

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



Bachelor of Science in Public Health

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

100% ONLINE

120
CREDIT HOURS

Admission Requirements:

- Complete the online program application accompanied by a non-refundable processing fee.
- Submit official high school with a minimum 2.5 GPA and/or college transcripts with a minimum 2.0 GPA.
- Students are not required to submit ACT or SAT test scores.

Cost:

- Per Credit: \$395
- Per Course: \$1,185
- Total Tuition: \$47,400
- Total Tuition + Fees: \$53,600

**Timeline: 3.5 Years**

Job Outlook in Texas:

93,828 Jobs

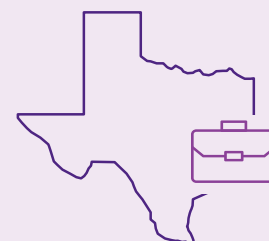
in 2025*

+2.9%

Employment Growth (2025-2026)

\$98,300 *per year*

Median Earnings

*Filtered by the proportion of the national workforce in these occupations with a Bachelor's degree. Source Lightcast 2026.



Major Requirements:

HCAD 241: Survey of Community and Public Health Issues

This course introduces the field of community and public health, its history, methods, and contribution with an emphasis to help future administrators of healthcare in planning and delivery of health services.

Applied Human Biology for Public Health

This course provides an introduction to biological concepts for public health, focusing on human physiology, pathophysiology, microbiology, and immunology as they relate to public health. Students will learn the biological basis for disease and prevention.

Environmental Health

This course explores how environmental exposures and occupational hazards influence health outcomes at the population and workplace level. Students will examine the impact of air, water, soil, chemicals, and other environmental factors, integrating biological concepts, epidemiology, and occupational health principles. Ethical and equity considerations are emphasized in environmental health interventions.

HCAD 256: Research and Statistics in Healthcare

Introduces students to research methods—formulating a research question, model, reviewing the literature, and writing up research results in a healthcare context. Examines methods of descriptive statistics and probability, including describing, exploring, and comparing data and how it can be used in decision making.

HCAD 441: Introduction to Epidemiology

This course integrates concepts from Epidemiology and Population Health in order to improve health outcomes. The role of the healthcare administrator in advancing population health through collaboration with groups, organizations, and networks, and the use of epidemiological applications and technology are emphasized.

Foundations of Public Health Research

This course introduces students to the design, conduct, and interpretation of research in public health. Students will learn how to develop research questions, choose appropriate study designs, and critically evaluate evidence. Both quantitative and qualitative methods are introduced, with an emphasis on interpreting, not computing, statistical findings, and applying results to real-world public health issues. Students will also gain experience in ethical research practice, basic data management, and communicating public health evidence effectively using common data tools. Students will be introduced to data tools such as Excel or SPSS for interpreting descriptive statistics.

Global Health

This course explores the factors that influence health at the international level, including social, economic, cultural, and policy determinants. Students will examine health systems, infectious and chronic disease patterns, maternal and child health outcomes, and global health equity challenges. Ethical considerations and evidence-based strategies for improving global health are emphasized.

Health Systems, Policy, and Regulatory Frameworks

This course gives a comprehensive overview of both U.S. and global health systems. It also provides an introduction to the legal, ethical, economic, and regulatory frameworks that govern public health and healthcare in the U.S. and abroad. Students learn the roles and responsibilities of different governmental agencies and branches of government as they relate to public health and health policy. This course will contextualize how public health interventions fit within systems and policy.

Applied Public Health Systems

This course bridges theory and practice in public health by integrating multi-level, systems-informed approaches, public health agency operations, behavioral drivers, equity considerations, applied ethical reasoning, and economic considerations. Students will apply knowledge from core public health courses to real-world systems, interventions, and policy challenges through analysis, discussion, and team-based projects.

COMO 460: Health Communication

This course is a survey of communication in the healthcare context. The course explores the role of communication in healthcare delivery, health promotion and media, disease prevention, risk communication, social support, and human subjects protections. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing.

HCAD 412: Health Communication Campaigns

Students utilize theory and research to produce and analyze health campaigns that focus on health promotion and disease prevention.

