

Public Health

Double Degree:
Bachelor of Science (Health Promotion)
Bachelor of Science (Nutrition)

Course Code: 305655



Nutrition promotion activities offer solutions to many of the health problems facing society through developing skills and knowledge, community action, supportive environments for dietary change and healthy public policy and reorientating health services from curative to preventive.

This double degree simultaneously develops expertise in the areas of nutrition and health promotion through theoretical work and practical opportunities. The two areas develop complementary skills that will enhance a graduate's employment opportunities. Staff in the Health Promotion and the Nutrition and Dietetic program have years of practical and academic experience in their disciplines and have won numerous teaching awards in recent years including a number of Vice Chancellor's Awards for Excellence and Innovation in Teaching and student nominated Guild Excellence in Teaching awards.

Course Overview

This degree enables students to development the knowledge and skills in nutrition and the principles of planning, implementation and evaluating health and nutrition promotion programs in various settings including food service such as improving foods served in school canteens or in remote aboriginal community stores; schools to help teachers incorporate good nutrition into the classroom; worksites to establish family-

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friendly workplaces that support breastfeeding mothers and the community to ensure that local nutrition and food needs are being met. Graduates may also obtain positions where they are responsible for using mass media to promote good nutrition or to develop food and nutrition policy. Students cover principles related to the primary health care approach to health service delivery including the use of community development principles to improve nutritional status. Professional placements in the field are offered in both the second and fourth year of the degree and these placements can be undertaken in urban, rural, remote or international locations. The degree targets areas of professional competencies developed by the WA Centre for Health Promotion Research in collaboration with health promotion agencies. The course can be undertaken part-time and some units are offered through distance learning.

Entry Requirements

In addition to the University's standard entrance requirements, applicants are required to have passed high school level Chemistry and preferably completed Applicable Mathematics. Human Biology would be an advantage. International students must also meet the University English language requirements and apply through the Curtin International Office. For the specific requirements please visit international.curtin.edu.au.

Career Opportunities

This is a relatively new degree and graduates are becoming highly sort after in the workplace. Increasing problems surrounding the prevention of obesity and improving nutrition for vulnerable groups such as aboriginal groups are driving the need for a specially trained workforce with the combination of health promotion and nutrition skills. Graduates can apply for positions such as public health nutritionists, community nutritionists, nutrition coordinators and health promotion and project officer positions. The career opportunities for a double degree graduate are different from that of a hospital or community dietitian who would work with individuals or groups of people to help treat or manage disease (eg diabetes or

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All about Health Promotion + Nutrition

cancer). Employment graduates is typically found with State Departments of Health and non-government organisations like the Cancer Council and National Heart Foundation. Other employment opportunities are with National governments, Divisions of General Practice and Local governments. There are also opportunities to go overseas for academic and professional practice exchange and graduates can choose to work overseas in developing countries.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Applications for recognition of prior learning from other universities are assessed on an individual basis. The course coordinator can advise further on the acceptability of your previous study.

Duration and Availability

The course is four years full-time or equivalent part-time study.

Professional Recognition

Graduates are eligible for full membership to the Australian Health Promotion Association (www.healthpromotion.org.au), and Public Health Association of Australia (www.phaa.net.au), and associate membership of the Dietitian's Association of Australia (www.daa.asn.au). There is current discussion in Australia regarding the specific recognition of the 'nutritionist' qualification.

This discussion may lead to future registration of the term Nutritionists or Public Health Nutritionists by some professional organisations. The Nutrition Society of Australia has introduced a registration scheme for nutritionists in 2007.

Course Organisation

Students enrolled in this double degree can at any time apply to course transfer to the single three-year degree in Health Promotion or the single three-year degree in Nutrition. Other double degrees are health promotion/Asian studies or health promotion/business administration and health promotion/health and safety. Completion of the health promotion/nutrition double degree does not make you eligible for postgraduate study in dietetics. This degree is not an undergraduate pathway for dietetics.

Course Structure

Year 1 and Year 2

The first year provides the foundation for the degree, on which students build in second and third year. Core studies are undertaken in areas such as public health, health promotion, human biology, nutrition, biochemistry and epidemiology. Students also study current health promotion methods and approaches while covering health issues and programs in areas such as alcohol and other drugs, injury control, and mental health. Fieldwork and professional practice opportunities within health promoting agencies are also offered.

Year 3 and Year 4

This period builds on the first two years, further developing skills in planning, implementing and evaluating innovative health promotion strategies, methods and programs. A wide range of methodologies are studied, ranging from targeted individual and group work to community development, media and advocacy. This is complemented with further studies in nutrition, physical activity and health. Student's knowledge and skills are consolidated in a major professional practice agency placement, providing hands on experience in the public health nutrition field.

International Students

International Students studying in Australia on a student visa can only study full-time and there are also specific entry requirements that must be met. Please refer to international@curtin.edu.au or phone +61 8 9266 7331 for further information, as some information contained in this booklet may not be applicable to international students. Australian citizens and permanent residents and international students studying outside Australia may have the choice of full-time, part-time and external study. Information about TISC only applies to Australian residents.



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Curtin aspires to be a leading edge university of technology. To fulfil this vision, we strive to be innovative and forward-looking in everything we do. It's in our approach to teaching and learning. It's in our research. It's in our staff, our students and our graduates. It's in the way we think and act. It's what we call Curtinovation.

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