Class of 2022 Application to the Program in Public Health

The discipline of Public Health is the science and practice of promoting health and preventing disease or injury within and across populations. Public Health takes socio-cultural, behavioral, policy, and biomedical perspectives, and focuses on population rather than individual patient health. Williams College offers an Area of Concentration in Public Health. More information on the program can be found at https://public-health.williams.edu/.

Admission to the Area of Concentration in Public Health is limited and interested students should complete an application in the Spring of their sophomore year, in consultation with a member of the Public Health Advisory Board and after familiarizing themselves with the information about the concentration on the website. Due to excess demand, we cannot guarantee admission to the program.

Important Points for Class of 2022 Applications

1. As advising and enrollment have been moved to summer, we have extended our deadline accordingly. **Applications for the Class of 2022 are due July 10, 2020.** Decisions will be emailed to you no later than July 20.

2. Please note that applications for this cycle are for those who intend to graduate, on or off-cycle, in 2022 and will therefore be enrolling in the senior capstone in the Spring of 2022. If you intend to take a gap year and will therefore be in the graduating class of 2023, please reserve your application until the Class of 2023 application is posted (i.e., in the Spring of 2021).

3. We recognize that we are facing extraordinary circumstances that limit the ability to identify exact courses and community-based work. We encourage you to work in tandem with a member of the Public Health Faculty (https://public-health.williams.edu/faculty-advisory-board/) to craft a narrative that is centered on your intellectual interests in Public Health and the themes and topics that have drawn you to the concentration.

4. When selecting electives, you may wish to identify more than three electives as we recognize that your proposed electives may change due to changes in course availability and new course offerings.

5. When considering your experiential component, we will also be flexible in supporting and assisting in identifying a variety of community-based work, as well as research, that is consistent with your interests in public health and feasible, either in person or virtually. Some ideas to consider are working with an agency to research topics related to their work/mission; pandemic-related work on or off campus, including supporting community efforts to assist with food insecurity, access to health care, mental health outreach efforts; and work with businesses, schools and agencies promoting social distancing and related public health protocols (e.g., distribution of personal protective equipment). The
faculty will work with you to identify community opportunities and will be flexible in approving the experiential component.

5. We encourage you to reach out to a public health faculty member to begin crafting the narrative of your application now. If you have questions or need assistance identifying a faculty advisor in public health, please email the Chair, Professor Hane @ ahane@williams.edu.

Required Application Materials

To submit an application, please e-mail the following materials to ahane@williams.edu no later than July 10, with the e-mail subject line “PH Application”. The transcript, narrative proposal, and concentration declaration form should be attached as separate PDFs named as described below, where “lastname” should reflect the student’s last name.

a. Unofficial transcript (PDF named lastname_transcript.pdf).

b. A 5-to-7-page narrative proposal (PDF named lastname_proposal.pdf) including the following elements:

• Name

• Proposed Public Health advisor (please communicate with this Advisory Board member before submitting the application)

• A description of your intellectual goals and interests in Public Health (and, if relevant, how these relate to your professional goals)

• The intellectual theme that will structure your path through the concentration. We ask students to define a cohesive set of issues that constitute a theme within the broad field of public health. This theme should be the basis for the courses taken and experiential component. The theme need not be one of the elective course groupings listed on the website and is best discussed with a potential PH advisor prior to submitting your application.

• List of required and proposed elective courses and what semesters they might be taken (subject to availability). For the 3 electives, please indicate how these courses relate to the proposed theme. (Note:
The capstone will be taken in Spring of senior year and no substitution can be made if there is a conflict with another required course.) Please clearly specify how these courses tie together to form a cohesive intellectual package that reflects your particular interests within public health.

Note that proposed courses should have more than one prefix and should demonstrate a commitment to learning beyond the student’s major, where possible. (Note that students do often get PH elective credit and/or experiential learning credit when studying away and this should be discussed with the PH Chair prior to travelling abroad. At least one elective should be completed at Williams. The SIT-IHP study away program is particularly good training).

Please indicate if you plan to take a gap year that your anticipated junior year will be in 2021-22.

- Proposed experiential component(s) that will incorporate the principles of community engagement in order to promote health and how the proposed experience relates to the proposed theme.

- Overview of how your major field of study and any study abroad plans relate to the PH curriculum.

c. Students who are admitted to the concentration will receive instructions for completing their Major/Concentration Declaration form. Do not submit the form to the Registrar’s Office until you have received official notification of your acceptance into the program. Students who are admitted to the concentration students will receive instructions for completing their Major/Concentration Declaration form

Please contact the Chair of Public Health (ahane@williams.edu) or any member of the PH Advisory Board with questions.