

**Public Health Program Mission Statement and Program Vision
and
Statement of Core Values and Competencies**

Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy

Approved by unanimous vote of the Public Health Faculty: May 5, 2020

The Edward J. Bloustein School's Undergraduate Public Health Program offers a dynamic learning environment that prepares public health students to tackle society's most pressing contemporary health-related issues.

Our curricular goal is to assure that students graduate with the core skills and competencies needed to meet the public health challenges of the present and the future. Instilling these competencies requires an understanding of the interrelatedness of policy, planning and health. We provide a liberal education rich in sciences and the humanities to promote an understanding of key public health principles.

Our Mission:

- Recognizes the environmental and social context of public health including measures, education and policies that improve the health and wellness of individuals, families and communities;
- Nurtures critical thinking, analysis, and synthesis at multiple levels from the global to the local;
- Integrates interdisciplinary scholarship with application and practice that prepares students for future employment and professionalism; and
- Develops ethical and culturally competent leaders who embrace diversity and advocate to improve public health.

Our Vision:

- To engage, inspire and prepare undergraduates as public health leaders.

Our Core Values:

Our teaching-and-learning community values:

- Diversity, equity and human rights;
- Cultural responsiveness and agility;
- Collaboration and inclusion;
- Integration of methods, ideas, and disciplines;
- Shared and equitable responsibility for the mission of the program;
- Academic freedom;
- Diversity in academic contributions; and,
- Making a difference at the local and global level as practitioners, policy makers and advocates.

Competencies Required to Earn the Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Health from the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy:

We adopt these *foundational competencies* from the *Council on Education for Public Health*:

Upon the successful completion of our program, our public health majors will have the mastery to:

1. Communicate public health information, in both oral and written forms and through a variety of media, to diverse audiences.
2. Locate, use, evaluate and synthesize public health information.

In addition, the Public Health faculty of The Edward J. Bloustein School requires these *program competencies* for achievement of the B.S. Degree in Public Health from Rutgers University. A graduate of our program will be able to:

3. Identify the fundamental values and philosophy of public health including its history as well as its contemporary organization, global and societal functions;
4. Assess the impact and intersection of the social determinants of health and equity on population health and health disparities in the US and elsewhere;
5. Discuss the role played by biological, social, environmental, cultural, and economic factors in shaping global human health and disease;
6. Apply the underlying scientific principles utilized in public health research that contributes to our understanding of human health and discuss how this knowledge informs prevention efforts;
7. Evaluate the legal and ethical aspects of public health policy; and,
8. Be able to plan, assess and evaluate public health research and policy interventions based on the best available evidence.