

RIVIER UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES BACHELOR'S IN PUBLIC HEALTH FOR FALL 2014

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Rivier University announces a new Bachelor of Science degree in Public Health (BSPH) beginning fall 2014. This degree will prepare undergraduates for health-related careers in population-based prevention programs—protecting, promoting and preserving the health of individuals, families and communities, including the underserved and marginalized, around the world.

“Major advances in the improvement of health over the upcoming decades will come from the development and application of population-based prevention programs,” said Dean of Nursing Dr. Paula Williams. “Health promotion and disease prevention are among the major areas of growth where public health professionals will be in great demand.”

A greater emphasis on assuring the safety of our communities and worker health and safety is also influencing the demand for experts in environmental health and industrial hygiene. Public health research focusing on women’s health, child and substance abuse, and programs to promote behavioral change to prevent the risk of STD’s, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and unplanned pregnancies continue to be priorities.

"I am very excited that Rivier University is going to be offering a Bachelor's Degree in Public Health in the fall," said Dr. José Montero, Director of Public Health at the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services. "The field is in need of more workers with all the new challenges, such as emerging infectious diseases, better understanding of human nutrition, an aging U.S. population, and rapidly growing numbers of people with chronic disease, and also the workforce is aging. I commend Rivier for implementing this new program and look forward to positive impact it will have on New Hampshire and its residents."

Graduates will acquire knowledge and skills in the core concepts of public health including health behavior, research and statistics in health, environmental health, epidemiology, and health administration, as well as in the planning, evaluation, organization, and conduct of community and public health services. A study abroad component will offer a first-hand global perspective.

Rivier’s program is modeled on the undergraduate public health learning outcomes developed by the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) in collaboration with the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), and the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR).

“Given the University’s mission to ‘transform hearts and minds to serve the world,’ and the need for formal education and workforce preparation in the realm of public health, this program affords students local, state, national and global perspectives, engagement, and career opportunities,” said Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Deborah Vess.

In addition to the new bachelor’s degree program, Rivier will also offer a minor in public health which would complement a number of disciplines. ■

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