For further information about the Health Science degree and careers contact:

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UWA Health Science Society

www.sph.uwa.edu.au/students/hss
Bachelor of Health Science and Combined Degrees

In 2000, UWA accepted its first intake of students to the Bachelor of Health Science degree. The program was the vision of Professor D’Arcy Holman who identified the need for graduates with strong foundations in science and public health, and who were work-ready. Professor Holman chaired the reference group which consulted widely with the health industry to design a program that would make the graduates highly desirable. It is this foresight that has seen its fruition in its broadly-skilled graduates.

This course combines knowledge of biomedical and social sciences with population health and aspects of business. Scientific knowledge is reinforced with practical skills to ensure graduates can confidently enter the workforce. This is achieved through training in professional practice followed by a semester-long work placement. Work placements help maintain a high degree of connection with the health industry as well as concerting theory learned at university into practice in a work environment.

BACHELOR OF HEALTH SCIENCE

Public Health
- Knowledge of health and illness in human populations
- Health care system of Australia
- Health research methods
- Health economics
- Health promotion
- Health administration
- Management of diseases
- (All of the above)

Science
- Anatomy & Human Biology
- Anthropology
- Biochemistry
- Biophysics
- Genetics
- Geography
- Human Movement
- Computer Science
- Microbiology
- Pathology
- Pharmacology
- Physiology
- Psychological Studies
- (Choice of one of the above)

Combined Degree Opportunities
- Commerce
- Economics
- Law
- Music
One of the questions Health Science students and graduates are often asked is:

“What do you become when you graduate with a Health Science degree?”

The answer…?

“You’ll have to read this book to find out!”

As you will see from the broad and exciting career profiles included in *Health Science Careers* the possibilities for a Health Science graduate are endless.

For prospective and current students, this book will give you an insight into the types of diverse and interesting jobs you will be equipped for after graduating.

For those of you who have already graduated with a Health Science degree, we hope you enjoy reading about what your peers are up to and hopefully it will reinvigorate you with the variety of possibilities and career paths available to you.

For our current and potential employers, the Health Science degree was designed to meet your human resource needs. We hope this book increases your awareness of the remarkable skills of our graduates which may be useful to your organisation.
The graduate profiles contained in this book have been arranged according to the person’s science major. However, as you will quickly discover, our graduates have the breadth of skills to pursue careers outside of their science field.

Employers of Health Science graduates have also shared their positive experiences in working with our graduates. Importantly, they have given their insights into the relevance of the Health Science degree to industry and the real world.

Creating a Health Science graduate book was a key vision of the UWA Health Science Alumni when it was launched in 2008. We are thrilled to have made that vision a reality in less than two years.

Thank you to everyone who made this book a possibility by sharing their vocational stories and career advice. We hope you enjoy the read.

Vicky Gray
Communications Officer
UWA Health Science Alumni
Graduates of Bachelor of Health Science are already making their mark and are highly valued across the health sector. Our graduates have a depth of knowledge in specific science disciplines and population health as well as highly developed skills in problem solving, team work, project management and communication.

This booklet showcases some of the achievements of Bachelor of Health Science graduates to date. Importantly it also provides advice from graduates to current and future students. Employer observations illustrate the impact of our graduates and highlight the attributes that employers value.

Students and graduates make a wise and bold decision in choosing a UWA degree in health science. A wise decision because this course is special in its structure, providing students with a unique opportunity to combine studies in science and population health with relevant work experience. A bold decision because there are so many diverse career opportunities for graduates, and individuals can adapt their knowledge and skills in science and population health to a career in health of their choice.

The degree leads to careers in many areas – health policy, health promotion, health administration, or health research, that may be experimental, epidemiological or qualitative.

I hope the profiles in this booklet will fire your imagination for what you may achieve with your degree in Health Science.
“Students and graduates make a wise and bold decision in choosing a UWA degree in Health Science”

It is significant that this initiative for the production of this booklet has been driven by Health Science graduates. UWA values its close relationship with graduates and the establishment of the Health Science Alumni in 2007 has enabled us to strengthen this relationship. I congratulate the Health Science Alumni for producing this booklet.

We wish all our graduates every success in their career and look forward to updates of their achievements and the impact they are making in the health sector. I feel very confident for the future of population health with so many upcoming and committed health professionals.

For potential and current students, enjoy reading about our graduates’ career pathways and what employers say about their impact in the workplace. I hope the graduates themselves, and their stories will inspire you to pursue a career in population health.

Associate Professor
Jane Heyworth

Sub dean Health Science
Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Science
Upon completion of my studies in November 2007, I was offered the position of Health Economist at Roche Products. This required a move to Sydney where I have been since early 2008.

Whilst there’s no such thing as a typical day, the position of Health Economist requires that I apply the concepts of clinical evaluation, economic modelling and statistical analysis across the company’s pharmaceutical portfolio. The role is as diverse as it is challenging, with opportunities for personal development, education and training, career progression and travel.

Among the Health Science units, I enjoyed Health Economics the most. Not only did it provide the impetus for undertaking Honours in the area, it also brought to light the sector as a career pathway. However, the most rewarding aspect of the Health Science degree has been the friendships developed with the people and personalities collectively known as the ‘HS crew’. I always look forward to returning to Perth as often as I can to see these friends and my family.

Make the most of your time at university, academically and socially. It is an enjoyable and rewarding experience where you will meet fantastic people who’ll be your friends for life.

Ania Stasinska
Lecturer, UWA School of Population Health
BHlthSc (2004); GradCertBusiness (2008)

Phuong Ngo
Health Economist, Roche Products
BHlthSc (hons) (2007) and BCom (Corporate Finance, Money and Banking)
I was one of the first graduates of the Health Science degree. Since that time I have had a number of jobs, not all relating to my degree, and I have even done some further studies, completing a Masters of Forensic Science in 2007.

In April 2006 I attended my first conference, The 18th International Symposium on the Forensic Sciences in Perth, where I presented my Masters research as a poster presentation. It was the most daunting experience of my life, worse than the talks that you have to give at the end of honours. November 2006 saw me take my first overseas trip to Springfield, Illinois to attend the Midwest Bioarcheology & Forensic Anthropology Association (BARFAA) conference again present my Masters findings.

The highlight to date for me would have to be the successful ARC Discovery Grant that I helped collate, securing funding of $500 000 over three years for my PhD project.

I am now looking at starting a PhD within the School of Population Health looking at the health outcomes of patients who undergo bariatric surgeries such as lap banging, bilio-pancreatic diversion or sleeve gastrectomy.
Skills learnt through the Health Science degree have assisted me to have invaluable experiences in work including managing long-term projects, interacting with Aboriginal youth, being involved with WA policy development and global pandemics.