HCAD 461: Healthcare Disparities

An examination of the essential role of the determinants of health and disease in communities. Students will analyze correlations to disproportionately poor health outcomes in vulnerable populations. Students will also gain an introduction to the basic techniques of demographic analysis.

Behavioral, Social, and Cultural Determinants of Health

Students will explore how behaviors, social systems, culture, disparities, and intersectional identities shape health outcomes. There is an emphasis on strategies to address inequities. This course will add human and societal layers to prior public health knowledge.



Designing and Evaluating Public Health Interventions

This course introduces students to the process of designing, implementing, and evaluating public health interventions. Topics will range from foundational knowledge and history to the hands-on application of skills to address population health needs. Students will apply previous learning to practice, and evidence-based strategies will be emphasized.

Public Health Practicum

Students complete a supervised field experience in a public health agency, hospital, non-profit, or research organization. Structured reflection and mentoring are incorporated to develop professional skills and connect hands-on experience to foundational knowledge. Students will complete a minimum of 120 field hours, supervised by a public health preceptor, with deliverables demonstrating attainment of at least five foundational competencies.

Public Health Capstone

Students select a public health problem or case study, conduct a comprehensive analysis using evidence-based approaches, and propose actionable solutions or interventions. Emphasis is on synthesis of prior knowledge, critical thinking, and professional communication. Students will integrate knowledge gained from their coursework and apply public health concepts to real-world public health issues.

Choose 3 courses (9 hours) from the following:

HCAD 311: Current Issues in Global Public Health

Study of health systems around the world by evaluating countries according to their healthcare systems, socioeconomic status, and the challenges and opportunities for promoting the health of their citizens.

PSYO 356: Health Psychology

Psychological study of the impact of behavior on health and the influence of health and disease states on quality of life. Includes biopsychosocial study of the behavioral correlates of health, illness and disability, the improvement of health care, and the development of healthy habits and reduction of unhealthy behaviors.

PSYO 278: Stress and Its Management

The impact of stress on physical and emotional health; survey and practice of stress management methods.

HCAD 422: Ethical Implications of Healthcare Policies and Regulation

Students utilize an ethical perspective to consider health policy, regulations, and current reforms in healthcare.

ORCO 451: Communicating with Data

This course equips students with skills to interpret, visualize, and effectively communicate data insights to teams. Through hands-on exercises, they learn to craft compelling narratives, adapt strategies for diverse audiences, and address ethical considerations.

EXSO 201: Foundations of Exercise Science

An introduction to foundational principles, concepts, and trends within health, wellness, fitness, and human performance. Professional organizations and careers within these fields are examined.

MGMO 337: Safety, Health and Security (MGMO 330 is a prerequisite)

Provides an overview of occupational safety and health, including concepts of hazard avoidance federal legislation, building and facilities, health and environmental control, hazardous material, personal protection, and fire protection. In addition, the course addresses safety and health program organization, administration and management including employee assistance programs and wellness programs.

Advanced Research and Data Analysis in Public Health

This course builds on foundational research skills to help students analyze, interpret, and present public health data. Students will learn how to apply statistical concepts to real-world datasets, visualize and communicate findings, and evaluate public health programs and policies. Emphasis is on using data for evidence-based decision-making and improving population health. Students will use Excel or SPSS for data analysis, as well as the optional use of data visualization tools (e.g. Canva, Tableau, Flourish).

Disaster and Emergency Preparedness

This course introduces students to the principles and practices of emergency preparedness, response, and recovery in public health. Students will explore natural disasters, infectious disease outbreaks, bioterrorism, and other public health emergencies, focusing on planning, risk assessment, response coordination, and resilience-building. Ethical, cultural, and equity considerations in emergency planning and response are emphasized. Students will engage in scenario-based exercises, case studies, and practical applications of emergency preparedness frameworks.

General Education/University Requirements:

56 hours of general education and university requirements are needed to fulfill this degree, including 9-15 hours of Bible courses. Specific courses will be determined based on a student's incoming transfer credits.