



**PARKINSON**  
SCHOOL of HEALTH SCIENCES  
AND PUBLIC HEALTH

## Bachelor of Science in Public Health Fall 2023 Newsletter

### Spotlight on PUBH 310, Public Health Internship Course



*Public Internship Course students with Dr. Cynthia Stewart, Spring 2023*

BSPH students are encouraged to seek an internship experience sometime during their undergraduate studies and the PUBH 310, Public Health Internship course offers an excellent opportunity for this. Dr. Cynthia Stewart, Parkinson Director of Experiential Learning, shares information about the course:

#### **What is your role within Parkinson?**

I am the Director of Experiential Learning and I teach the PUBH 310 elective course for undergraduate public health students. I work with all the undergraduate and graduate level programs for student placements for internships/practicums for academic credit. I work with employers/organizations to partner with Parkinson to provide service learning, academic internships, and for some research opportunities for our students. I also handle the mentorship platform called LoyolaLinked, which engages current students with alumni similar to LinkedIn and Facebook.

#### **Describe the PUBH 310 course and its highlights.**

PUBH 310 is available for enrollment for spring semester. Students meet once a week in class and during the week work (between 8-10 hours) either remotely, in-person or a hybrid of both at an internship site based on your interest and student being a good fit for the internship. Within the class you conduct an organizational analysis of your internship, informational interviews, visit a Chicago community to learn from community leaders about how they are combating social determinants of health and lastly will create an e-portfolio as your final presentation. Guess what - there are no exams!

#### **What are the most popular internships for BSPH students so far?**

Evanston Township High School Health Center (affiliate of Northshore Hospital), University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital, American Lung Association, Women's Health Initiative (owned by Parkinson double alumni - HCA and MPH), Misericordia, there are new sites available for spring 2024.

### Talk about the value of doing an internship.

Every public health student should experience an academic internship before they graduate, because it allows them to work within a professional environment to learn what they like and do not like before going out into the workforce after graduation. You will also gain transferable skills that will help you to become marketable when seeking employment. The best "hands on" experience you will have during college.

### How should the BSPH Program work to authentically prepare students to enter a workforce that requires such an emphasis of diversity?

Within the program it is essential for students to read books and articles from a diverse range of scholars within the field. To also have guest speakers for either classroom visits or professional development workshops to share their story of how they have navigated the workforce. Lastly, I suggest that students visit diverse neighborhoods within Chicago to learn and hear from local residents, community leaders, and other stakeholders who are making impacts to better the health of those in their community.

### Favorite food establishment in Chicago?

Ralph Lauren Restaurant near WTC is my favorite place to eat - the crab cakes are the bomb!

### If you need a laugh, where do you go or what do you do?

I love going to plays- the Court Theater in Hyde Park and Goodman Theatre are my top two favorites. August Wilson is one of my favorite playwrights.

## New Public Health Major Elective Course

### PUBH 390, Special Topics: Public Health Intelligence

Mondays, 4:15 – 6:45PM, Nicholas D. Soulakis (6557)

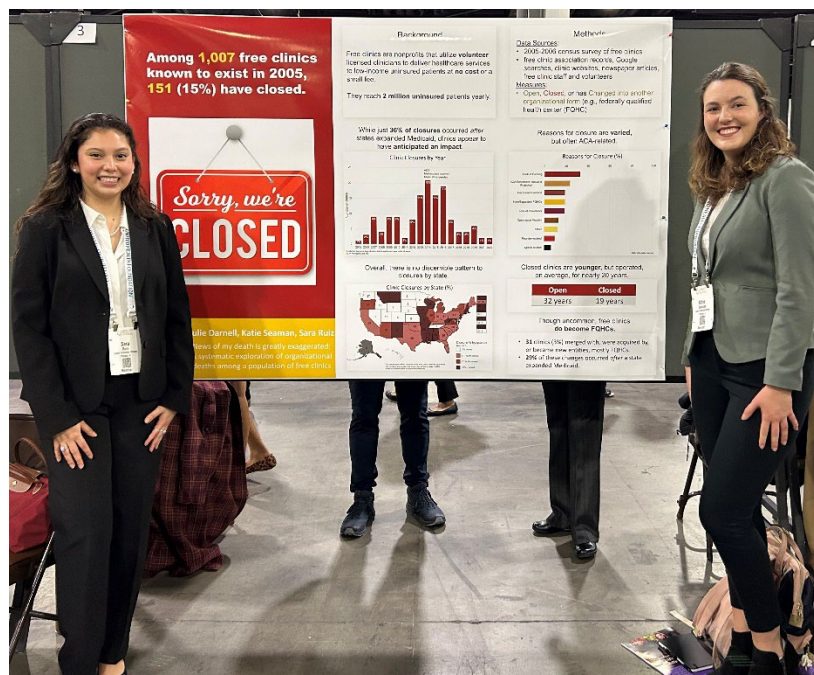
#### Course Description

As public health modernizes, the potential to better monitor, target, and respond to the needs of the community increases. However, the exponential growth in information technologies and associated consumer products can create an informatics skills gap for those entering the field. This course provides both a conceptual foundation and a hands-on introduction for public health informatics - the science of collecting, organizing, and using information to promote and protect the health of all people. Students will work with real-life data sets, from food safety to crime reports, while furthering their understanding of the intersection of public health practice and informatics.

#### Prerequisites

STAT 103 or PSYC 304 or STAT 335 or ISSCM 241 or their equivalent; familiarity with spreadsheets such as Excel or Google Sheets.