My first graduate job was as an Australian Health Promotion Association (AHPA) graduate scholarship recipient at FPWA Sexual Health Services. My 6 month project evaluated the Mooditj program, a sexual health and life skills program designed by FPWA and delivered to Aboriginal youth aged 10-14yrs. I evaluated the impact this program had in WA rural and remote communities.

I am currently completing the twelve month WA Department of Health Graduate Development Program for 2009-2010. My first placement was at the Reproductive Technology Unit and I am currently completing my second placement at the Emergency Management Unit at Princess Margaret Hospital. My project at PMH is to further develop PMH’s Pandemic Plan, that has become critical with the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza virus presently sweeping the globe.

Eventually I would like to work in public health interstate and overseas to compare the health systems and learn from their differences.

My current position is working for UWA’s School of Psychiatry & Clinical Neurosciences at the Neuropsychiatry Unit (NPU) located at Fremantle Hospital. I am working as a Research Assistant and was offered the position after completing my final year practicum with the unit.

Our research is primarily based on assessing elderly patients with Dementia or Parkinson’s disease for psychiatric conditions such as apathy and depression. In addition to this I am currently coordinating a study on apathy in stroke patients and a control group study.

My position entails recruitment, data collection and data entry. However I have had opportunities to work on grant applications, statistical analyses, and protocol and questionnaire development. I am very fortunate to be able to talk with the patients and their caregivers one on one and learn from their experiences.

Put some thought into choosing your practicum and don’t necessarily decide on which one seems to have better employment opportunities. I decided to try research, an area I had no previous interest and ended up enjoying it.
After graduation, I remained at UWA for two years with appointments in the School of Population Health and School of Anthropology & Sociology:

1. I evaluated a state-wide skin cancer screening program (Associate Professor Lin Fritschi);
2. I helped to create the pilot for the Western Australian Trauma Registry (Dr Rina Cercarelli);
3. I assisted with a palliative care study, researching individuals in the last year of their lives to determine whether their needs were being fulfilled (Dr Bev McNamara; Dr Lorna Rosenwax).

I am currently at the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research. The Australian Childhood Diabetes DNA Repository is a national collaboration which will develop a DNA bank to allow further study into the genetics of childhood diabetes (Type 1 and child-onset Type 2). I am also the main operator of the new WAIMR cell sorter which can sort and collect cells from a large cell population – similar to collecting only the red M&Ms from an entire packet.

Health Science is a great beginning. Every interviewer has commented on the range of skills a Health Science Graduate can bring to a workplace.

Now in my fifth year since graduating, I have just landed my dream job and Health Science has definitely helped me get there. I am based in London, representing the Department of Health recruiting health professionals to work in Western Australia. I conduct interviews and attend expos and conferences all over the UK and Ireland and in my spare time travel Europe! This will be my second year in London, having also worked at the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement on a medical leadership initiative.

My gateway into government employment was the Department of Health’s Graduate Development Program which I completed in 2006. It was an invaluable induction into government organisations and created many networks and opportunities.

The varied work I have been involved in since graduating is evidence that the Health Science degree provides a generic set of skills that can be applied to many jobs in the health sector. My advice for future students of Health Science is to think about where you want to be in 5 years and how you will get there, and make sure you articulate your vision to those around you. Good luck!
Since graduating in 2005, I have worked for the Australian Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre, Princess Margaret Hospital and the Western Australian Institute of Medical Research (WAIMR).

By far the most challenging task I have undertaken was the four months I spent as an AusAID volunteer working for the Centre for Health Management and Policy in Jinan, China.

I am currently working with the Cancer Epidemiology group at WAIMR as the project coordinator for the Breast Cancer, Environment and Employment Study. I previously worked as a research assistant with this group and was involved in a number of smaller projects that allowed me to improve my research skills and write some papers for publication in scientific journals. In 2009 I took on the bigger role of project coordinator. This is a very challenging job that demands a range of skills including epidemiological research skills and project management.

The health science degree really allows you the freedom and flexibility to make the degree your own. Whatever your area of interest, be it research, advocacy, or policy development, the Health Science degree is able to cater to that interest within a public health framework.

After concluding my degree at UWA I took a position as a graduate at the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in Canberra. I worked at the ABS for a year as a Project Officer primarily within the National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics (NCATSIS).

Following my time at the ABS, I took a position as a health management consultant at HealthConsult in Sydney, an organisation that is involved in improving the quality of health services available to the Australian community. Since starting at HealthConsult I have contributed to a number of projects including the development of a national workforce planning model for radiation oncology services across Australia.

I gained a lot from participating in a graduate program. The transition from full-time university to full-time work can often be difficult. I found that participating in a graduate program gave me extra support, training and mentoring that helped me develop my professional skills.

Having completed the Health Science degree, I have found it directly relevant to my current profession. The degree gave me an excellent grounding in public health and I would recommend it to anyone who has an interest in working within the health industry.
After finishing my final semester, I enjoyed one last summer break before starting work with the WA Department of Health as part of the 2006 Graduate Development Program (GDP). During the GDP, I completed three rotations, including work with the Research Development Unit, Research and Epidemiology Team (Child and Youth Health Program) and WA Perinatal Mental Health Unit.

Since the GDP finished in January 2007, I have continued working in perinatal mental health, now employed as Health Promotion Officer. I enjoy my job because I am challenged and driven to be creative every day. I’ve been lucky enough to present my work at a number of conferences, including the International Marce Society Conference (Sydney, 2008).

For me, the greatest strength of the Health Science degree is the real-world preparation students receive. Every unit in the degree was great, but it is the practical, workforce know-how that sets Health Science graduates apart from the rest.

I’ll always greatly value my time at UWA, not only for giving me a fantastic degree, but also for the people I met – including my husband, David.

Good luck to all current and future HS graduates with whatever life brings your way.

I am currently employed by Telethon Institute for Child Health Research (TICHR) working on a health promotion project. I see this project as an excellent example of research being translated into practice.

This project has given me a great opportunity to have a taste of health promotion and gain an insight into working with Aboriginal people. The project is based in Kalgoorlie and surrounding communities, and I make regular visits to the organisations and people on the ground.

I have hands on experience in writing ethics applications, developing questionnaires, project managing and planning health promotion activities. Independence and adaptability are very important skills to have for my job. I have seen and learnt things that I couldn’t have in Perth.

I enjoy working and like the work environment.

Previously, I worked for South Metropolitan Public Health Unit for 3 months as an analyst in the epidemiology section. I was primarily working on data analysis and data management.

My advice to potential Health Science graduates is to make the most of your opportunities. If you are engaging in volunteer work or other activities, you need to be committed to actually get something out of it.
After a long job hunt I cast a wider net starting out as a Business Analyst for Minara Resources, a WA nickel mining company. Based (fly-in fly-out) in the Northern Goldfields, I worked with an Engineering team to provide cost and project reporting for a large-scale maintenance project.

