Students studying public health may apply their liberal arts education in the field of physical therapy or advanced study in public health through two dual degree programs. The Master of Public Health (MPH) and Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) programs offer students the opportunity to enter the graduate program as undergraduate students in their senior year. Students complete their bachelor’s degree while pursuing the graduate degree.

Public Health: Health Sciences, Public Health: Public Policy, Public Health: Community Health Worker/Master of Public Health

Public health majors who select the health sciences, public policy, or community health worker concentration will complete the public health sequence of courses and supporting work for the MPH program. This includes courses in global health, statistics, biology and/or chemistry and statistics, while providing a special emphasis in public health.

Public health is about influencing the behavior and attitudes of society for long-term change through education, health promotion and policy. Students who major in public health at St. Kate’s are ethical, patient and creative problem solvers. They’re eager and excited to solve complex health issues that affect us in an increasingly global world, such as access to healthcare, infectious diseases, water pollution and genetically modified foods. If students choose to complete the fourth-year course work prior to applying for the MPH program they will be prepared to work in a variety of areas of the public health discipline.

To enroll in this program, students apply to the MPH program during their junior year. If they are admitted to the MPH program, they receive a B.A. or B.S. (the students choice) in public health upon completion of the first year of the MPH program. The curriculum for this dual degree program option is listed in the Pre-Professional Programs, Pre-Physical Therapy (catalog.stkate.edu/undergraduate/preprofessional-programs/prephysical-therapy) section of this catalog.

Public Health: Health Sciences/Doctor of Physical Therapy

Public health majors who select the health sciences concentration will complete the exercise science pre-physical therapy sequence of courses and supporting work for the DPT program. This includes courses in biology, anatomy, physiology, chemistry, physics, psychology, statistics and mathematics, while providing a special emphasis in public health: health sciences.

The public health: health sciences courses focus on the core disciplinary areas of study in public health. In addition to DPT prerequisite courses, students will take classes in areas such as behavioral/social science, biostatistics and epidemiology, global health, environmental health, administration and management, maternal and child health, nutrition, and biomedical/health sciences. If students choose to complete the fourth-year course work prior to applying for the DPT program they will be prepared for employment in public health, and will have strengthened their background for work as health professionals in public health practice areas.

To enroll in this program, students apply to the DPT program during their junior year. If they are admitted to the DPT program, they receive