PUBLIC HEALTH
Associate of Science

Why Study Public Health?
Get on a career path dedicated to improving the health and well-being of communities throughout the nation and around the world. Develop your knowledge across a range of biological and social science subjects and build understanding of how environmental, economic, social and behavioral factors combine and affect health and wellness. This flexible field of study offers many opportunities; one can begin with the study of epidemiology, medical ethics, biostatistics, or become an effective health advocate developing public policy or procedures. Core courses are consistent with the first two years at four-year institutions and this program prepares students for transfer towards a BS degree in Public Health or another related field.

Occupational Objectives
Successful graduates who continue and complete a bachelor’s degree in Public Health may find positions in a variety of settings that include: state and local health departments, hospitals, workplace wellness programs, government agencies, educational institutions, or research organizations.

Program Goals
The degree provides students with a solid foundation in the core Public Health curriculum enabling successful transfer to four-year degree programs in Public Health.

Opportunities at Rockland Community College
RCC offers a beautiful, safe and convenient campus with a wide range of academic, social, cultural and recreation opportunities. Free services include academic tutoring, career counseling and transfer support. Get involved, there’s something for everyone on campus with more than 40 student clubs including Sustainability, Video, Robotics, Habitat for Humanity, Christian Fellowship, Hillel, Chess, Cooking, Dance, Art and so much more. An exciting calendar of special events includes heritage celebrations, guest speakers, cultural activities, concerts, performances, and exhibits.

5 Top Reasons To Study Public Health at RCC
1. VALUE: Affordable tuition, financial aid, scholarships.
2. FLEXIBILITY: Full or part-time study to accommodate work, family or other time commitments. On-campus childcare available.
3. CAREER: A wide range of internships provide real-world experiences.
4. SUPPORT: Small class sizes, more individual attention, free tutoring.
5. TRANSFER: Agreements with many four-year colleges offer seamless transfer and a range of degree options.
Student Learning Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this program, students will:

- Define public health and related roles and responsibilities of government, non-government agencies, and private organizations.
- Describe risk factors and modes of transmission for infectious and chronic diseases and how these diseases affect both personal and population health.
- List the leading causes of mortality, morbidity, and health disparities among local, regional, and global populations.
- Discuss the role of gender, race, ethnicity, and other evolving demographics in affecting population health.
- Discuss major local, national, and global health challenges.
- Describe how the methods of epidemiology and surveillance are used to safeguard the population’s health.
- Communicate health information to a wide range of audiences through an array of media.
- Conduct a literature search on a health issue using a variety of academic and public resources.
- Recognize the impact of policies, laws, and legislation on both individual and population health.
- Analyze ethical concerns and conflicts of interest that arise in the field of public health.

“This program provides the foundation to pursue a professional career in healthcare, business, government, or education. Graduates are prepared for entry positions or may continue towards their bachelor’s degree. Online courses offer a collaborative environment for learning at the student’s convenience.”

- Dr. Kathleen Hopkins, Chair, STEM & Health Professions

Sample Courses:

- **BIO 105 & 106 General Biology I & II** - Extensive survey of biological principles. Study plant and animal groups from an evolutionary viewpoint. 105 topics include: properties of life, evolution, chemical connection to biology, cellular biology, genetics, biotechnology, metabolism, and photosynthesis. 106 focuses on animal responsiveness, hormonal control, circulation, nutrition, gas exchange, body defense, and excretion.

- **PSY 103 General Psychology** - Introduction to the science of psychology includes: historical perspectives; methods of research; contemporary theory; knowledge; social psychology; biological basis of behavior; emotion and motivation; learning and condition; human development; personality; abnormal behavior; perception; and the impact of culture, gender and ethnicity on all of these.

- **SOC 100 Introduction to Sociology** - Develop a “sociological lens,” and explore the major concepts and research methods. Macro and micro- perspectives including: how culture influences us; socialization and social change; social inequality in relationship to race, ethnicity, sex, gender, and age. Analysis of the five basic institutions in our society - family, religion, education, politics and the economy.

- **CHM 111 Human Nutrition Science** - The relationship of nutrition to health including nutrient functions, metabolism, and requirements through the life cycle. The essentials of an adequate diet and problems of nutritional origin affecting world populations.

- **PBH 101 Introduction to Public Health** - The importance of public health and its position as a combination of science and politics. Examine how NY State public health issues are addressed and learn the role of the public health system.

- **PBH 102 Promoting Healthy People and Communities** - How health promotion strategies influence healthy behaviors, healthy people, and healthy communities. The role of mass media. Current public health issues; an examination of key health inequalities.

- **PBH 203 Concepts in Epidemiology** - Introduction to the science of epidemiology including its role in public health; causal thinking, the epidemiologic framework, and study designs used in epidemiologic studies. Outbreak investigations and major studies to identify risk factors for common diseases.

- **PBH 204 Global Health** - Environmental concerns and their impact on human health, economics, and quality of life. Affecting factors like urbanization, population pressure, climate change, atmospheric pollution, sanitation, and their impacts on world populations.

- **PBH 205 U.S. Health Care Systems** - Important issues including cost; quality; access to care; increase in uninsured; patient safety; prescription drug policies; physician-patient interaction; health care technologies; and end-of-life care. Case studies connect real world events, research and practice experience and the role of stakeholders, interactions, and functions of the U.S. health care system.

- **PHL 261 Current Issues in Biomedical Ethics** - Ethical concerns in the health sciences, psychology, social work and related professions. Includes abortion; death; euthanasia; genetic engineering; humans or animal experimental subjects and professional/patient relationship. Bioethics principles and practical applications within their social context.