It was a challenge to be out of my comfort zone and in an unfamiliar industry, but the business skills, experience and understanding I picked up, along with confidence in my ability to adapt to new situations, was invaluable.

Returning to Perth in 2008, I joined HBF Health through chasing up contacts and a bit of lucky timing. My first role was as a Commercial Analyst in Business Development and Group Strategy, working closely with senior executives in devising and evaluating strategic options and providing analytical support on corporate strategic projects.

I recently joined HBF’s provider relations team, and am responsible for critical analytics in relation to hospital and other provider contracts, supporting negotiations and relationship building, and assessing risks and opportunities to make recommendations for business decisions.

Never underestimate the power of networking and personal contacts, no matter how distant they are. And be prepared to take some sideways steps … there are many paths that lead to great careers.

I have always believed myself to be a student of life – every day, I find something new to learn.

This year, I find myself learning about the broader consumers’ perspective and how that fits into the health system in Western Australia. How consumers and professionals engage in dialogue with one another to close the gaps and ensure the health system is patient oriented. I have had previous experience in project and administrative roles and as an IT trainer in both Australia and Singapore.

What I have to say about Health Science is this: Health Practicum opened my eyes to the possibilities of working in the health research and promotion field, for it was this experience that made me realise how much I enjoyed working in the health field. Undertaking my Practicum at Therapy Focus Inc’s Research and Development branch really deepened my interest, and now I enjoy my work as a Consumer Participation Project Coordinator at the Health Consumers’ Council.

My advice to budding Health Science students is this: there are opportunities everywhere; it is how you apply yourself which will make you stand out from the rest. Good luck and I wish you the best in your studies.
After handing in my Honours thesis at the end of 2004 I moved to London where I worked for TMP Worldwide, followed by six months in the Health Policy Team at the General Social Care Council (interspersed with a bit of travel around Europe).

In 2006 I returned to Perth and worked at the WA Department of Health as a Linkage Officer in the Data Linkage Unit. During that year I also had the opportunity to travel to Melbourne with Jane Heyworth to present the findings of my Honours’ project at the Australasian Epidemiological Association’s Annual Conference. From 2006-2008 I worked in several roles in both the Data Linkage Branch and the Epidemiology Branch at WA DoH.

In January 2009 I moved to Sydney and started working at the National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre. I really enjoy the varied projects I am involved with at the Centre and have been fortunate enough to be sent to far north Queensland to run some workshops for Aboriginal women about early detection of breast cancer.

In 2008 I started my Master of Public Health part time at UWA and I look forward to continuing that study in NSW.

Research has been my life since completing uni in 2005. In January 2006, I commenced work at the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research (TICHR). I worked within the Childhood Cancer Epidemiology team, under the direction of Dr Elizabeth Milne, on two national case-control studies. My position initially was as a Research Assistant, and then in early 2008 I was promoted to Project Coordinator of the Australian Study of Childhood Brain Tumours. These roles involved coordinating recruitment and data collection, conducting preliminary analyses and reporting progress to the study team.

After over three years at TICHR, I decided I was ready for a new challenge and accepted a role as Senior Research Officer in the Epidemiology Branch, WA Department of Health. My role here involves analysing, interpreting, collating and managing data for a wide range of clients within and external to the Department of Health. To date, it has been a great experience.

Create as many networks as possible while at uni - you will be surprised how often you bump into Health Science grads and staff after graduating.
In 2004, I was awarded a postgraduate scholarship by the School of Population Health on the Residential Environments Project. During my Masters candidature I was able to present research both locally and internationally on the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in physical activity research.

After graduating in 2007, I have travelled extensively throughout the U.S.A. and Central America.

I am currently employed in Seattle, Washington as a GIS Analyst for Urban Design 4 Health Inc. UD4H is a leader in the application of research assessing how transportation and community design impacts environmental and health related outcomes with the aim of informing policy and planning decisions.

As a GIS Analyst, an average work day may involve working with physical activity experts to create neighbourhood environment variables for entry into complex statistical models used to predict health outcomes.

The Health Science program allowed me to undertake a multidisciplinary approach to the study of population health. Strong support from staff at UWA has helped me develop an exciting and rewarding career path. I look back upon my time at UWA with fond memories of involvement with many social clubs and events offered by the student guild.

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My first job after graduating was with the Leukaemia Foundation as the Fundraising & Events Coordinator. I worked on numerous campaigns including Worlds Greatest Shave and the inaugural Light the Night. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the organisation and learnt a lot about working in a professional environment.

After a quick round the world trip I returned home and decided I wanted to move into the population health sector. I took up the role of Aged Care & Mental Health Program Officer at the Osborne GP Network in November 2008 and worked on both state and commonwealth funded programs.

I gained great insight into program planning, implementation and reporting however after a couple of years I was ready to return to university and study medicine which had been a long term goal of mine. In 2009, I accepted a place in the Graduate Entry Medical Program at UWA; I am enjoying the course immensely even though it is very demanding!

Don’t feel pressured to decide your career path straight away. The Health Science degree gives you the experience and background knowledge to qualify for a variety of fantastic positions.

As one of the inaugural graduates with a double degree in Health Science and Commerce, it was great to enter the job market and start making a name for the Health Science degree. The majors I obtained, in addition to a minor in Industrial Relations, were ideal for me to secure my current position within the Health Workforce Directorate of WA Health.

I am now in my fifth position within the Department, after originally getting my foot in the door via the 2005 WA Health Graduate Development Program. I successfully completed the program, which I later had the opportunity to coordinate in 2007. It has been pleasing to see subsequent Health Science graduates starting their careers through this program.

My current role gives me the opportunity to liaise with many leading government health employees within the state and national contexts, and provide strategic advice regarding health workforce reform. It allows me to get an interesting summary of some of the major issues affecting the health workforce across Australia.

Everyone looks to get different things out of life. Once you decide on what you want to achieve, commit yourself to making it happen. Remember to enjoy each experience.
I began working for AFL SportsReady three days a week while I was completing my honours dissertation during second semester 2007 and commenced full-time with the company the day after handing in my thesis.

I am a traineeship consultant placing young people in traineeships predominantly within the sports industry. In my role I have had the opportunity to work and meet with many different people, from school-based trainees to CEOs and HR managers in large corporate organisations.

I have helped to set up and manage partnerships with ANZ, Foxtel, Transfield Services, Hilton and many state sporting organisations and football clubs. AFL SportsReady have now created a full-time position for me in Sydney to work out of AFL NSW/ACT to help grow the business and develop new partnerships in NSW.

Doing the combined degree means you are across different disciplines and years for most of your degree – get involved with Health Science events, you’ll make many lasting friendships.

