What is Population Health?

Population health is a systems-based approach to improving health outcomes that joins strategies from public health, wellness promotion, chronic disease prevention and management, and complex care into a cohesive discipline. It examines the social, economic, political, environmental, and cultural factors that affect the health of a population – the social determinants of health – and analyzes the effectiveness of social and community interventions, health policy, and evidence-based health care delivery models.

Our nation needs new approaches to improve the health of our communities. Population health strategies foster collaboration with diverse sectors, including education, social welfare, housing, transportation, environmental protection, and economic development. The College of Population Health (COPH), one of only five institutions of its kind in the U.S., serves New Mexico's communities, government and non-profit agencies, businesses, and health-related organizations.

Our graduates will bring to the workplace a unique interdisciplinary perspective and skills to address the complex relationships that affect health outcomes.

The College is dedicated to advancing population health education and research to promote positive health outcomes and improve patient care.

The College cultivates partnerships between the University of New Mexico and the community to improve the health of New Mexicans.

The College is guided by the principles of diversity, health equity, social justice, creating a culture of excellence, and earning the trust of our communities.



Bachelor of Science in Population Health

New Mexico needs a workforce with the core knowledge and flexibility to adapt to a rapidly changing landscape in public health, wellness, disease prevention, and healthcare delivery.

COPH graduates will be prepared to meet these challenges. They will play a key role in ensuring our nation's health and well-being, enabling people to lead happier, healthier, and more productive lives.



Want to make a difference in the world?

Bachelor of Science in Population Health (BSPH)

The UNM Bachelor of Science in Population Health degree prepares you to become a professional in population health with coursework in:

- epidemiology,
- program planning,
- research methods,
- health care finance,
- social theory,
- and more.

You will learn approaches to:

- evaluating health programs,
- advocating for policy change.
- and understanding national and global health systems.

Our students enjoy access to nationally recognized faculty with multiple opportunities for interdisciplinary education through collaborations with UNM-NMDOH Academic Health Department, UNM College of Population Health Centers for Participatory Research and Transdisciplinary Research, Equity and Engagement, and other local and national agencies.

Applying for the capstone experience provides real-world training while in the BSPH program. Fieldwork is a valuable opportunity for students to gain experience in a professional population health setting, develop networking skills, and prepare for employment upon graduation.

With an undergraduate degree in population health from The University of New Mexico, you'll be ready to step onto the front lines, improving health outcomes and access in diverse and under-served populations.

Minor in Population Health

A minor in population health prepares you to impact the lives of people within your circle of influence in the most data-driven and positive way possible. You will discover socioeconomic, behavioral, physiological, and environmental effects that impact a community so you can make a difference.

This program has the potential to enhance the values of many career areas including:

- Law
- Nursing
- Business
- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Chemistry
- Psychology
- Women's Studies
- Biology/Bioengineering
- And others

Is Population Health for YOU?

- Do you value diversity, self-reflection and critical analysis?
- Do you have a passion for affecting change in your community?
- Do you desire to improve health equity, making healthcare fair and accessible to all?
- Are you interested in improving health outcomes to promote the public's health?

If you are contemplating which program is right for you, talk with an advisor about your interests. You will receive guidance for a degree plan that best fits your career goals.

Scan this QR code to submit a request for information, or email cophadvising@unm.edu to set up an appointment.



