

BIOBEHAVIORAL HEALTH, B.S. (BEHREND)

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Erie

Career Paths

Students with a B.S. in Biobehavioral Health have been successful in establishing careers in a variety of fields. Four example areas of employment include: clinical professions in health care, biomedical and pharmaceutical research support, health advocacy and consulting, and public health. Advanced career tracks may require a graduate or professional degree and/or licensure. Students are encouraged to engage in practical learning experiences that complement formal classroom learning. These can include training at the University Health Services or a hospital, working in a research laboratory, and/or a health-related internship or travel experience. Several engaged learning experience programs available include: BBH Internship program, Global Health minor, BBH research laboratory assistant, Clinical Volunteer Training, and HealthWorks.

Careers

Examples of careers that BBH graduates might pursue* include:

- Clinic Professions in Health care: physician assistant, physician, pharmacist, nurse, health care support staff
- Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Research Support: laboratory manager, study coordinator, research assistant
- Health Advocacy and Consulting: health education specialist, social worker, genetic counselor
- Public Health: public and community health worker, epidemiologist, substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors

* Note that some of these careers require further training (e.g., graduate degree) and/or licensure.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES OF THE BIOBEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM (<https://hhd.psu.edu/bbh/undergraduate/career-and-professional-development/career-areas-major/career-opportunities>)

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

Depending on your career goals, BBH students might consider completing a graduate degree in biomedical, pharmaceutical or related health services research (e.g., M.S., Ph.D.), a clinical graduate program (e.g., M.D., D.O., P.A., Pharm. D.) or a professional degree in public health, health administration, social work, public policy or administration or law (e.g., M.P.H., M.H.A., M.S.W., M.P.A., M.P.P., J.D.)

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (<https://hhd.psu.edu/bbh/graduate>)

Professional Resources

- Explore Health Careers (<https://explorehealthcareers.org/>)
- National Institutes of Health Postbaccalaureate Intramural Research Training Award (<https://www.training.nih.gov/research-training/pb/pb/>)
- American Academy of Physical Assistants - 5 Tips for Getting into PA School (<https://www.aapa.org/news-central/2014/06/5-tips-for-getting-into-pa-school/>)
- Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling – List of Accredited Programs (<https://www.gceducation.org/find-a-program/>)
- American Physical Therapy Association – List of Accredited Programs (<https://aptaapps.apta.org/accreditedschoolsdirectory/captedirectory.aspx>)
- American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc (<https://www.aota.org/>)
- Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (<https://aspgh.org/student-journey/>)
- Honoring Diversity in BBH (<https://hhd.psu.edu/bbh/honoring-diversity>)