# Public Health

## Nature of the Work
For descriptions of this profession see:
- [www.apha.org/what-is-public-health](http://www.apha.org/what-is-public-health)
- [www.explorehealthcareers.org](http://www.explorehealthcareers.org)

## Options
- 5 core areas of public health:
  - Biostatistics
  - Epidemiology
  - Health Services Administration
  - Health Education/Behavioral Science
  - Environmental Health
- Many schools offer concentrations in addition to the 5 core areas of public health
- Check the Association of Schools of Public Health website ([www.aspaph.org](http://www.aspaph.org)) for a list of public health schools

## Course Requirements
- Vary by school

## Application Timeline
Public health school directly after Gettysburg College:
- Required courses completed by end of senior year (although preference may be given to applicants who complete the required courses sooner)
- Apply during fall of senior year

## Standardized Test
- Usually Graduate Record Exam (GRE) revised General Test ([www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre)), but varies by school
- Given year-round at computer-based test centers
- Length ~ 4 hours
- 3 sections: Verbal Reasoning (score 130-170), Quantitative Reasoning (score 130-170), Analytical Writing (score 0-6)
- Register on-line ([www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre))
- Free and low-cost preparation materials ([www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre))
- Unofficial scores on test day, official scores in 10-15 days

## Application Service
- Schools of Public Health Application Service (SOPHAS) ([www.sophas.org](http://www.sophas.org))
- Available ~ September 1
- Schools not participating in SOPHAS: apply directly to school
- APPLY EARLY!!! Do not wait until application deadlines!
| Admissions Criteria       | • GPA  
|                          | • GRE scores  
|                          | • Letters of evaluation  
|                          | • Health-related experience  
|                          | • Personal statement |
| Length of Program        | • Varies by school  
|                          | • Master’s programs ~ 2 years  
|                          | • Doctoral programs ~ 3 – 5 years |
| Degree                   | • Masters level: Master of Public Health (MPH), Master of Health Administration (MHA), Master of Science (MS), Masters Health Systems Administration (MHSA)  
|                          | • Doctoral level: Doctor of Public Health (DrPH), Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Doctor of Science (ScD) |
| Additional Resources     | • Association of Schools of Public Health ([www.aspph.org](http://www.aspph.org))  
|                          | • [www.apha.org/what-is-public-health](http://www.apha.org/what-is-public-health)  
|                          | • American Public Health Association ([www.apha.org](http://www.apha.org))  
|                          | • [www.publichealthjobs.net](http://www.publichealthjobs.net) |