

# ***SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH***

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Wendy Weller, Ph.D.

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Public Health is the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting physical health through organized community efforts. It is focused on protecting populations from disease and injuries.

The University at Albany and the New York State Department of Health have entered into a formal arrangement to administer cooperatively the School of Public Health and to offer graduate and professional programs in Health Policy, Management & Behavior, Biomedical Sciences, Biometry, Environmental Health & Toxicology, and Epidemiology. Undergraduate students interested in graduate study should contact our Office of Student Affairs at (518) 402-0283.

The Department of Health Policy, Management & Behavior at the School of Public Health has developed exciting joint study opportunities for undergraduate economics, sociology, and psychology majors. Students majoring in these areas can earn an undergraduate degree along with a masters degree in 5 years of full-time study, including the summer prior to the fifth year. Interested undergraduates are encouraged to contact Health Policy, Management & Behavior at (see above for list of key faculty) (518) 402-0333 for more information.

The undergraduate courses H Sph 101 and H Epi 460 offered by the School of Public Health are considered “liberal arts and sciences” courses for the purposes of meeting B.A. and B.S. degree requirements.

Courses in the School of Public Health are preceded by the school’s letter *H*.

## **Courses**

### **H Sph 201 Introduction to Public Health (3)**

A general introduction to what public health is, its importance for everybody’s health, and how it functions as a combination of science and politics. The role of the public health system will be illustrated by describing issues confronting New York State and what is being done about them.

### **H Sta 271 Medical Informatics (3)**

Medical Informatics covers the use of computers to manage healthcare data, decision support for diagnosis and treatment, and the use of artificial intelligence for patient care and clinical investigations. Course taught on-line. Contact Donald Parsons at (518) 474-7047.

### **H Epi 460 Participatory Action Research (3)**

Theory, methods, and practice of Participatory Action Research (PAR), for identifying collective social problems, negotiating, implementing and evaluating possible solutions. Issues of power; principles of equity/democracy; politics of the conduct/products of sciences; university-community partnerships, with applications in public health, education, social welfare, ecology, community

planning, labor and business development are discussed. Permission of instructor required. Contact Professor Donna Armstrong at (518) 402-0372.