HSS or being a Population Health student at UWA? Come find us at the School of Population Health website sph.uwa.edu.au/students/hss. Or you can constructively procrastinate and find our Facebook group page: Health Student Society (UWA), join and message us. We look forward to meeting you.

Student Exchange and Study Abroad

:: USA :: Netherlands :: Denmark :: Singapore :: Chile :: Norway :: UK :: Germany :: Malaysia :: Sweden :: Canada :: Austria :: Switzerland :: Japan :: New Zealand :: France :: Germany :: Italy :: Hong Kong ::

Did you know? UWA currently has over 130 destinations for students to attend on Student Exchange. Each university has an international reputation in teaching and research, as well as a range of compatible teaching programs so that you can continue your studies whilst seeing the world. You can choose to study at one of more than 130 partner Universities in 21 countries for one or two semesters and receive credit towards your UWA degree at the same time! If you meet the eligibility requirements, the UWA Student Exchange programme can offer you the opportunity to experience this and a great deal more...

For further information and assistance: international.uwa.edu.au/students/exchange

Computing facilities

Population Health major students have access to the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Science computer laboratories. The computer room on the Nedlands campus is the most popular with Population Health students. You need a Student email account and activated student card to access these laboratories.

Endnote

EndNote is referencing software that enables you to create a database of references from your readings. Your database of references can then be organised, edited and converted into a formatted bibliography in many different styles, such as Harvard, APA, or Vancouver. These references can be automatically inserted into your documents. We strongly encourage you to obtain a copy.

EndNote is free for UWA staff and students and can be downloaded for use on a personal
device such as a laptop or home computer.

The library runs regular training sessions, free for UWA staff and students. For more information or to sign up for a training session, visit the EndNote guide or feel free to ask a librarian in subject libraries.

NOTE: this is only available to UWA enrolled Students and you must use PHEME login details.

Information for new students

The University recognises that transition into university life can be challenging for new students. The website www.student.uwa.edu.au/new contains everything you need to know about starting your studies and life at UWA, including information on the first year support, UniSkills, UniMentor and UniAccess programmes.

First year support is all about getting you settled into uni life and feeling confident about your ability to succeed at university. They offer a comprehensive orientation programme that is then followed up by linking students to other services and supports that help them get connected to the UWA community.

UniSkills offer to help make the transition to university study as smooth and as enjoyable as possible. Are you a first-year student who comes from a rural school, or a school where not many people come to UWA? Are you an international student? Perhaps you are going to be receiving Youth Allowance, Austudy, or some other kind of Centrelink payment whilst attending Uni? Maybe you are just returning to Uni after not studying for a while and will have significant family responsibilities whilst studying? These are only some of the many obstacles that may act as barriers to your transition into UWA. Take a look around the uniskills site to find out about joining the programme, and plenty more useful information.

UniMentor is open to all commencing undergraduate students at UWA. It aims to assist your transition to university life by matching students with mentors who can answer your questions. Your mentors are students in second year or above, studying the same or a similar course to you.

UniAccess is UWA’s Disability Office and offers services for students with a disability or medical condition. Please contact this office if you would like to discuss how you can best access anything from your course materials to campus buildings and activities. Please make contact well before your course begins if you require a specialised orientation, so that sufficient
time can be set aside to plan for this. Enquiries should be directed to one of the Disability Officers by e-mail at uniaccess@uwa.edu.au

**Student Guild Education Officers**

The Guild provides a professional and confidential counselling service that is free of charge to all students. The Guild Education Officers work from the Centre and you can make an appointment to see them at any time. The role of the Education Officers is to help you through any issues impacting on your life.

Contact them if you:
- Need help with your finances;
- Are having problems with your studies;
- Feel you have been treated unfairly;
- Are experiencing personal problems; or
- Would just like to talk to someone.

**Student Guild contact details**

The University of Western Australia Student Guild
35 Stirling Highway
Crawley WA 6009
Phone: (+61 8) 6488 2295
Facsimile: (+61 8) 6488 1041
enquiries@guild.uwa.edu.au
guild.uwa.edu.au
Referencing

Guides to different referencing styles are available via the library website. The most commonly used in population health are Harvard (author date style) and Vancouver (numeric style).

The Library Guide for Harvard is at: guides.is.uwa.edu.au/harvard
The Library Guide for Vancouver is at guides.is.uwa.edu.au/vancouver

These guides will cover the most common types of articles/documents that you will need to reference.