## BSPH Program Director's Note by Julie Darnell, PhD, MHSA





A picture is worth a 1,000 words! BSPH student Katie Seaman and BSPH alumna and now MPH student Sara Ruiz joined me at the American Public Health Association (APHA) annual meeting a couple of weeks ago to co-present our research on free clinic closures. I was full of pride watching them adeptly handle questions from APHA attendees during our 60-minute poster session that stretched into 90 minutes due to the heavy volume of people who stopped by our poster. After the conference, Sara wrote, "Attending the APHA conference has reaffirmed my passion and excitement for a future in public health. It was one of those experiences that let you know you're on the right track."

I encourage any student who is interested in research to reach out to faculty (just like Katie and Sara did) to explore how they might get involved in faculty-led research activities. I can't promise that you'll end up at APHA, but the journey may take you to places you never imagined. Just ask Sydney Ross (BSPH alumna and current MPH student), Abigail Plum (BSPH alumna and current MPH student), and Tatiana Pasewark (BSPH alumna and incoming MPH student) who recently have co-authored articles with their mentor, Associate Professor of Biostatistics Fares Qeadan. Ross' [article](#), "Psychostimulant Misuse Among American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Native Hawaiian College Students in the U.S. From 2015 to 2019," appears in the journal, *Substance Abuse: Research and Treatment*. The *Journal of Substance Use* published the research [article](#) "Exploratory analysis of the Alcohol, Smoking, and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST): correlations and rankings among U.S. college students" by Plum and Pasewark.

### Public Health Club News by Jennifer Gaucin, Co-President, PHC, BSPH '24

The Public Health Club (PHC) is dedicated to promoting opportunities for education, community well-being, and fostering an environment of health awareness. This fall semester, our DEI and Education Committee held a seminar on homelessness in Chicago and its impact on minority communities, and discussed how students can get involved to help combat the issue using resources both on and around campus. As we wrap up the semester, our committees are excited to invite you to join us for our upcoming events designated to educate, captivate, and inspire.

For spring 2024, our DEI and Education Committee is looking forward to fundraising for local organizations aiding refugees and continue their seminar series with a focus on student homelessness. Our Mentorship Committee will be focusing on tutoring opportunities with Public Health underclassmen as they navigate through their first years here at Loyola. Lastly, our Advocacy and Outreach Committee will be having various volunteering opportunities for students this upcoming spring semester. Our committees and our club will continue to work together to enforce PHC's objectives and look forward to seeing you all!

Reach out to PHC at [lucphc@gmail.com](mailto:lucphc@gmail.com).

### Congratulations to BSPH Alpha Sigma Nu Inductees

Alpha Sigma Nu is the honor society of Jesuit institutions of higher education. The Society recognizes those students who distinguish themselves in scholarship, loyalty and service. The 2023-2024 B.S. in Public Health inductees are **Grace Courter** (BSPH '25) from Geneva, IL, and **Isabel Chavez** (BSPH '25) from Chicago, IL.



## Save the Date!

- **Healthcare Internship Fair**, Wednesday, February 28, 3-6PM, Damen Student Center
- **Diversity & Inclusion Career & Networking Fair**, Wednesday, March 13, 3-6PM Damen Student Center
- **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Advocacy & Violence Prevention Summit**, Wednesday, April 3, 4:30PM (LSC & virtual)
- **Celebration of the Magis** Ceremony Honoring Parkinson Seniors, Tuesday, May 7, 6 – 8PM, Mundelein Auditorium

## Resources

Public Health Resources:

[BSPH Program Students Sakai Site](#)

[Public Health Job Board](#), this site serves to function as a central location for public health job opportunities, internship opportunities, and volunteer events for students and alumni.

[Career Services](#), phone: 773.508.7716, email: [careercenter@luc.edu](mailto:careercenter@luc.edu)

[Handshake](#), schedule career/pre-health advising & coaching meetings, find jobs, register for career fairs and events.

[Librarian for the BSPH Program](#), Cara Forster, MLIS (they/them), Research & Learning Librarian, [cforster1@luc.edu](mailto:cforster1@luc.edu); [Public Health Guide](#)

[Parkinson Experiential Learning](#): [ParkinsonEXPL@luc.edu](mailto:ParkinsonEXPL@luc.edu)

[Parkinson Weekly Student Life Newsletter](#), contact: [ParkinsonStudentLife@luc.edu](mailto:ParkinsonStudentLife@luc.edu)

Student Support Resources:

[Student Accessibility Center](#)

[Tutoring Center](#)

[Writing Center](#)

[Wellness Center](#), medical, mental health, and health education professionals committed to your well- being.

[Center for Student Assistance and Advocacy \(CSAA\)](#), an LUC centralized website for reporting student concerns.

## Interested in Contributing to the BSPH Newsletter?

We are always looking for new content – and new contributors -- for the BSPH Newsletter. Please let us know about accomplishments we can celebrate, events we can highlight, organizations we can profile, and topics we can explore. As a newsletter contributor, students may hone their communication skills, network, and share their thoughts, interests, and ideas on a variety of public health topics. Email Keith Kramer, [kkramer4@luc.edu](mailto:kkramer4@luc.edu).

For more information about the BSPH program contact: **Keith Kramer**, Senior Program Advisor, [kkramer4@luc.edu](mailto:kkramer4@luc.edu) or **Julie Darnell, PhD**, BSPH Program Director, [jdarnell1@luc.edu](mailto:jdarnell1@luc.edu)