While I was completing my degrees I also worked in the Environmental Health sector at the WA Department of Health and at the UWA Survey Research Centre.

I’m currently working in Sydney for a health economics consultancy called Health Technology Analysts where I am a Health Outcomes Analyst. Our firm specialises in evidence based medicine and reimbursement for healthcare technologies. We work across a range of therapeutic areas and have both public and private sector clients. I work in a multi-disciplinary team with statisticians and economists. I’m currently being introduced to some economic modelling and am considering undertaking a post-graduate course in health economics in 2010.

Study hard. Employers will look at your grades! Undertake work experience in areas of interest whenever possible. If you decide early on which area of work you’d like to end up in then talk to people in the field about which majors are best suited. However your majors do not always determine the area of work you’ll end up in. Have fun at uni because you only get four weeks holiday per year once you start working full time!
Having completed my final year, industry placement in 2004, I took some time out and went overseas. Upon my return to Perth I took on a role as a Graduate Research Officer at Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital, before taking up a position as a Linkage Officer at the Data Linkage Unit in the WA Department of Health (DoH).

My role as a Linkage Officer involved primarily working with health data, enhancing my analytical skills.

In January 2008 I went on secondment to the Office of Population Health Genomics (OPHG), DoH, as a Program Officer in Education and Translation. My primary role here was to work on a project about Family Health History and Chronic Disease. After about six months I took up a permanent position as a Senior Program Officer in Social and Community Research at OPHG where I currently work. This role entails consultation with the WA community to identify what people know, think and value about genetics and genomics. We use quantitative and qualitative research methods to inform policy on genetic issues in WA.

The skills I use on a daily basis include; project management, policy writing, written and verbal communication skills, research and analytical skills, and facilitation skills.

Since graduating I accepted my current position as Coordinator Safety, Quality & Performance at the North Metropolitan Area Health Service (NMAHS). NMAHS predominantly provides public hospital and health services to Perth’s northern suburbs.

My role is highly challenging with varied responsibilities including policy management, governance and quality improvement. I thoroughly enjoy working in this area as I am exposed to the corporate and clinical aspects of large scale health service delivery. I look forward to progressing my career and have furthered my education by completing a Graduate Certificate in Management.

The Health Science degree provided me with specific Public Health and Microbiological knowledge as well as a set of generic skills which have been imperative to my success at NMAHS. The practicum opportunities I undertook at the Department of Health and PathWest were an invaluable “induction” to the workforce.

The staff at SPH were always easy to approach and offered great support and advice. Fellow students were always positive and enthusiastic which created a fun and productive learning environment. As a Health Science student you are provided with an incomparable opportunity on which a highly interesting and prosperous career can be developed. Set your vision and work towards it.
I am currently working at the Environmental Health Directorate, Department of Health as a Scientific Officer. I am part of a team whose goal is to ensure the safety of drinking water in Western Australia. Working with the main regulatory body for public health, my role involves auditing and monitoring drinking water quality in WA.

I work with drinking water service providers from the large drinking water scheme suppliers, local government, right down to remote indigenous communities and small system owners to ensure consumers have access to safe drinking water. On a daily basis, I provide guidance and advice to members of the public and drinking water service providers on how one can produce safe drinking water and negate or manage any health risks that exist in their system.

I also undertake research on various drinking water quality issues and its public health significance to provide supporting evidence to the department’s drinking water policies and advice.

Interesting experiences include: flying through the Kimberley to Aboriginal Communities to inspect drinking water systems and to collect drinking water samples; and being at Cocos Island in the middle of the Indian Ocean informing the locals about the benefits of fluoride in drinking water.

Enjoy Health Science. I found all the units intellectually stimulating and very interesting. The helpful and supportive academic staff and fellow students were a great plus. The public health major will diversify your career opportunities. The Honours program is great!

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**Henry Tan**  
Scientific Officer, Environmental Health Directorate, WA Department of Health  
*BHlthSc (hons) (2005)*

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**Clare Tran**  
Health Promotion Planner, Community Health agency in Melbourne  
*BHlthSc (2004)*

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Finishing the Health Science degree provided me with strong foundations of Public Health & health promotion skills and knowledge - both of which I still continue to use and develop in my everyday work.

My first job was at UWA as a Research Assistant for a bowel cancer study, and it eased me into full-time employment in applying my theory into practice. I was fortunate to have Dr Jane Heyworth and Cassandra Clayforth as my supervisors; both of whom I’d met during my studies as lecturer and peer, respectively.

My second job was at The Cancer Council WA as an Education Officer. Whilst in that role, I had the opportunity to work on campaigns such as SunSmart and Go For 2&5. I had also coordinated the Cancer Council Research Symposium; and contributed to the development of the Cancer Education Course for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Health Professionals.

Now I live in Melbourne and work as the Health Promotion Planner in a community health agency. My role involves working towards integrated health promotion with stakeholders including local government and primary care partnerships; and build staff capacity in health promotion practice.

My advice is to learn and ask as many questions as you can, especially from your uni lecturers, supervisors and team members as they are valuable resources to develop from.
Since graduating I’ve worked in clinical trials and breast/bowel cancer research, and I now work at the Cancer Council WA as their Bowel Cancer Education Coordinator. In this role I’m educating GPs, health professionals and the public on the latest in bowel cancer, more specifically the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program. Recently I also helped initiate the new national advocacy campaign – Get Behind Bowel Screening.

In addition, you’ll also find me at UWA on a regular basis tutoring the first year undergraduate medical students in their Foundations of Clinical Practice tutorials, as well as the postgraduate medical students in their bridging course tutorials.

I think the Health Science degree provides us with the diversity to move around in the health industry without much of a challenge.

My fondest memories include being there when the Health Science Society was created and then watching its development whilst tutoring the Health Science Students in recent years. Congratulations to all involved.

My only advice for future students is find the right mix of work/life balance, and keep trying out new roles until you find something that you feel passionate about.

Since graduating, I have worked at the Centre for Genetic Epidemiology & Biostatistics at UWA. I am currently Study Coordinator for the WA Sleep Health Study, and I coordinate the WA arm of the Sleep Apnea cardiovascular Endpoints (SAVE) study, a multi-centre international clinical trial. In my role I am required to:

- lead a team of PhD students and research assistants, and supervise undergraduate student research projects;
- collaborate with leading researchers (from WA, interstate and overseas) in various fields of health and medical research to develop effective and efficient study designs;
- work alongside clinicians to determine best outcomes for patients, and liaise with patients;
- work with bio-informaticists/programmers and statisticians to maintain and analyse research databases.

I also have opportunities to travel overseas and interstate to attend conferences and meetings with collaborating groups.

