

FAQs for the 2020-2021 Academic Year

Public Health Program FAQs

Williams College has made the [decision](#) to convene an in-person semester for the fall of 2020. This has surely inspired questions among students in the public health program. Below is a list of frequently asked questions and our best answers to date. Please note that these questions and answers are relevant only to the 2020-21 academic year.

Q1. Are there changes in the requirements for the Public Health Concentration?

No. There are no significant changes in the [concentration requirements](#). You will still need to complete two core courses (PHLH 201 and PHLH 402), one statistics course, 3 electives and the experiential component. Please discuss specific questions about your situation with [chair](#).

Q2. When and how will academic advising happen?

Please see the [registrar's website](#) for general information about academic advising and preregistration. Briefly, rising juniors will complete the application form remotely by July 10. The preregistration period for all students will occur between Aug 10-17. In early August,

current concentrators will be able to schedule a remote appointment with their faculty advisor to discuss course plans for the fall semester.

Q3. How will large courses be taught in order to comply with distancing guidelines?

Some large courses will be taught entirely remotely. Others may be taught with the enrolled students divided into smaller groups that will alternate in-person attendance in class. Note that all classes will be able to accommodate remote students. Please look at the “Notes” section of each course description for further details on the instructional approach that is anticipated.

Q4. If a class is scheduled for in-person meetings, but I am only able to attend remotely, will I be able to take it?

Absolutely. Any course that includes an in-person component will be open to students taking the course remotely. However, it may be the case that discussion sections or project groups will be organized such that students taking the course remotely will meet together and those taking the course in-person will meet together. Please contact the professor with specific questions.

Q5. Will courses that typically offer labs still include laboratory components?

Yes. The public health program remains very committed to ensuring that students gain experience in empirical methods and many of our courses have laboratory components. Faculty are working hard to

adapt to our new circumstances. Courses scheduled to include laboratory experiences will continue to include those components.

Q6. Will I still be able to complete my thesis project?

All students who were planning to complete a senior honors thesis should discuss the situation with their advisors.

Q7. Do I still need IRB approval for research with human participants even if my participants aren't on campus and/or I'm not on campus?

Yes. Please discuss your research plan with your research advisor.