Brown School of Public Health

At the Brown University School of Public Health, students learn public health by doing public health. This mission motivates our four academic departments and 11 nationally-renowned research centers and institutes. We are constantly expanding, and attract $50 million in annual external research funding that supports our more than 200 faculty and 275 undergraduate and graduate students. Our faculty are dedicated to training innovative researchers and scholars who can collect, analyze, and apply data that informs public policy and scientific inquiry. We also embrace Brown University’s ethos of service to others. Graduates from our programs go on to fulfilling careers in education, service, policy, and practice in the fields of public health. Our work impacts populations and communities both locally and globally, and has the potential to improve the health and well-being of millions.

Distinctly Brown

Brown welcomes and challenges independent, creative, diverse, and courageous thinkers to collaborate, innovate, and explore with life-changing and world-changing impact. Brown serves the community and the world through ideas, passion, and constructive irreverence that lead to lives of purpose and positive consequence.

Connect with Brown!

Akilah Dulin Keita is a Medical Sociologist who examines neighborhood contexts of diet, physical activity, and obesity-related comorbidities. She is interested in processes of neighborhood dynamics resulting from urban revitalization policies and public health interventions. Dr. Keita came to the Brown School of Public Health in 2012 and, through her work in the Institute for Community Health Promotion, identifies culturally-appropriate childhood obesity interventions and examines the roles of psychosocial stressors on health behaviors.

“My work looks at neighborhood effects on health behavior. I wanted to use that to inform my teaching, so my students are doing built environment assessments and developing policy briefs. It’s a project that has real relevance to the community.”

AKILAH DULIN KEITA, PhD
Assistant Professor of Behavioral and Social Sciences
Our educational goal is to train the next generation of public health scholars and practitioners to engage in scientific research and programmatic activities to change behaviors and improve social contexts related to public health. Their collaborative research has a substantive focus on behavioral health issues such as alcohol and other drug abuse; smoking and tobacco use; obesity, nutrition, and physical activity; HIV and sexually transmitted infections; and health disparities and culture. Over 50 BSS faculty members are actively engaged in research and teaching to understand the behavioral and social determinants of public health problems and to develop interventions to change behaviors and improve social contexts related to public health. Candidates should have undergraduate concentrations in Public Health, Human Biology, Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, Communications, or Education, and should possess strong critical thinking, scientific or analytic writing, and quantitative or logical reasoning skills. Professional, research, or volunteer experience in public health, social intervention, or program implementation or evaluation is helpful. Applications are reviewed beginning January 1 and ending May 31. This program is ideal for students interested in working in basic and applied research settings such as academia, government and non-governmental organizations, and health care. Applicants are required to submit GRE exam scores. TOEFL scores are required for a student whose native language is not English, but may be waived for those who hold a bachelor's or master's degree from a US institution. All students admitted to the PhD program receive full funding in the form of a fellowship, teaching assistantship, or research assistantship. The funding package includes tuition, health insurance, and an annual stipend. 

The Master's program in Behavioral and Social Health Sciences (BSSHS) trains graduate students who are interested in analyzing the complex behavioral and social determinants of public health, and in developing interventions to change behaviors and improve social contexts related to public health. Candidates should have undergraduate concentrations in Public Health, Human Biology, Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, Communications, or Education, and should possess strong critical thinking, scientific or analytic writing, and quantitative or logical reasoning skills. Professional, research, or volunteer experience in public health, social intervention, or program implementation or evaluation is helpful. Applications are reviewed beginning January 1 and ending May 31. This program is ideal for students interested in working in basic and applied research settings such as academia, government and non-governmental organizations, and health care. Applicants are required to submit GRE exam scores. TOEFL scores are required for a student whose native language is not English, but may be waived for those who hold a bachelor's or master's degree from a US institution. All students admitted to the PhD program receive full funding in the form of a fellowship, teaching assistantship, or research assistantship. The funding package includes tuition, health insurance, and an annual stipend.