The wide-ranging tasks I’m involved in is reflective of the skills and abilities my degree has provided. I believe the Health Science degree has given me a significant advantage working in the field of public health. The combination of scientific knowledge and epidemiology, coupled with a strong emphasis on professionalism, give Health Science graduates a comprehensive education and invaluable practical experience.
University was a great experience and since graduating life has been very exciting. A couple of years ago I travelled to Greece to learn about my history. Currently I am also planning my upcoming wedding and that means finding a work life balance and developing my project management skills.

Occupational Health and Safety and Customer Service are two hot topics at the moment and in my position as Manager of the Customer Help Centre at WorkSafe I am very much involved in both of them. The best part of my job is the interpersonal aspect. Helping the organisation reach its strategic goals through focusing on its clients and development of its staff is very rewarding. As a result, I feel that I have already achieved so much and I am definitely looking forward to the opportunities in the years ahead.

My advice to students... Research potential employers, and find the best fit for you. Employers love a person that has something to contribute. Also, go out with a passion to learn. Learning doesn’t stop when you graduate; it’s just the beginning and make sure you grasp the opportunities out there.

Since graduation I have been employed by my practicum organisation, PricewaterhouseCoopers, as a consultant in the health team of the Performance Improvement / Strategy group. My key client is the Department of Health and I have worked on two key projects.

The first is providing coaching and training support in Six Sigma/LEAN clinical services redesign methodology to the teams implementing the Four Hour Rule program across WA Hospitals. The second project is the delivery and management of the Project Management Office for WA Health’s eHealth WA Program, which provides the delivery strategic information and communications technology projects to WA Hospitals.

My career experience to date has been fantastic, and it has all been built on the back of relevant, practical teachings from the Health Science degree. I find myself incorporating project management principles, research design, health economics, as well as presentation skills learned at uni on a regular basis.

My advice to current student is to make the most of practicum and use it to get your first job. If you read list of placements and none of them are where you want to end up, then throw the list away and create your own opportunity to get where you want to be. Take the initiative before someone takes it from you!
I completed my Health Science degree in 2003 and continued straight on into a PhD through the School of Population Health on mosquito-borne disease in the South West of WA, which I finished in 2007.

In 2008, I moved to Sydney to further my opportunities and worked at the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance where I undertook research into the impact of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine on otitis media and pneumonia. In April 2009 I presented this work at a United States Centre for Disease Control and Prevention conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

Since January, I have been working as an epidemiologist at the Sydney South West Area Health Service and have been closely involved with the H1N1 human swine influenza pandemic response in NSW.

The Health Science degree at UWA gave me an excellent grounding in epidemiology and public health research methods that has served me well in my career so far. I realise it’s not for everyone, but if you are considering a career in research, the key to a successful PhD is to make sure you choose a topic you’re passionate about, and find a supervisor you work well with.

Andrew Jardine
Epidemiologist
Sydney South West Area Health Service
BHealthSc (hons) (2003); PhD (2007)

I was accepted into the Department of Health Graduate Development Program in 2009. My first rotation was at the Drug and Alcohol Office where I worked on a variety of projects including a stakeholder satisfaction survey, alcohol overview reports for WA towns, and assisting with the Rethink Drink, Night Venues and Entertainment Events Project, and Liquor Licensing Prevention Programs.

My second rotation was at Royal Perth Hospital with the Four Hour Rule Program. Here I co-ordinated a “Voice of the Patient and Hospital” project to determine measures which are essential to patient and staff satisfaction. I was also involved in mapping hospital processes, data collection and analysis, and presentation of findings.

My third rotation is at the Health Networks Branch, working on a Chronic Disease Self Management Project. My main tasks involved coordinating the Self Management website development and Core Skills for Self Management training event.

The graduate program has definitely opened my eyes up to what is out there in health. I would recommend this program as Health Science is such a broad degree, and health is broad, so it is a great opportunity to experience different areas of interest and network with health professionals.

Kendall Hutchinson
Graduate Officer, WA Department of Health
BHealthSc (2008)
With the ‘Pink Beige’ graduation gown back on its hanger, I focused the crosshair of my life on a five month adventure through Eastern Europe. Returning home with travel bug sated, I began working at the Asthma Foundation of WA as a Community Asthma Educator, delivering group and individual asthma education and promoting key asthma messages to the wider community.

I commenced a new role with the Foundation in 2008 as WA Asthma Friendly Schools Coordinator. Working on a National Program has provided fantastic professional development opportunities and it has been great to see tasks like regional travel, training, budgets, media and personnel coordination, slip from the pedestal of ‘scary grown-up activities’, to competencies and processes performed daily.

For those driven by an inner altruistic whisper and desire to help people live better, healthier lives, I have no doubt that the Health Science degree can equip you to accomplish these goals. Visualise how units apply to a real life setting - don’t get bogged down in the theory; think laterally when looking for jobs or analysing your skill set, and; emulate effective professional practices of managers/mentors.

Straight after finishing my Health Science final year practicum I landed my first job at the same agency, the WA School Canteen Association Inc (WASCA). I received an Australian Health Promotion Association (AHPA) scholarship to complete a pilot project at WASCA to increase healthier food and drinks in sport and racing club canteens. The project was expanded to engage 40 local sport clubs, race course venues, major sport stadiums, recreation centres and entertainment venues across WA.

With so many different settings, the project provided us with the opportunity to promote healthy eating across the community. In consultation with sport, racing, recreation and entertainment venues, along with a leading Sports Dietitian and Dietitians at the Cancer Council WA, the Heart Foundation and Healthway, we developed a step by step manual to assist clubs and venues to provide healthier food and drinks at their canteens, kiosks and food outlets.

Since graduating from Health Science and working in the real world I have improved my skills in evaluation, oral presentations, workshop facilitation, writing for publication, communicating with a diverse range of groups, social marketing, intersectoral collaboration and interpersonal skills.

There are so many pathways that the Health Science degree can take you, so get involved in as much volunteer work experience as you can across your time at uni. The more work experience you try, the more easily you will discover what areas of Health Science you enjoy the most.
I accepted a job at KPMG during my final year at uni. I transferred to KPMG Canberra after completing my studies and had the opportunity to apply my health science and accounting skills while providing advisory services to the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, Defence, Treasury, Centrelink, Australian Trade Commission and Child Support Agency.

Studying Health Science helped to differentiate my skill set from peers who studied commerce only. It also gave me a solid understanding of the public health system, which was very useful in providing advice to clients whose core business includes the provision of health services.

The extra workload involved in studying a combined degree served me well for juggling a fulltime job while studying the Chartered Accountants (CA) Program. After qualifying as a CA, I accepted a new role working as a consultant for Synergy Group, providing advice to the CFO at Customs.

I am currently helping to implement an extensive change program across the finance division, which is challenging but very rewarding. Completing honours is fantastic for refining research, networking, writing, and presentation skills. Joining HSS is also a great way to enjoy the social side of uni and a place you’ll make lifelong friends.

