



# Bachelor of Health Science

School of Public Health & Preventive Medicine



# Bachelor of Health Science

The Bachelor of Health Science is a 3 year full time course offered at the Caulfield campus. The course provides foundation learning in health sciences with a global health theme and major study options in health programs and policy, and clinical and public health sciences, along with development of the generic attributes expected of a Monash University graduate. The Bachelor of Health Science also offers an excellent Pre-Med preparation (PMP) for graduate medical, physiotherapy, nursing or social work programs.

The Monash School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine (SPHPM) is one of the largest Schools of Public Health in the Asia Pacific region. It collaborates extensively with medical research institutes, government departments, Non-government organisations and hospital departments throughout Australia and globally. It has particularly strong collaborations with institutes and other Schools of Public Health in the Asia Pacific Region.

The Bachelor of Health Science is a flagship program of the School. It is a 'new generation' degree that provides flexible options for students with defined career pathways and serves as a substantial foundation program for students enrolling in graduate entry clinical programs.

## Career opportunities

Job market growth in the health, local government, workplace and education sectors continues unabated. There is a strong demand for multi-skilled program managers and for prevention-promotion workers, particularly to work with vulnerable groups and ageing populations. Government directions for health programs are increasingly for jobs in community settings rather than hospitals, to deal with rising rates of chronic conditions and disease, as the

shift from hospital to community based programs continues.

Government and non-government organisations are constantly in need of health policy analysts and policy makers especially as health, social and other policy sectors are expected to develop partnerships and cross-sector partnerships and policies (i.e. transport and health, climate/environments and health).

The Bachelor of Health Science incorporates multidisciplinary studies and pathways into career options via major sequences of study: health programs and policy, and clinical and public health sciences, providing broad exposure to the public health and clinical health sciences that underpin an understanding of health and illness in both individuals and populations.

## Course outline

The Bachelor of Health Science is made up of 24 units

- » 13 core units
- » 6 major sequence units
- » 5 electives

A major study requires a minimum of two units at second year level and two units at third year level.

There are 6 core units in Year 1; 4 core units in Year 2; and 3 core units in Year 3. Students take core units in which they learn about public health and its determinants, human biology, epidemiology, research and critical thinking, global health, health care systems, health and society, disease prevention and control and health law and ethics. All graduates will be equipped with scientific understandings requisite to postgraduate studies in medicine, allied health, public health, and honours and higher research degrees.

## Major sequences

Major sequences of study equip graduates for inter-related vocational pathways in health programs and policy, and clinical and public health sciences. Core studies allow students to see the synergies between these pathways. Major sequences provide students the opportunity to pursue more in-depth studies of particular areas.

### Health programs & policy major

The health programs and policy sequence prepares graduates to meet public health challenges in a complex, globalised world. Building and elaborating on core units, the health programs and policy stream examines strategies for preventing illness and injury, and health promotion for improving health of individuals, families, communities and wider populations. Students will acquire skills including program design, planning, management, research and evaluation; critical appraisal of evidence; policy analysis and design; and organisational and health communication skills. They will gain knowledge of different cultures, contexts and settings in which policy, program and prevention strategies are developed and implemented.

### Clinical & public health sciences major

The clinical and public health sciences sequence also builds and elaborates on core units. It has a focus on detailed studies of research methods and approaches for public health program design, analysis and evaluation, clinical research and disease management and prevention in different settings and





# Course structure

contexts. Students will acquire skills in critical appraisal of evidence, the design and conduct of clinical research, pharmacological and occupational health research, and strategies and approaches for improving health. Such skills can be applied in a variety of public health and clinical research careers.

Electives provide students the opportunity to select complementary studies and/or pursue academic interests from across the SPHPM, the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences and the wider university. Four electives can be chosen from outside the Faculty.

