

OHSU-PSU Undergraduate Indigenous Health Concentration

The new Indigenous Health concentration, the first of its kind throughout the U.S., will have a “soft” launch this Fall 2021. It will be built, implemented, and sustained within the Oregon Health Sciences University – Portland State University School of Public Health (OHSU-PSU SPH; hereinafter “SPH”) undergraduate Public Health Studies program.

Undergraduate students within Public Health Studies, can currently earn a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) or a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in five concentration areas: Community Health Education, Health Sciences, School Health, Aging Services, and Health Administration Services. **This fall a sixth concentration will be added: the Indigenous Health concentration.**

Director: Dr. Kelly Gonzales

Co-creators: OHSU-PSU university-, Native community-, and institutions of public health

Centering Indigenous Values

This new concentration is designed to support and strengthen Indigenous sovereignty and self-determination of Native peoples as a pathway for health equity, healing and justice. Community driven support, not just engagement, will be critical to the student experience and beneficial to Native and non-Native students.

Students will have the option of completing a minor in Indigenous Nations Studies without additional coursework, or a major in Indigenous Nations Studies with three additional courses*.

The concentration includes:

- courses from disciplines across PSU including Social Work, Women’s Studies, Environmental Sciences, and University Studies,
- Four courses in Public Health specific to Indigenous Health:
 - Why Public Health Needs Indigenous Values
 - The Epidemic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives
 - Native American Health
 - Travel Abroad: Indigenous Food Sovereignty – learning from elders and on the land
- build from standard national CEPH accreditation-required courses for public health programs/concentrations,
- meet all OHSU-PSU SPH, Public Health Studies expectations and requirements

It will serve students:

- pursuing careers in community health promotion, disease prevention, health policy, social service, communication, medicine, research, education, community building and decolonizing
- seeking to approach public health by centering justice using anti-oppression and strengths-based, relational approaches
- aiming to build decolonized public health rooted in Indigenous values and through actions informed by trauma and healing approaches, and community-based wisdom and practice
- building capacity to replace systems of Indigenous erasure in public health