UWA’s Health Science degree is world class and unique. I graduated from the combined degree program (Health Science and Commerce) with a diverse and adaptable skill set – one that has been tremendously transferable between different problems, industries and even country healthcare systems.

During my degree, I worked in areas as diverse as consulting, government, academia and healthcare industry; and since graduating I moved to the US to complete a Health Management Masters of Public Health at Yale University. While at Yale, I was able to apply my public health, science and business background to exciting hospital administration projects in two of the top US hospitals - Yale New Haven Hospital and New York Presbyterian Hospital.

Upon graduation, I moved to Manhattan and work as the Special Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer/Executive Deputy Commissioner at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the premier public health agency in the United States. I oversee six agency divisions and also coordinate special projects for the agency that optimise quality and efficiency. It’s a fantastic time to be part of public health and to contribute to the community in a very meaningful and positive way.

Be yourself and don’t waste this life - love what you do and have fun with it.

Cameron Lynch
Consultant, Synergy Group
BHlthSc (hons) (2005) & BCom (Accounting); Chartered Accountant (2008)

Yuna Lee
Special Assistant to COO, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
BHlthSc (hons) (2006) & BCom (Management, HR, Marketing); MPH (Yale, 2009)
In my final year of Health Science I worked as a research assistant at the Injury Research Centre (School of Population Health UWA).

I continued working for the School of Population Health when I began my law degree in 2005. During that time I was employed as a Research Assistant and Research Officer for the Health Promotion Evaluation Unit and the Centre for the Built Environment and Health.

In 2008 I commenced employment at a private law firm as a paralegal. I completed my law degree in June 2008 and got a job with the Legal & Legislative Services branch at the Department of Health (WA). I am currently working as an Acting Legal Officer.

Undertake further study! Think creatively when you are looking for a job. Not all jobs are advertised so it pays to contact places where you might like to work - you never know what opportunities they may be able to offer you.

After graduating in 2006 I accepted a job at a small corporate finance and advisory group called RFC Corporate Finance, which focuses on corporate deals targeting Australian mining companies.

I am involved in providing target companies with project and financing advice and company analysis. RFC also acts as a Nominated Adviser for companies wishing to publicly list on the AIM market of the London Stock Exchange. This work is of a regulatory nature where we oversee compliance with a company’s listing requirements.

It would appear I betrayed my Health Science background in my current career, but my studies in the field have still taught me a lot about the corporate environment. Surprisingly most people that I work with are more interested in hearing about my Health Science background than about my current work in commerce.

Although I have not initially pursued the Health Science career path, I still maintain a passionate interest in public health and hope one day to pursue an occupation related to that field. The opportunities that are available with such a degree are limitless. I’ve seen fellow students embark on a vast array of careers around Australia and overseas.

My advice for current students – work hard. Everyone says that grades don’t count so much when you apply for jobs as long as you pass. In my experience, when applying for any competitive position, subject grades were always the first thing employees looked at.
Biophysicists combine the methods of mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology to study the structure of biological molecules and the physical principles involved in the machinery of life.

Join in the excitement of recent discoveries and investigate how the fundamental laws of physics combine with the technologies of frontier experimental research in helping to unlock the principles and structure of life. The physics of biology can be elegantly simple in form and action, but with underlying layers of surprising complexity.

There are many areas of biophysics that relate to health. Some current areas of concern are the impact of non-ionising radiation such as from mobile phones or power lines on health. The Radiation Protection Branch of the Department of Health investigates these areas as well those related to occupational exposures to both ionising and non-ionising radiation. Noise induced hearing loss is an important but neglected area of public health, but where there may be employment opportunities. Graduates may find employment with the Departments of Health or Environment, hospitals or with the mining sector.

Computer science is the application of information technology to industry and commerce. It is by the triumphs of information technology that the public appreciates computer science. Information Technology is shaping our futures.

Health Informatics is an emerging and very important area of health, covering a broad range of topics including health data collection, encoding, management, linkage, geocoding, analysis, interpretation and dissemination. Due to the sensitivity of personal health information, legal, ethics, privacy and confidentiality requirements are very important.

Already, professionals with training in Information Management, Computer Science, Mathematics and Statistics work alongside Health Scientists, Health Administrators and Legal specialists to build and manage an efficient evidence-based health system. Graduates with training and knowledge in more than one area, who can speak a common language, especially those who can bridge the Information Systems/Health Science gap are especially well placed for careers in Health Informatics in the 21st Century.
Physiology and Cell Physiology

Physiology is the study of how complex living organisms, such as humans, work. It involves an in-depth understanding of body function. Physiology examines life from the molecular and cellular levels, to the integrated functioning of organ systems. It understands the basic living organism to make sense of the more complex organisms.

Studies begin at Level 2 with an introduction to the way living cells and organisms’ function, mechanisms of growth, signalling between cells, cell division, and cellular movement. There is a strong emphasis on laboratory work, so you can explore the theories that you learn. Studies then focus on the human body system. You diversify your study to look at biophysics, neurophysiology, control mechanisms, the way systems integrate, neuroscience, and cell biology.

Physiology and Public Health majors provide students with a very sound basis for working in health research, such as research on cancer, cardiovascular disease or diabetes. Understanding disease processes also allows us to better understand ways to prevent and manage these diseases. It also is another pathway to understanding the nature of the adverse effects of hazardous substances on humans and to work in the area of health risk assessment.

Physiology provides the skills to impact of hazardous substances on health, while the public health major provides the skills to assess levels and probability of exposure as well as management strategies.
Graduate Destinations

The career options available to Health Science graduates are diverse and wide-ranging. The list below provides a snapshot of some of the job destinations of Health Science graduates since the first cohort of graduates entered the workforce in 2003.