Common questions about referencing

- Why do I need to reference?
  Referencing acknowledges the ideas and work of others. Not referencing someone else’s ideas is considered as academic fraud or put more simply stealing someone else’s ideas, this can result in accusations of plagiarism, which is a very serious academic offence. The UWA policy on plagiarism is available at: student.uwa.edu.au/learning/studysmarter/getsmart/plagiarism

- What do I need to reference?
  Quotations (with page number), paraphrasing of ideas, facts, figures, tables, opinions, in fact any idea, thought or piece of information from another’s work. If you are unsure, always err on the side of caution and reference. In public health all sources must be scrupulously acknowledged, even if you learnt it in school, find a reference.

- What do I do if I am unsure?
  Ask your tutor or lecturer. You can always email them with a reference that you are unsure of. Often it is a good idea to send them your best attempt at a reference so that they can offer you advice.

- How do I put references into my text?
  References are also referred to as citations. Citations appear in the text and refer the reader to the source listed in the reference list or bibliography. They should be placed in the text next to the piece of information you wish to reference, or at the end of the sentence if there is only one reference for that sentence. Occasionally you will use the same reference more than once in a paragraph and this is acceptable. When referencing use ‘and’ in the text and an ‘&’ when inside brackets.
Grading guidelines

The following grades are used to denote standards of performance in written assessment pieces.

**Pass (50% - 59%)**
The grade will be awarded where the student has undertaken an acceptable amount of work, sticks to the question but the work is disjointed, ideas are not linked or not well linked to the foundation of knowledge. There are some errors, but not enough to flaw the answer or argument.

**Credit (CR) (60% - 69%)**
The grade will be awarded where there is evidence that a student has demonstrated a sound level of knowledge and understanding of the question. They summarise and organize ideas and present a basic conclusion. The work is internally logical. The student presents basic concepts and can take a concept and break it into its parts.

**Distinction (D) (70% - 79%)**
The grade will be awarded where there is evidence that the work has intelligent organization and expansion of concepts and/or ideas that are illustrated through application. Shows evidence of wider reading (if appropriate). The work demonstrates advanced knowledge and understanding.
The grade should reflect high quality of work that shows the student generally works at a level that is beyond the requirements of the assessment exercise and is developing a capacity for original and creative thinking. Value is added to data or research.

**High Distinction (HD) (80% - 100%)**
The grade will be awarded where there is evidence that a student has integrated/synthesised a complex body of knowledge. The student is able to present the ideas succinctly and logically.
The work demonstrates the acquisition of an advanced level of knowledge and understanding undertaken extensive wider reading beyond that which is required or expected.
For a mark at the higher end of this grade, a student will have shown passion for the assessment topic, build on a solid base of knowledge and displayed sound defensible judgement.

**Fail (N) (0 - 49%)**
The grade will be awarded if the work is superficial, reflects insufficient research and significant gaps in understanding. Only limited research done. The essay is poorly structured and doesn’t adequately answer the question.
Appendix 1: Unit descriptions

Core and complementary units

Health and Illness in Human Populations (PUBH 1101)
6 points  Semester 1
This unit introduces students to a population view of health and provides a framework for understanding public health issues. Using this framework, discussions are based on how we know what the major health issues are, who is at risk of ill-health, what the determinants or influences are on human health and disease, and what is the potential for prevention. A number of case studies are used to illustrate the public health approach to describing and addressing patterns of health and disease in populations. In parallel, students work in groups on their own case study.

Unit Coordinators: Asst/Professor Julie Saunders/Ms Ania Stasinska
Level 1 core unit in the Population Health major sequence.

Health and Globalisation (PUBH1102)
6 points  Semester 2
This unit introduces students to the concepts of public health, globalisation and the global health agenda. It examines the major threats to global health within the context of the political, economic and demographic changes taking place globally and within specific regions. Topics covered include: global patterns of health and disease; the trends and causes of infectious, chronic and environmental disease; demographic, social, economic and political change; poverty; global partnerships; and financing of health and economic improvement.

The unit highlights how major health issues transcend local, national and international boundaries. The academic objectives of the unit are to provide students with the knowledge to discuss major global events and changes taking place and their consequence on health; and skills to participate effectively in initiatives aimed at health improvement as well as efforts to minimise global health risks.

Unit Coordinator: Dr Angelita Martini
Level 1 core unit in the Population Health major sequence
Category A broadening unit for Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Design students.
Disease Prevention and Control (PUBH2204)
6 points  Semester 1
This unit describes the management and control of both communicable (infectious) and non-communicable diseases, including the role of nutritional, cognitive and social issues in designing health interventions. Community health problems in developed and developing countries are reviewed. Examples of control are presented and reviewed in practical sessions.

Cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, emerging epidemics and over-nutrition are studied in some depth in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations. Students investigate strategies to control these diseases including clinical, psychosocial and cultural approaches.

Unit Coordinator: Professor Angus Cook
Level 2 core unit in the Population Health major sequence.

Foundations of Epidemiology and Biostatistics (PUBH2203)
6 points  Semester 2
This unit introduces students to the use of epidemiology and biostatistics as tools in understanding health. The main epidemiological research designs and related statistical analyses are described and evaluated. Discussion focuses on how health and disease are measured and compared across populations and how researchers measure associations between exposures and health outcomes. Analytical skills are developed using statistical computer software for analysis of research data and the critical appraisal of epidemiological studies, which incorporates understanding of the roles of bias, chance and confounding in interpreting study results. The historical development of epidemiological and biostatistical methods and their relevance to clinical and health practice today is highlighted. The implications of epidemiological research findings for public policy are also illustrated.

Unit Coordinator: Asst/Professor Eva Malacova
Level 2 core unit in the Population Health major sequence.
Level 2 complementary unit in the Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing major sequence.

Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing (AHEA2201)
6 points  Semester 1
This unit is run by the Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health and Aboriginal organisations in the community. It is directed at students who are interested in learning more about Aboriginal health and helps students improve their understanding of the position of Aboriginal people in contemporary Australian society as a basis for working with Aboriginal people during their health career.
Taught predominantly by Aboriginal people, the unit addresses historical and cultural issues that underlie current Aboriginal health problems and explores specific health issues affecting Aboriginal people. The unit also explores in more detail interactions between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal service providers in a range of settings and the implications of these experiences on attempts to improve Aboriginal health.

Unit Coordinator: Asst/Professor Craig Allen
Level 2 core unit in the Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing major sequence.
Level 2 complementary unit in the Population Health major sequence.

Communication and Project Planning in Health (PUBH2216)
6 points  Semester 1
The aim of this unit is to assist students to enter the workforce with a set of well-developed generic skills required of new graduates, including skills in oral and written communication; time and information management; professional behaviour and interpersonal skills; and project management. The focus is on developing these skills through workshops and seminars in which students work individually, in pairs and in small groups. A major focus of the unit is working within small teams to develop a project plan allowing the development and application of interpersonal skills and group dynamics. The academic objectives of the unit are to provide students with principles and theory of professional communication; development and application of professional written and oral communication skills and the theory and practice of project planning.

Unit Coordinator: Ms Ania Stasinska
Level 2 complementary unit in the Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing; Population Health major sequences.

Health Industry Leadership (PUBH3301)
6 points  Semester 1
This unit examines the theory and practice of administering population health programmes and health care services at an advanced undergraduate level. It deals with the principles of leadership and management needed in the development and delivery of health services. A distinction is made between visioning and leading change in health organisations, and the planning of management of health service programmes.

The theoretical and conceptual bases for a range of leadership and management skills are covered, including change leadership, forecasting, strategic and operational planning and the use of information and evaluation systems. An introduction is provided to several substantive topics relevant to health services leadership and management, including ethical conduct,
Policy analysis, Public Health Acts and team management. Emphasis is also given to the important roles of oral and written communication in health administration.

**Unit Coordinator:** Assoc/Prof Lisa Wood  
Level 3 core unit in the Population Health major sequence.

**Health Promotion (PUBH3302)**  
6 points   Semester 2  
This unit provides an introduction to planning health promotion interventions that take into account individual and environmental determinants of health behaviour and examines several approaches to influencing behaviour. A framework for the development of health promotion programmes is provided, together with an overview of behavioural and social ecological models relevant to health promotion. The emphasis is on the prevention of lifestyle-related diseases and their risk factors, including addressing the underlying determinants of disease. Students are involved in designing and implementing a small intervention on campus. Topics covered include planning health promotion programmes, selection of target groups, settings to promote health, selection of strategies and evaluation.

**Unit Coordinator:** Asst/Professor Julie Saunders  
Level 3 core unit in the Population Health major sequence.

**Health Research Design and Methods (PUBH3305)**  
6 points   Semester 1  
This unit provides an overview of both quantitative and qualitative methodology used in health research. It covers a wide range of practical issues regarding successful conduct of a health research study. This includes elements such as identifying appropriate research questions, reviewing and critiquing the scientific literature, developing appropriate research teams, designing instruments for data collection as well as discussing sound sampling and data collection approaches. Ethical considerations, health consumer participation and stakeholder liaison with health research are also highlighted. High quality research data, both quantitative and qualitative are essential for decision making in public health, and the units is designed to provide students with necessary skills in health research.

