

Public Health vs. Medicine

Medicine	Public Health
Primary Focus on Individual	Primary focus on population
Personal Service ethic, conditioned by awareness of social responsibilities	Public Service ethic, tempered by concerns for the individual.
Emphasis on diagnosis and treatment , care	Emphasis on prevention, health promotion for the whole patient and for the whole community
Paradigm places predominant emphasis on medical care	Paradigm employs a spectrum of interventions aimed at the environment, human behavior and lifestyle, and medical care
Well-established profession with sharp public image	Multiple professional identities with diffuse public image
Uniform system for certifying specialists beyond professional medical degree	Variable certification of specialists beyond professional public health degree
Clinical sciences an essential part of professional training	Clinical sciences peripheral to professional training
Biological sciences central, stimulated by needs of patients; move between laboratory and bedside	Biological sciences central, stimulated by major threats to health of populations; move between laboratory and field
Numeric sciences increasing in prominence , though still a relatively minor part of training	Numeric sciences an essential feature of analysis and training
Social sciences tend to be an elective part of medical education	Social sciences an integral part of public health education