Aboriginal Health Council of WA - Project Officer/Consultant/Secretary Support Officer/Health Information Officer/Scientific Affairs Associate
Australian National University - Student Master of Applied Epidemiology
Asthma Foundation - Community Education Project Officer
Australian Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre
Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet - Research Officer
AXA Australia - Technical Writer
Cancer Council WA - Project Officer/Health Promotion Officer/Clinical Research Assistant Western Australian Medical Research Council - Network Co-ordinator of Australian Childhood Diabetes DNA Repository Centre for Diabetes Research
Challenge Stadium - Swim school coordinator City of Cockburn - Health Promotion Officer/Community Development Assistant/Special Projects Officer
City of Joondalup - Recreation Officer/Leisure Centre Customer Service Officer
City of Perth - Health Promotion Officer
City of Rockingham - Youth Services Officer
City of Stirling - Project Officer, Community Emergency Risk Management Project
Commonwealth Gov - Project Officer
Department for Communities, Working with Children Screening Unit - Community Education Officer
Department for Planning and Infrastructure - Project Officer
Department of Consumer and Employment Protection, Worksafe - Team Leader
Department of Education and Training, WA Schools Canteen Association - Project Officer
Department of Finance & Administration - Health & Ageing Agency Advice Unit
WA Department of Health (WA DoH) - Graduate Officer
WA DoH BreastScreen - Health Promotion Officer
WA DoH North Metropolitan Area Health Service - Health Promotion Officer
WA DoH Office of Population Health Genomics - Program Officer/Senior Program Officer
Department of Health and Ageing - Graduate Officer
WA DoH Data Linkage Unit - Data Linkage Officer/Executive Officer/Acting Director of the International Health Data Linkage Network/Data Coordinator
WA DoH Epidemiology Branch - Research Officer
WA DoH Health Information Linkage - Linkage Officer
WA DoH Health Information Partnerships Directorate - Senior Health Information Officer WA DoH Innovation and Health System Reform - Senior Project Officer
WA DoH Joondalup Health Region - Project Officer
WA DoH Mental Health Division - Program Officer
WA DoH Office of Safety and Quality - Programs Officer/Performance Review and Audit Coordinator
WA DoH South Metropolitan Area Health Service - Project Officer
WA DoH Workforce and Professional Development Branch - Research Officer
WA DoH Workforce and Professional Development Branch - Senior Project Officer
WA DoH Workforce Strategy and Reform Branch - Program Officer/Senior Program Officer
WA DoH Working with Children Screening Unit - Screening Officer/Accounts Assistant/Diamond Offshore
WA DoH State Perinatal Mental Health - Project Officer
WA DoH Child and Community Health - Project Officer
WA DoH Disaster Preparedness and Management Unit
WA DoH Drug and Alcohol Office
WA DoH Health Policy and Clinical Reform - Program Support Officer
WA DoH Mullewa Yalgoo Murchison Health Service - Health Promotion Officer
WA DoH Morawa District - Health Promotion
Graduate Destinations

Officer
WA DoH, Child and Adolescent Community Health Division - Health Promotion Officer
WA DoH Office of Chief Medical Officer - Policy Officer
WA DoH Sexual Health & Blood-borne Virus Program - Policy and Planning Officer/ Project Officer/ Program Officer
WA DoH Country Health, Great Southern - Healthy Community Project Officer/ Health Promotion Officer
WA DoH Water Quality - Scientific Officer DoH
Edith Cowan University (ECU) School of Natural Sciences - Research Assistant
Ernst and Young
Family Planning WA
General Social Care Council (London) - Health Policy Team Administrator
Gerard Daniels Australia - Research Administration Assistant
Harvard University - Masters International Health Student
HBF - Research Officer/ Commercial Analyst
Health Consumers Council - Consumer Participation Program Coordinator
Health Promotion Association - Survey Research Assistant
Injury Control Council of WA - Project Officer
UWA School of Population Health, Injury Research Centre - Graduate Research Assistant
Telethon Institute for Child Health Research - Research Assistant
KPMG - Internal Auditor
Leukaemia Foundation - Fundraising and Events Assistant
City of Melville Lifestyler Services - Group Fitness & Wellness Team Leader Minara Resources - Business Analyst
National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance
National Health Service Westminster - Public Health Project Manager
University of Notre Dame - Research Associate Notre Dame
Paraplegic Benefit Fund - Project Officer
Princess Margaret Hospital Emergency Department - Trauma Registry Officer/ Research Assistant
Pritcher Partners - Auditor
Public Health Advocacy Institute - Research Assistant
Public Transport Authority - Service Planning Officer
Queensland Health - Senior Epidemiologist
Ramsay Health Care Joondalup Health Campus - Human Resource Officer/ HR Advisor/ Clinical Redesign Program Manager
Rio Tinto Health Band Safety Area - Graduate Officer
Royal Australasian College of Surgeon - Research Officer
Royal Life Saving Society - Health Promotion Officer/ Health Promotion Manager
Royal Perth Hospital, Department of Trauma and Orthopaedics - Research Officer RSL Care - Policy Development
UWA School of Population Health - Graduate Research Assistant
UWA School of Social and Cultural Studies - Research Officer
Scitech
SilverChain - Research Assistant
Sir Charles Gairdener Hospital - Clinical Trials Research Assistant/ Pharmacist/ Pharmacy Intern/ Graduate Research Assistant/ Clinical Trial Coordinator
Storm Productions - Organisational Head Administrator
Swimming WA - Development Officer
Sydney South West Area Health Service
Sydney South West Sexual Health Service - Health Promotion Officer (Hepatitis C)
The Cancer Council WA - Project Officer/Education Officer/ Bowel Cancer Education Coordinator
TMP Worldwide (London) - Response Coordinator
TNS Social Research, Social and Government Department - Project Executive
Urban Design 4 Health Inc. - Public Health GIS Analyst
University of Western Australia - Various Masters and PhD students
University of Western Australia - Prospective Students Advisor/ Associate Lecturer/ Health Science Placement Officer/ HR Officer/ Research Assistant/ Project Coordinator
UWA School of Population Health - Improving Rural Cancer Outcome Trial Partnership Project Coordinator
UWA Injury Research Centre - Graduate Research Assistant/ Research Assistant
Graduate Destinations

UWA School of Psychiatry & Clinical Neurosciences, Smoking Cessation in Mental Health Working Party - Research Assistant
UWA Active Transport - GIS Analyst
UWA Centre for Rural and Remote Oral Health - Research Assistant
UWA Health Promotion Evaluation Unit - Research Associate
UWA Medical Centre - Health Promotion Officer
UWA School of Medicine and Pharmacology
UWA Social Public Health Research Group - Research Assistant
UWA Treat or Trap - Graduate Research Assistant
UWA WABOHS - Project Officer/Research Assistant of WA Bowel Health Study
WA Cervical Cancer Registry - Project Officer
Western Australia Institute for Medical Research - Study Coordinator/Manager Operator FACSArria II Cell Sorter/ Research Assistant/ Cancer Epidemiology Group Project Officer
Wastewater Management Unit
Western Diagnostic Pathology - Lab Assistant
Western Region Health Centre - Health Promotion Planner
Westminster City Council/NHS Westminster - Strategy Development Project Manager
Yale University - Student, Masters
Terry Slevin  
Cancer Council of WA

Do you know how to find and interpret data on rate and causes of cancer in populations?

Are you able to prepare a scientifically accurate but easily understandable summary of the benefits (and risks) of participating in a cancer screening program to people who have no scientific training?

Do you have the skills to quickly assess the quality of the methodology of a paper published in a peer reviewed journal so as to determine if the research is significant enough to alter existing health advice?

Can you make a judgement, and a sound argument about where the best investment of scarce resources might be justified to achieve the best and fairest health outcomes?

