

Frequently Asked Questions: Majoring in Community Health (CH)

How do I declare CH as my major?

Your first step is to be assigned a CH faculty member as your advisor. The CH Department will assign you to an advisor. Please email the Administrative Assistant, Laura Pinkham, laura.pinkham@tufts.edu. Once you have an advisor, you must complete the **CH Information and Course Planning Form**. When you meet with your advisor, bring the form with you so you and your advisor can go over courses and requirements. After your meeting, you can go the Registrar website to complete the **Declaration of Major Form**. Your advisor will get an email to approve this. We have links to these forms as well as more information on our website. www.ase.tufts.edu/commhealth/

When do I declare CH as my major?

CH follows university guidelines encouraging students to declare by the end of the sophomore year.

How many majors can I have?

Tufts University does not limit the number of majors a student selects.

How many courses do I need to take for the major in Community Health?

Twelve.

Of these twelve courses, how many are required and how many are electives?

Seven are required and five are electives. See the [Course Requirements](#) for details.

How many courses can I double-count toward two or more majors or minors?

As written in the Tufts Bulletin (<http://ase.tufts.edu/bulletin/liberal-info.html>) “For students with more than one major, no more than 5 courses, and no more than 15 semester hours, used to fulfill the requirements for one major may be used to satisfy the requirements for any other.”

What courses should I take first?

It is best to take our introductory courses, CH 1 (Introduction to Community Health); CH 2 (Health Care in America); CH 56 (Introduction to Global Health) as early as possible, preferably in your freshman year. It is also recommended to take CH 31 (Introduction to Statistics or another Stats alternative); CH 30 (Community Health Research Methods) and CH/CEE 154 (Principles of Epidemiology) by the end of your sophomore year. *We strongly encourage* you to take these introductory courses by the end of your sophomore year.

When can I complete CH 180 (Internship)?

You can complete your required internship during one of four semesters: spring of junior year, or summer, fall or spring of the senior year. You must have completed CH 1 and CH 30 before taking CH 180. Students arrange their own placements, so be sure you are in the local area (i.e. not studying abroad) the semester prior to your internship in order to identify potential internship sites, interview for positions, complete a thorough search, and find the best fit for your internship experience. Internships that you initiate on your own (outside of CH 180) will not count toward your formal internship requirement for CH 180. Students should begin planning for the internship the semester *prior* to taking CH 180 (CH Internship). See the Internship Handbook for details.

When do I sign up for my internship?

You will be able to select the semester you wish to complete your internship when you declare the major in CH and turn in your paperwork to the department. Students who wait to confirm a semester may have limited options. It may be possible to change the semester of your internship with approval from the CH office.

Can I do my internship for CH 180 outside of the Boston area?

No. Internships for CH 180 must be located in the greater Boston area. We are committed to serving our local host communities as well as providing students with the support of faculty and staff to ensure that your internship is a good learning experience. As such, your internship must be based at a local site.

Can I go abroad and complete the primary major?

Yes. However, going abroad will require careful planning on your part. You will need to carefully outline your course selections with your advisor. Do not plan to do your CH Internship the semester you return from abroad, as you will have adequate time for planning, as noted above.

If I take a course abroad, will it count toward the major?

Any course that transfers to Tufts as CH 320 can automatically (i.e. no petition) be used to fulfill the requirement for “CH or Approved Electives from other Departments”. Any course that transfers to Tufts as a regular course number (ex. CH 31, CH 56, CH 106, etc.) can be used to fulfill the requirement(s) that the regular CH course fulfills (i.e. no petition). Discuss this plan with your CH advisor *before* you leave.

What is the final grade I must receive for a course to count toward the major?

You must receive a grade of C- or above for any course that you wish to count toward the major. The one exception is the internship (CH 180), which requires that you achieve a final grade of B- or better.

Can I take any courses pass/fail if I am pursuing the major?

No. The twelve courses toward the CH major must be taken for a letter grade. Any additional CH courses (taken over and above the 12 credits required for the major) may be taken on a pass/fail basis.

Can I complete an honors thesis in CH?

Yes. We strongly encourage you to start planning for your thesis no later than January of your junior year. Narrow your area of interest and identify a thesis chair and a reader who may be willing to work with you on your research. In order to complete a thesis in CH, you must identify a thesis chair in CH. You must register for the CH Thesis Seminar (CH 197) in the fall of your senior year, as this will provide you with support as you develop your proposal.

What sort of careers do CH graduates pursue?

CH graduates have a wide range of opportunities after graduation. Many CH majors go on to pursue graduate degrees in medicine and public health or other health-related fields. A large number find employment in private, nonprofit health care institutions, community-based organizations, and private for-profit enterprises, such as consulting firms. Some also work in governmental agencies (local, state, federal) or academic/research settings.