



## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS FOR COPH STUDENTS

The College of Public Health encourages all students to become active in professional associations. These memberships can be an important part of your professional development and training as students, and will continue to provide value throughout your career.

### TOP 10 REASONS FOR COPH STUDENTS TO JOIN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

**1. Become familiar with and stay up to date with trends and leaders in the field**

Through email listserves, members' only websites, webinars, conferences and publications, professional associations are the primary way that professionals connect with colleagues in their specific field. Joining an association as a student can help you confirm that your field of choice is a good fit, and stay informed on hot topics from the practice side.

**2. Show your commitment to the field**

Joining an association shows that you are willing to spend a little bit of money and time to get engaged with your field, outside of the classroom. Doing this as a student is a sign to others that you are genuinely interested in learning and becoming involved in your chosen profession.

**3. Take on leadership roles for experience**

Associations truly value their student members, looking to them for student perspective. Sometimes there are leadership opportunities specifically set aside for students, and other times students can step up and take on leadership roles on various committees due to their flexible schedules, compared to those who are working full time.

**4. Show you understand the importance of supporting your professional associations**

Associations strengthen your field in many ways (marketing, advocacy, research, etc.), regardless of whether you are a paying dues member. By joining, you show that you value their services and are willing to do your part to support the field.

**5. Looks good on your resume**

If you have read #1-4, it should make sense to you why professional memberships could be an asset to your job search. Come talk to Career Services if you need more guidance on how to include this activity on your resume.

**6. Take advantage of very affordable student rates**

Most associations offer student memberships at a fraction of the cost, making membership affordable on a student budget. There are also often reduced membership rates for new graduates, so you can build up several years of involvement on a budget.

## 7. Networking

One of the most important benefits of professional associations is the networking, which will happen in a variety of ways. There will be networking opportunities at in-person events such as conferences and socials. Participating on association committees is a great low stress way to network with other members. And, for times when you are looking to connect with someone at a particular organization or with a specific type of job, an association membership directory can be a great place to start your search.

## 8. Professional development

All associations offer professional development to members, from publications to webinars to in-person conferences and trainings. Some of these require an additional fee, but again, discounts for students often apply. This is a great way to gain knowledge and expertise relevant to your field.

## 9. Scholarships and Funding

Some associations offer scholarships for students to attend meetings or participate in trainings. Some even have financial awards for exceptional student work, and some offer financial support for school or research. You may not even learn about these opportunities unless you are a member.

## 10. Job notifications

When an organization is looking to hire new talent, they distribute the position through their networks, with associations being one of the first places they go to. Not only will you hear about jobs earlier, but this will allow you to mention a more personal connection in your cover letter, as opposed to discovering the position on a generic jobs website.

## TAKING ACTION

In order to decide which professional associations are right for you, ask faculty members for recommendations about the leading associations in your field of interest and talk to other students about their involvement. You can also discuss your options with COPH Career Services.

Professional Associations, and their student membership rates, that may be of interest to COPH Students:

### General Public Health

[American Public Health Association](#) (APHA) \$85/\$65

with Green Discount

[Public Health Association of Nebraska](#) (PHAN) \$35

### BIOS

[American Statistical Association](#) (ASA) \$25

### EAOH

[National Environmental Health Association](#) (NEHA) \$25

[American Industrial Hygiene Association](#) (AIHA) \$31

### EPI

[Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists](#) (CSTE)

\$30

### HPBSH

[Society for Public Health Education](#) (SOPHE) \$80

[American Evaluation Association](#) (AEA) \$69/\$58 for student E-membership

### HSRA

[Academy Health](#) \$45