If you can say yes to these questions then your skills are needed now, and into the future in the growing field of public health practice. As the current federal government fulfils its promise to improve investment in preventive health measures, organisations like the Cancer Council will need skills staff to implement those programs.

A combination of sound scientific understanding and clear concise communications skills, built on a basis of a strong research skills are a saleable commodity.

A capacity to identify and meet needs in the community are characteristics that can set you off on a rewarding career in preventing people getting ill, rather than fixing them when they are already crook and incapacitated.

No one will send you a bottle of whiskey at Christmas time to thank you for the operation, or the kind medical care but you’ll know that you’ve played a part in making a real and very substantial improvement of the health of your fellow Australians – and maybe beyond.

Those are the opportunities a Bachelor of Health Science sets you up for. How you travel that path is now down to you!
This Disaster Management, Regulation and Planning Directorate within the Public Health Division of the WA Department of Health is responsible for preparing for and managing the health response to disasters, private hospital licensing, pharmaceutical services, injury prevention and public health regulation and legislation.

So what does this have to do with your newly acquired degree in Health Science? As it turns out, this is another area that Health Science graduates have become increasingly involved and excelled in. While Health Science graduates come to us via different routes, several of the graduates have initially come to us as part of a rotation with the Health Department’s Graduate Program, before becoming permanent members of the team.

Highlighting three examples, Gemma Watts initially came to us as a Graduate Officer at the end of 2007, before taking up a position as a policy and training officer who helped to develop and facilitate a broad range of disaster medicine training throughout the public health system, in between responding to disasters and other major incidents. She has subsequently moved to the Drug and Alcohol Office, where she has an important role in researching and developing the public health responses to liquor licensing requests, which is at the forefront of responsible alcohol management regulation. Her successor, Claire Perrozzi, having developed policy to respond to major incidents and outages at renal dialysis clinics as a Graduate Officer, has been heavily involved in responding to the H1N1 Human Swine Influenza pandemic and other major incidents, while continuing to facilitate key training.

Finally, another graduate, David Youens, who initially joined us to develop an e-learning package for emergency management, has played a critical role in the development of our health logistics and information systems that were utilised in the response to the H1N1 pandemic.

This is just a snapshot of the opportunities to both do something interesting and a little different, while getting great experience and skills to assist in building a future career. Whether this is a passion or a stepping stone, Health Science graduates have played, and continue to play, an important role in this and other directorates within the Department of Health.
Our Cancer Epidemiology Unit undertakes original research studies on the causes and patterns of cancer in human populations. The team are involved in a broad range of studies covering most aspects of cancer epidemiology.

A particular interest is occupational causes of cancer where we study people in specific occupations (particularly heavy industries) to see if they are at increased risk of cancer. A major focus of the group is examining whether people were exposed to various chemicals in previous jobs. The team has developed a web-based computer program (called OccIDEAS) which manages this process (www.occideas.org).

We have employed a number of Health Science graduates over the past few years and have found that they have demonstrated the breadth and capability to work in their roles and also learn new skills required for future roles.

Initial jobs are usually at a research assistant level where the graduate is involved with recruiting people into studies, ensuring the data are of high quality and various other tasks such as web content development and sub-studies.

With more experience, it is possible to take on the role of project co-ordinator and be responsible for the smooth running of a study. Since our studies often involve recruiting thousands of subjects over several years, there are many and varied tasks including designing study instruments, developing and documenting protocols, supervising staff, and analysing data. The project co-ordinator also needs to understand the science of the study (the epidemiological principles behind the design as well as the biological rationale for the hypotheses).

You would enjoy this role if you are extremely organised, like to learn new skills and are good at working in a team.
Marie Blackmore  
The Centre for Cerebral Palsy

At The Centre for Cerebral Palsy (TCCP), all our services are geared to improving the quality of life of people with disabilities, especially cerebral palsy. That includes Therapy and Equipment services for children and adults. It also includes Accommodation, Respite, Employment and Alternatives-to-Employment, and Recreation Services, primarily for adults.

Over the past five years, we have had five Health Science students on placement with us. They have all been treasures, although each has brought his or her own individual talents and interests. What they have had in common is a sound, systematic, critical-thinking approach to problems in health. This is ideal for project work, evidence-based practice, and service improvement. They are also excellent at working hand-in-hand with the clinicians. Their skills at teamwork are vital to ensure that their work is applicable to our services.

Two of the students who were on placement with us have remained on as employees. One of these students had done units in Human Movement as well as Health Science, and implemented programs for children and adults with disabilities to help them increase their fitness and involvement in physical activity. He created the position of “Recreation Therapist”, which is now part of our School-Age Therapy Program. The other student was gifted at grant writing and project work. She now drives several grant-funded projects at the Centre. She works closely with clinicians on each project, but she is responsible for ensuring that the project goals and deadlines are met. The skills she acquired during the Health Science course have been ideal for doing literature searches, conducting interviews, preparing data collection sheets, analysing data, preparing reports, and making sure that everyone stays on track with the projects.

The Health Science students we’ve had at TCCP over the last five years have been quick to grasp concepts, motivated to be helpful, and a joy to work with. When they graduate, we have always been pleased if we could find places for them at The Centre.
The Health Science Society (HSS) represents the Health Science students at UWA. HSS plays a crucial role in campus life and education of Health Science students. Our function is not only to represent and support our dedicated members through their rigorous four-year undergraduate degree, but to also enrich their lives in many different ways.

We organise and oversee a variety of different social and academic functions. Our role as a student representative body extends to all aspects of student political and academic life.

HSS develops innovations to better enhance the university experience of our students as well as improve outside networks and raise the profile of the Health Science degree to prospective employers. We collaborate, engage and create strategic partnerships with government, industry, community organisations and professions.

For more information about HSS and how to become a member visit www.sph.uwa.edu.au/students/hss

Our Alumni Association offers great opportunities for professional networking and keeping in touch with previous classmates.

The UWA Health Science Alumni (HSA) was formed five years after the first group of Health Science students graduated.

Membership benefits and services include:

- Access to a variety of job opportunities.
- Access to health-related events.
- Ongoing updates and newsletters.
- Reunion-style events including an annual Health Ball and Christmas drinks.
- The HSA Professional Development lecture series.
- Opportunities to become a mentor to current Health Science students.
- Access to our Facebook group.

Joining us is a great way to stay in contact with other Health Science graduates and enjoy the social and professional development events that we host throughout the year.

Contact hsa@sph.uwa.edu.au to become a lifetime member for only $50.

The Health Science Society (HSS) represents the Health Science students at UWA. HSS plays a crucial role in campus life and education of Health Science students. Our function is not only to represent and support our dedicated members through their rigorous four-year undergraduate degree, but to also enrich their lives in many different ways.