

CAL POLY HUMBOLDT
University Senate

Resolution to Recommend Community Health, B.A. - 24-2678

03-25/26-ICC – October 28, 2025 – Curriculum Reading

RESOLVED: That the University Senate of Cal Poly Humboldt recommends to the Provost that the Community Health, B.A. – 24-2678 (ZZ_PROGRAM: 2025–26 New Degree Proposal Form [Chancellor’s Office]), offered through the School of Applied Health in the College of Professional Studies, detailed in [Proposal 24-2678](#) be approved.

RATIONALE:

Program Purpose and Overview

The Bachelor of Arts in Community Health prepares students to advance health equity and promote well-being through education, advocacy, and applied community practice. The program equips students with multiple frameworks for justice-oriented, community-based approaches to health and wellness, grounded in the understanding that health outcomes are shaped by social, environmental, and systemic factors.

Students will study how social and physical environments intersect with individual and population health, learning to design and implement programs that address both personal behavior and structural change. Through coursework in health promotion, epidemiology, healthcare systems, environmental health justice, and cross-cultural health communication, graduates will develop the analytical, professional, and interpersonal skills needed to improve health access and outcomes in diverse communities.

The program’s structure includes a shared core with concentrations in Community Health Education and Health Advocacy/Patient Navigation that balance broad preparation with specialization. Students pursuing the Community Health Education concentration will focus on health promotion and community wellness at the population level. Those in the Health Advocacy/Patient Navigation concentration will develop expertise in care coordination, patient communication, and healthcare system navigation.

Graduates will be eligible to pursue professional certification as Certified Health Education Specialists (CHES) and Certified Community Health Workers (CHW), aligning the degree with recognized national standards and workforce needs.

Alignment with Cal Poly Humboldt’s Educational Commitments and CSU Priorities

The Community Health B.A. aligns with Cal Poly Humboldt’s guiding commitments to provide high-quality, accessible, and equity-centered education that prepares students to contribute to a just and sustainable world. The program reflects the university’s educational values of applied learning, community collaboration, and social responsibility.

It integrates the university's learning outcomes and shared values, particularly those related to equity and social justice, sustainability, and information literacy. It also supports the CSU's broader commitment to developing community-engaged, workforce-responsive programs that address California's regional and statewide health needs.

The degree strengthens Cal Poly Humboldt's role as a polytechnic university by emphasizing interdisciplinary, hands-on learning through community partnerships, internships, and applied research. Students will work with local and tribal communities, applying classroom learning to lived contexts of health and well-being, thereby advancing both student success and community vitality.

Compelling Need for the Program

The Community Health B.A. responds to growing local, state, and national workforce demand for professionals trained in community-based health education, advocacy, and navigation. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the healthcare and social assistance sector is projected to add over 3.3 million jobs by 2030, with community health workers and health education specialists among the fastest-growing occupations. The program's applied design, which integrates public health theory, social justice frameworks, and practical skills, positions graduates to meet these urgent needs across healthcare, nonprofit, and governmental sectors.

Program Overview

- Degree: Bachelor of Arts in Community Health
- Total Units: 120 (including GE and major requirements)
 - Lower-Division Core (16 units) – foundational courses in health policy, justice, psychology, and wellness
 - Upper-Division Core (40 units) – advanced coursework in epidemiology, environmental health justice, healthcare economics, and applied health programming
- Major Requirements: 66–67 units
 - Applied Learning: Variable-unit internship/practicum, capstone project, and integration with regional community health organizations.
 - Concentrations:
 - Community Health Education (9 units)
 - Health Advocacy and Patient Navigation (10 units)
- Instructional Mode: Hybrid, with face-to-face and flexible online components
- Department: School of Applied Health, College of Professional Studies

Program Learning Outcomes

- Identify and analyze factors influencing population and community health.
- Describe the role of social, environmental, and behavioral determinants in shaping health outcomes.
- Communicate health information effectively to diverse audiences.
- Locate, evaluate, and synthesize community health data.

- Guide access to and navigation of health and community resources.
- Recognize and address health disparities through advocacy and culturally responsive practice.
- Plan and evaluate community health programs with awareness of systemic inequities.
- Employ professional self-care and resilience strategies.

Distinctive Features

- Integrates coursework from Health Education, Native American Studies, Environmental Studies, and Economics.
- Includes new and expanded courses:
 - HED 210 – Health Care Systems and Health Policy
 - ECON 335 – Healthcare Economics
 - ENST 471 – Environmental Health Justice
- Streamlined internship (HED 482) allowing flexible completion schedules.
- Supports student eligibility for Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) and Certified Community Health Worker (CHW) certification pathways.

Contextual Background

The Community Health, B.A. evolved from the previously proposed Health Advocacy, B.A., first developed for the 2026 Academic Master Plan. The original Health Advocacy proposal emphasized patient advocacy, case management, and healthcare navigation.

Following review by the Health Taskforce (2023), external practitioner-educator feedback, and consultation with the Provost's Office, the proposal was revised to:

- Broaden the program scope to encompass community-based health education and public health frameworks.
- Relocate technical advocacy courses to a Health Advocacy and Patient Navigation concentration.
- Reorganize the curriculum to include stronger grounding in public health systems and environmental health.
- Rename the degree to reflect its expanded career pathways and broader community focus.

These revisions preserve the core strengths of the Health Advocacy curriculum while ensuring long-term relevance and alignment with statewide health workforce priorities.

Related Proposals

- [ECON - 335 - 24-2769 - New Course - Healthcare Economics](#)
- [ECON - 335D - 24-2770 - New Course - Healthcare Economics—Additional Depth](#)
- [HED 210 - 24-2794 - New Course - Health Care Systems and Health Policy](#)
- [HED - 211 - 22-1858 - New Course - Health Advocacy and Justice in Medicine](#)
- [HED - 220 - 22-1859 - New Course - Interdisciplinary Care Coordination Across the Lifespan](#)
- [HED - 244 - 22-1860 - New Course - Introduction to Health Informatics and Coding](#)

- [HED - 350 - 22-1861 - New Course - Ethical, Legal, and Financial Concerns in Health Advocacy](#)
- [HED - 412 - 22-1938 - New Course - Epidemiology](#)
- [HED - 482 - 22-1863 - New Course - Health Advocacy Practicum/Internship](#)
- [HED - 490W - 22-1865 - New Course - Health Advocacy Capstone](#)
- [HED - 388 - 24-2878 - Course Change- Community Based Health Promotion](#)
- [HED - 480 - 22-1866 - New Course - Topics in Health Advocacy](#)
- [ENST - 471 - 24-2690 - Course Change- Environmental Health Justice](#)
- [ES 307- 24-2973 - New Course - Issues in Latinx American Health](#)