**Unit Coordinator:** Asst/Professor Siobhan Hickling  
Level 3 core unit in the Population Health major sequence.
Health Systems and Policy (PUBH3307)
6 points  Semester 2
Health systems are a dynamic and complex set of organisations and people, existing in a matrix of policy decisions, financial agreements and organisational interdependence. To understand the way health systems function to protect health and treat illness, it is necessary to understand the organisations involved, the goals and influence of other major stakeholders, and the administrative and financial frameworks that support and regulate functions. Models of resource allocation are evaluated within an understanding of existing disease profiles, prevention options and with a focus on efficiency and equity. Current health policy initiatives are assessed in terms of organisational reforms and alternative methods of funding. The academic objectives of this unit are to enable students to examine and critically appraise health systems in the context of options for their organisation and funding.

Unit Coordinator: Asst/Professor Ian Li
Level 3 core unit in the Population Health major sequence.

Honours Unit descriptions

Population Health Honours Project Part 1 & Population Health Honours Project Part 2 (PUBH4404 & PUBH4405)
12 Points  Semester 1 & 2
Honours students participate in original research by the conduct of a supervised research project, a presentation of research findings and preparation of a journal-style scientific manuscript. They also participate in the School of Population Health seminar program. Specifically, students implement a research plan to investigate the research question developed in the unit; collect, manage and analyse their research data using appropriate methods; interpret the results and draw conclusions using published evidence and sound scientific arguments; present a research seminar; and prepare a manuscript.

These units provide students with the ability to design and undertake health research and thereby contribute to the future development of population health. It provides students with the knowledge, skills and values required to conduct scientific research. It is designed to develop enhanced observational skills; relevant practical research skills; lateral thinking and problem solving; literacy and communication skills; as well as professional responsibility and ethical conduct. It also develops and consolidates students’ knowledge and skills acquired during undergraduate study, with particular emphasis on using those skills in a sustained and purposeful way in conducting independent research relevant to population health.
Epidemiology 1 (PUBH4403)  
6 points  Semester 1  
This unit covers the principles and methods of epidemiological research. It introduces the principles of epidemiology as well as higher-level coverage of the major study designs (intervention, cohort and case-control studies); the causes and control of bias, confounding, and effect-modification; screening; outbreak investigation; and causation of disease. In addition, it provides an introduction to the newer study designs (e.g. case-crossover). Emphasis is placed on the critical appraisal of published articles in order to enable the student to take an evidence-based approach to health policy and practice.

Unit Co-ordinator: Professor David Preen

Biostatistics (PUBH4401)  
6 points  Semester 1 (face to face), Semester 2 (online only)  
This unit describes and discusses applications of basic biostatistical methods in public health and clinical practice and research. Topics include summarising and presenting data, estimation and hypothesis testing for means, proportions, odds ratios, rates, rate ratios, survival curves and sample size determination. There is an emphasis on developing an in-depth understanding of the role, use and interpretation of basic biostatistical methods and critical appraisal of statistical aspects of health and medical publications. The unit provides the essential foundation of applied knowledge needed for quantitative analyses of health and medical data and for critical reading of literature.

Unit Co-ordinator: Winthrop Professor Matthew Knuiman

Honours Research Process (PUBH4402)  
6 points  
This unit provide students with the necessary knowledge to enable them to complete and submit a research proposal relevant to their research topic and prepare them for data collection, analysis and writing. The development of their proposal and the undertaking of a substantial literature review and description and justification of their chosen research methods enables students to engage with the literature relevant in a scholarly way. The undertaking of a research proposal seminar enables students to respond to feedback and/or justify the approach taken.

The unit introduces students to the scientific method and philosophical assumptions underpinning research paradigms. It also covers occupational safety and health issues associated with undertaking research; components of a research proposal; data management (including Advanced Word, data bases, data security, managing data and passwords);
information literacy; an overview of ethics (ethics is covered in detail in a new unit being developed, PAED4401 Research Conduct and Ethics undertaken in Semester 2); reviewing the literature; writing a manuscript; research instrument development; community involvement in research; researching with minority/marginalised groups and sensitive issues; qualitative research methods; experimental and epidemiological research design.

**Unit Co-ordinator:** Asst/Professor Ian Li

**Research Conduct and Ethics (PAED4401)**

**6 points  Semester 2**

This unit covers the principles of good scientific conduct in research. It has a specific focus on the ethical conduct of research on human participants, but also provides an overview of animal ethics. The unit emphasises the importance of honesty and integrity in science and provides students with an introduction to the ethical basis of scientific requirements such as careful data management and documentation, dealing with conflicts of interest, open publication versus commercialisation of scientific findings, protection of intellectual property, authorship and allocation of credit, errors and mistakes in science. The unit then goes on to cover ethical issues dealing specifically with research in humans, including the four basic principles (research merit and integrity, justice, beneficence and respect) and their historical origins; assessment of research benefits versus risk to the participants; risk minimisation; the importance and principles of informed consent; maintenance of participant confidentiality, including de-identification and storage of information and/or biological samples; and working with vulnerable groups.

