1. **What is the Bachelor of Public Health (BPH) major?**

The BPH major is designed to give students hands-on experience in public health through a partnership with the OU Health Science Center Hudson College of Public Health (OU HSC CoPH). This major is well-suited for students who plan to work in public and/or community health after earning the bachelor’s degree. It can also be a good fit for students who want to attend a MPH or DrPH, due to the integrated practicum course which can provide hands-on experience in the field. BPH students will take classes at OU HSC CoPH (located in Oklahoma City) during their final semester of the program (must be a spring semester), which includes a practicum course and the program capstone. Students may also select an elective course from the graduate-level offerings through the CoPH. *Students must apply to the BPH program, and be accepted before they are able to declare the BPH as their major.* The BPH program requires students to finish their degree in either a Spring or Summer semester, as the BPH courses via OU HSC are only offered in the Spring.

1. **Which PHCH major should I choose?**

The major core courses (PHCH 2013 through 3613) will remain the same, no matter which of our PHCH majors you choose. These core courses provide students with an overview of epidemiology, health policy and law, ethics, data and statistics, health communication, public healthcare systems, and determinants of health. Public and community health is dynamic, and ultimately, any of the majors you choose can likely prepare you for a career or MPH program of your choosing. Because public health focuses on community and population health, the PHCH majors are also ideal for students planning to pursue clinical health professions, such as nursing or medicine. The overviews below are intended to be loose guidelines to help you make an informed decision on the path that might fit your trajectory best.

**Community Health Bachelor of Arts**

The BA is well-suited for students focused on the humanities and social sciences, interested in policy, community outreach, health education, social determinants of health, program development, and more. The CH-BA major allows plenty of room to add an additional major or minor, so students can specialize in a particular area, community, or sub-field area. For example, students wanting to go on to work with Spanish-speaking populations may opt to do a Spanish major or minor along with the CH-BA. It is also a good choice for pre-health professional students pursuing any of the following:

* Nursing
* Dental Hygiene
* Occupational Therapy
* Physical Therapy

**Community Health Bachelor of Science**

The BS is well-suited for students wanting to focus on research or practice that requires more advanced science courses in Chemistry, Biology, and Math. In particular, careers and advanced degrees in Environmental Science, Biostatistics, and Epidemiology will require some or all of the science foundation courses. The CH-BS major provides a broad foundation in understanding community health through the lens of ethics, policy, health communication, and more. It is also a good choice for pre-health professional students pursuing any of the following:

* Medicine
* Physician Assistant
* Nutritional Sciences
* Pharmacy
* Optometry
* Podiatry
* Veterinarian

**Bachelor of Public Health (BPH)**

The BPH is well-suited for students ready for the challenge of pursuing classes through the OU HSC CoPH. It provides the core foundation in epidemiology, health communication and policy, etc. along with Chemistry, Biology, and Math. This track is a good choice for students who intend to go directly into a career in public health after earning the bachelor’s degree. It can also be a good choice for students wanting additional experience and graduate-level courses before pursuing a MPH or DrPH. Because OU HSC is located in Oklahoma City (approximately 25 miles north of Norman), students intending to pursue the BPH will need a transportation and/or housing plan for the semester they attend BPH courses.

Application requirements for the BPH major:

* **3.25** OU Retention and Combined Retention GPA
* **“C” or higher** achieved in all major courses (including major support work)
* Students must have almost\* all degree requirements completed in the Fall semester before being allowed to apply for the BPH major.

*\*Students with more than 2-3 outstanding courses to complete for the degree (with the exception of the 12 hours of BPH coursework) may not apply to the BPH major. Students must have ALL major requirements completed (or in progress to be completed) at the time of application. Students who plan to take both the BPH coursework and any remaining requirements via OU-Norman risk unavoidable course conflicts which can delay graduation. OU HSC and OU-Norman are not responsible for accommodating students with time conflicts in the spring semester they take BPH courses.*