

The University of California, Merced announces its new Public Health, BA undergraduate major that will be offered through the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts (SSHA) beginning Fall 2014.

Public Health aims to promote health, prevent disease, prolong life and improve quality of life through organized efforts of society. Focusing on the health and wellbeing of populations, Public Health complements medicine's concern for individuals with diseases. Through activities ranging from basic research, to frontline efforts such as vaccination programs, promotion of health lifestyles and environments, disease control, and leadership on health policy formation. Public Health is an interdisciplinary field drawing on the natural and social sciences as well as the humanities. One of the most important themes in Public Health is the disparities in health observed in different groups, which is the focus of this curriculum. The program provides students hand-on practical experience in direct public health research with a focus on health issues in the San Joaquin Valley.

The major will be open to all students who are otherwise eligible to declare a major at the end of Spring 2014 (freshman, sophomores or juniors in good academic standing). Students with junior standing must apply by the change of major deadline for the Fall 2014 semester to guarantee eligibility to declare without additional petition.

Students who wish to declare the Public Health major should complete an "Undergraduate Major Change" Form and submit it to SSHA Advising (COB 208). Please be aware that this major change will not be processed until the end of the Spring 2014 semester, with an effective term of Fall 2014. Students who choose to declare one of these majors will be assigned to a 2014-2015 Catalog year and be subject to general education, School, major and minor requirements listed in that catalog.

Please visit ssha-advising.ucmerced.edu/NewMajors for information on how your current courses may apply to this new major and other FAQs.