

Professional Associations

You may have heard about professional associations, but not have a really clear sense of what they are and how they can help you in your public health career journey. Here's the low-down on these helpful organizations.

What is a professional association?

A professional association is an organization whose express purpose is to further a particular profession, support the interests of individuals engaged in that profession and the public interest.

What kind of resources do professional associations offer?

Professional associations can vary, but generally speaking they provide:

- Industry news and publications
- Conferences
- Job Boards and associate sponsored internships/professional development programs
- Funding for professional experiences, research, fellowships, etc.
- Establishment of professional standards for the field
- Policy leadership and advocacy
- Professional Development workshops, trainings, and credentialing and certification opportunities
- Annual or Bi-Annual Meetings/Networking Opportunities
- Awards and presentation opportunities
- Association and committee leadership opportunities

How can I join a professional association?

Membership in a professional association is often not required to access all group resources. However there may be additional benefits provided to members. There are often reduced student membership fees versus a general member.

[Is professional association membership something I should add to my resume or CV?](#)

Absolutely! Here's an example of how you can include it in a basic way. If you are engaged in association activities you can add bullet points describing them.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Public Health Association (APHA), Member January 2021 - Present

[What are some public health-related professional associations?](#)

There are many! But here are a few examples:

[American Public Health Association](#): APHA champions the health of all people and all communities. We strengthen the public health profession. We speak out for public health issues and policies backed by science. We are the only organization that combines a nearly 150-year perspective, a broad-based member community and the ability to influence federal policy to improve the public's health.

[American College of Healthcare Executives](#): This organization provides individuals with national connections as well as more local regional support. Once a member of the organization as a whole, members are automatically enrolled in one of the over 80 regional chapters of the organization. The regional chapters are responsible for providing members with local education programs, career advancement resources, and volunteer opportunities to get more involved as a healthcare leader in the local community.

[National Association of County & City Health Officials](#): National Association of County & City Health Officials career network/job board.

[National Environmental Health Association](#): This is a national professional society for environmental health professionals, the purpose of which is to establish a standard of excellence in the field.

[American College of Epidemiology](#): The American College of Epidemiology is a comprehensive organization of epidemiologists who serve the interests of the field of epidemiology. It does so

by advocating on behalf of issues that are critical to epidemiology. It also features a credential based admission process and hosts many informative scientific meetings.

Interested in discussing ways to advance your professional development and connections?

Schedule a 1:1 Career Coaching appointment with the Office of Career Services. [Book an appointment online now!](#)