What is Public Health?

Public Health is an area of study that concentrates on improving the health of communities and populations. Public health works to make certain that people live, work, and play in conditions that are healthy and safe. Public health addresses physical, social, mental, cultural and environmental health topics and issues.

What can I do with public health knowledge?

Public health workers:
- Monitor health status
- Investigate health problems
- Educate and empower people and communities about health issues
- Develop policies to support health efforts
- Enforce laws and regulations that protect health
- Assure access to healthcare
- Conduct research.

People who study public health can work as:
- Community Health Representatives
- Public Health Nurses
- Health Educators
- Diabetes Educators
- Fitness Program Coordinators
- Social Workers
- Nutritionists
- Environmental Health Workers
- Hospital Administrators.

Current Projects include:

Navajo Native American Research Center for Health: Academic Programs and Research Internships for High School through Master Degree in collaboration with Navajo Nation Department of Health and Northern Arizona University.

Research: Family Cancer Literacy to Promote Mammography with Mayo Clinic, funded by National Cancer Institute

Integrated HIV and Substance Abuse Prevention for the Navajo Nation, funded by SAMHSA

AIHEC-NARCH Behavioral Health Research Positive Community Norms

DEI–USEPA 2017-18 Internship—“Cove Watershed Assessment-An Investigation of Impacts of Abandoned Uranium Mine of The Tronox Settlement” Perry H. Charley, Sr. Scientist/Director (505) 368-3514

Health Education Video Project, funded by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

Research: Navajo Gardening, Nutrition & Wellness, funded by the US Department of Agriculture

Supported with funding from:
Diné College has been involved in public health research, training, and program development for over 30 years in collaboration with the Navajo Nation Division of Health, Indian Health Service, and with numerous other institutions.

Public Health courses at Diné College look at public health in terms of traditional Navajo teachings. The curriculum is organized according to the Diné Educational Philosophy and reflects the following model:

Coursework focuses on positive aspects of Navajo life and health, as well as ways in which those positive aspects can be celebrated and strengthened. Public Health in the context of Navajo philosophy holds promise for improving the cultural relevancy and effectiveness of Public Health programs that serve the Diné people.

### Summer Research Enhancement Program

This is a paid internship which focuses on Public Health Research. It consists of intensive 3-week hands-on training at Tsaile, AZ followed by a 6-week practicum in your home community. The program finishes with a final week at Tsaile where students analyze their data and make a formal presentation of their research.

### Degree Programs in Public Health

#### Bachelor (B.S.) & Associate (A.S.) of Science

- These programs are designed for working health professionals as well as those wishing to pursue a health profession that emphasizes community and population health. They promote Navajo concepts of health and wellness.
- The A.S. in Public Health is either a final degree or a transfer program to colleges and universities that offer four year programs in public health, health education, health promotion or community health.
- The B.S. in Public Health is a final degree that prepares students for employment in Public Health and related health fields and/or graduate work in public health including a Masters in Public Health (MPH).
- In order to complete the B.S. degree in Public Health, Students must complete the Program requirements (as shown on the left) plus the General Education requirements (40-43 additional credits) of an B. S. degree program, and lower level requirements of 30 hours.
- Most courses originate at the Shiprock Campus and are also offered by interactive television at Tsaile, Window Rock, Crownpoint, Chinle and Tuba City.

#### Certificate in Public Health

A “Certificate in Public Health” may also be earned for 12-13 total credits with completion of:

- PUH 111  - PUH 270
- PUH 290 & PUH 297 or PUH 280 and one elective

This Certificate is jointly awarded by the College with the College of Public Health at the University of Arizona.

### Public Health Program Contact Information:

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