Students are taught to understand the role and functioning of institutional ethics committees and important issues for a researcher in working with ethics committees; understand the importance of written and oral consent forms and information sheets; and be aware of current national and local polices and/or guidelines for good ethical conduct. They are presented with representative ethics applications in order to identify and discuss ethical issues that arise in the research world. They also present to their classmates a short presentation on an ethical issue or case-study, either of historical or current interest.

Students demonstrate in-depth knowledge of one or more complex ethical areas which may be directly relevant to their honours or postgraduate research project, i.e. animal ethics, dealing with vulnerable or dependent populations (e.g. research on fetuses or pregnant women; infants and children; adults unable to give informed consent; research involving limited disclosure, concealment or deception; human stem cell research, etc.).

**Unit Co-ordinator:** Associate Professor Sunalene Devadason
Other electives offered by SPH

Food and Nutrition in Population Health (PUBH2208)
6 points  Semester 2
This elective unit is designed to provide students with an introduction to food and nutrition, and applications to population health. Applied topics include nutritional requirements throughout the life cycle, nutrition and ‘lifestyle’ diseases, nutrition in developing countries, and nutrition for population sub-groups such as Indigenous Australians and athletes.

Unit Coordinator: Asst/Professor Siobhan Hickling
Level 2 elective.

Plagues, Pox and Pandemics: the History of Death and Disease (PUBH2209)
6 points  Semester 2
This unit provides students with a valuable historical perspective on changing medical techniques and perceptions in which to locate current and emerging health issues. The topics include historical epidemiological transitions; methodologies and sources; Egyptian, Greek and Roman medicine; the Black Death in fourteenth-century England; the spread of infectious disease in the New World; medical practitioners in medieval and early modern Europe; witchcraft, mental health and religious healing; transitions in medical thought from medieval times to Enlightenment; public health in the Victorian age; warfare and disease; health care, ideology and totalitarian regimes, including Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union; and psychiatry and mental health care.

The unit charts changing relationships between human health, medical technologies, cultural milieu, and environmental resources in past societies. Students have the opportunity to discover and examine original documents for themselves and analyse historical perceptions and realities of health and disease, through case studies using archaeological, paleo-pathological, visual and written evidence of health perceptions in the past.

Unit Coordinator: Professor Angus Cook
Level 2 elective.

Population Health Field Trip (PUBH2211)
6 points  November/December
This unit comprises a field trip to India or another country in the region with a group of about 20 students from the Population Health major or another health-related major. This field work unit is designed to further develop population health knowledge and practice by
addressing health issues in a less developed region of the world. It involves working with local communities, observing the social structure within these communities, and identifying the positive and negative influences on health and well-being. We plan to offer the Population Health Field Trip (PUBH2211) every 2-3 years.

This unit is available to between 20 and 30 selected Level 2 and Level 3 Population Health and assured pathway students or other undergraduate students studying health. There are two to three seminars prior to travel which address the cultural, social and health context of the area where the field work is conducted. Following the end-of-semester examinations, the student group travels to Bangalore Karnataka in India for two weeks of field work with a non-government organisation. Visits to a hospital and health clinics are also arranged and some time is allocated for recreation. On return a student presentation is required.

Unit Coordinators: Professor Jane Heyworth and Asst/Professor Ania Stasinska

Population Health Practicum (PUBH3308)
6 points TBA
The population health practicum unit offers students the opportunity to work with prospective employers, apply theoretical knowledge to the ‘real world’ and gain valuable experience in the health workplace. Students will participate in a number of workplace activities and projects to gain experience relevant to a range of health issues specific to the health-related host agency. Through practicum students will be able to further develop their observational skills; relevant practical skills; lateral thinking and problem solving skills; literacy and communication skills; as well as professional responsibility and ethical conduct.

The unit will be open to students who are taking the population health major; prerequisite: PUBH2216 Communication and Project Planning in Health. There will be pre-placement workshops at SPH (2 days equivalent) and 4 days at the agency occurring during semester 1. A four-week period of placement during the mid–year break. The learning ePortfolio and report would be submitted at around weeks 3-4 of semester 2.

Unit Coordinators: Professor Jane Heyworth and Asst/Professor Ania Stasinska