## Course objectives

On successful completion of the BHSc, it is expected that the student will be able to:

1. demonstrate the knowledge, skills and technical competency appropriate for an entry level practitioner in professional fields of health promotion or health policy and management
2. value research and be skilled at accessing, critically appraising and applying the best available evidence to the professional fields of health promotion or health policy and management
3. develop health promotion knowledge and skills, and management skills for improved utilisation of the resources required to advance population health and wellbeing
4. recognise population health and wellbeing issues associated with social and cultural diversity and the skills and resources required for working across diverse populations
5. demonstrate awareness of equity, and health, and human rights and social justice
6. demonstrate awareness of the determinants of illness, health and wellbeing
7. integrate knowledge of relevant public policy and health and social care systems into practice
8. demonstrate critical awareness of the relationships between population health and wellbeing, and the policy and institutions framing health and social care systems, and a capacity to utilise this awareness in the advancement of population health and wellbeing

Course structure for the Bachelor of Health Science		
Unit code	Unit name	Credit points
<b>First year</b>		
HSC1081	Foundations of public health	6 credit points
HSC1061	Data, evidence and critical thinking	6 credit points
HSC1101	Biological bases of health & disease 1	6 credit points
HSC1112	Global health: opportunities and challenges	6 credit points
HSC1052	Health and social care systems and policy	6 credit points
HSC1102	Biological bases of health & disease 2	6 credit points
	Plus 2 First level electives	12 credit points
<b>Second year</b>		
HSC2101	Health promotion: global and local	6 credit points
HSC2071	Analysing patterns of health and disease	6 credit points
	<i>Major 1</i>	6 credit points
HSC2081	Research methods in the health sciences	6 credit points
HSC2022	Health, society and culture	6 credit points
	<i>Major 2</i>	6 credit points
	Plus 2 Second level electives	12 credit points
<b>Third year</b>		
HSC3001	Health, law and ethics	6 credit points
HSC3041	Disease prevention and control	6 credit points
	<i>Major 3</i>	6 credit points
	<i>Major 4 or third level elective</i>	6 credit points
HSC3002	Health for all in a global world	6 credit points
	<i>Major 5</i>	6 credit points
	<i>Major 6</i>	6 credit points
	<i>Third level elective or Major 4</i>	6 credit points

9. achieve a broad education based on independent learning, critical thinking, problem-solving and evaluation.

### Duration of the course

3 years full-time / 6 years part-time.

### Campus

Caulfield (part-time or full time)

### Professional accreditation

Graduates of the BHSc are eligible to join the Public Health Association or Australia, the Australian Health Promotion Association and the Australian Epidemiology Association.

## Fieldwork

Students in the health programs and policy stream will be expected to undertake a 180 hours of fieldwork placement in year 3.

## Police Checks and Working with Children checks

Organisations that host clinical and community placements require students to have current Police and Working with Children checks regarding their suitability to undertake such placements. All enrolled and prospective students are advised that they will be required to obtain Police and Working with Children checks prior to undertaking their course.

## Pre-requisites for entry

Satisfactory completion of the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) or equivalent, including the prerequisites: VCE units 3 and 4 - a study score of at least 30 in English (ESL) or 25 in any other English.

Middle-band: A study score of at least 25 or more in biology, chemistry, classical societies and cultures, contemporary Australian society, environmental science, health and human development, geography, history (any), legal studies, literature, LOTE (any), media studies, philosophy, politics (any) psychology or sociology = an aggregate 2 points higher per subject to a maximum of 6 points.

Non-Year 12 applicants: ENTER (TER), the entire academic record, including GPA.

## Selection mode

Current Year 12: ENTER (TER)

Non-Year 12: ENTER (TER). Entire academic record, including GPA.

## International students

The Bachelor of Health Science is expected to be offered to International students in 2010. The faculty must first gain university approval and government CRICOS endorsement. Check the faculty website for the latest information on availability to International Students before making an application. International Student visas cannot be issued without a CRICOS code.

## Application procedures (current year 12 and non-year 12 applicants)

Application for entry into the Bachelor of Health Science is through VTAC.

Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC)  
40 Park Street  
South Melbourne  
Victoria 3205  
T: +61 3 1300 364 133  
W: [www.vtac.edu.au](http://www.vtac.edu.au)

## Further information

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CRICOS provider: Monash University 00008C

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