

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Department of Prevention and Community Health

Master of Public Health Maternal and Child Health (MCH)

2020-2021

Note: All curriculum revisions will be updated immediately on the website <http://www.publichealth.gwu.edu>

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Mission Statement

The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) program at the Milken Institute School of Public Health (SPH) at the George Washington University is committed to improving the health and well-being of women, children, adolescents and families through teaching, research, practice, policy and service. The MCH Master of Public Health (MPH) program is grounded in a life course perspective as an organizing framework that acknowledges distinct periods in human development and presents both risks and opportunities for interventions. Further, the academic program explores MCH from an interdisciplinary perspective that integrates the biological, demographic, epidemiological, developmental, environmental, behavioral and social characteristics that are unique to the health and well-being of women, children, adolescents and families in the United States and around the world.

Goals & Competencies

The goals of the MCH MPH educational program are to provide and expand:

- ◆ Knowledge and skills to assess the health needs of MCH populations.
- ◆ Knowledge of and ability to use social and behavioral theory; behavior change models and strategies; and policies that have been shown to be successful in improving the health and well-being of MCH populations.
- ◆ Ability to plan, design, implement, evaluate and communicate programs and research targeted toward health promotion and/or disease prevention of MCH populations.
- ◆ Ability to advocate for improvements in social practices, policy and law that will provide supportive environments for the improvement of the health and well-being of MCH populations.

Upon Completion of the MPH, Maternal and Child Health Program students should possess the competencies in **Table 1.**

| Table 1: MCH MPH Program Competencies Mapped to Curriculum Components | |
|--|---|
| | Required Courses (PUBH course numbers) |
| <i>Assess individual, community, organizational and societal needs of women, children, and families.</i> | 6003, 6007, 6500, 6550, 6551, CE |
| <i>Develop strategies, policies, interventions and programs to improve the health of women, children and families</i> | 6007, 6012, 6500, 6550, IPE, Practicum |
| <i>Implement strategies, policies, interventions and programs to meet the health needs of women, children and families.</i> | 6500, 6550, Practicum |
| <i>Conduct evaluation and research related to the health and well-being of women, children and families.</i> | 6002, 6501, 6551, Practicum, CE, CITI |
| <i>Administer MCH strategies, policies, interventions and programs to improve the health and well-being of women, children and families.</i> | 6021, 6022, 6500, 6550, PE |
| <i>Communicate and advocate for health and well-being of women, children and families.</i> | 6012, 6500, 6550, 6551 Practicum, CE, PE, IPE |
| <i>Incorporate a life course perspective to the health and well-being of women, children and families.</i> | 6550, Practicum, CE |

Course Requirements

All Milken Institute School of Public Health (SPH) MPH students who select the Maternal and Child Health Program enroll in MPH Core Courses (15 credits), Prevention and Community Health Department Core Courses (6 credits), Program-Specific Core Courses (6 credits), Program-Specific Electives (10 credits) and General Electives (6 credits). The 45 total credit requirement also includes a 2 credit capstone experience (PUBH 6015- Culminating Experience), in which students apply their classroom education in a Maternal and Child Health applied research endeavor.

As an accredited School of Public Health, students in all GWSPH MPH programs are also required to fulfill both an interprofessional team experience and an applied practice experience. GWSPH has incorporated these requirements into the curriculum as follows:

Interprofessional Education (IPE) Experience:

Following (or simultaneous to) enrollment in PUBH 6021 *Essentials in Public Health Practice & Leadership 1: Leading Self and Teams* (1-credit), students will be required to select an IPE experience from a host of options provided. MPH students will participate in a one-time, case-based or activity-based learning experience. The IPE experience is a way to experience working with people from other professions/programs outside of public health. Students will have many opportunities to register for this zero-credit (no fee) IPE ‘class’ (PUBH 6023- *Interprofessional Education Experience*) and will receive credit upon successful completion.

Applied Practice Experience (Practicum):


The applied practice experience allows each student to individually demonstrate attainment of public health competencies. Information about the Practicum will be introduced in PUBH 6021 so students may begin planning for their practice experience. As a part of the content of PUBH 6022 *Essentials in Public Health Practice & Leadership 2: Managing Organizations & Influencing Systems* (1-credit), detailed information

and an introduction to the necessary tools will be provided. Students are required to fulfill all requirements of the 120-hour Practicum experience to receive credit for this PUBH 6022.

Professional Enhancement requirement: MCH students must participate in 8 hours of Public Health-related lectures, seminars, and symposia. Professional Enhancement activities supplement the academic curriculum and help prepare students to participate actively in the professional community. Opportunities for MCH-specific professional enhancement are regularly publicized via the MCH Listserv and through the program advisors. Students must submit documentation of Professional Enhancement activities to the Office of Student Records. The documentation consists of the Professional Enhancement Form <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/forms> (which includes a prior approval signature from the student’s advisor, a description of the program agenda, and proof of attendance.

Graduation Requirements

1. **Graduate Credit Requirement:** 45 graduate credits are required.
2. **Course Requirements:** Successful completion of the Core, Department/Program-Specific, and General Elective Courses are required.
3. **Practicum Requirement:** Students are required to fulfill all requirements of the Applied Practice Experience (Practicum) to receive credit for PUBH 6022.
4. **Interprofessional Education Experience:** Students are required to enroll and participate in an authorized IPE activity (PUBH 6023).
5. **Grade Point Requirement:** A 3.0 (B average) overall grade point average is required.
6. **Time Limit Requirement:** The degree must be completed within five years.
7. **Transfer Credit Policy:** Up to 12 graduate credits that have not been applied to a previous graduate degree may be transferred to the MPH upon approval. Credits must have been earned from an accredited institution in the last 3 years with a grade point of 3.0 or better.
8. **CITI Training requirement:** All students are required to complete training regarding human subject protection regulation and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). To fulfill this requirement, you must complete the Collaborative IRB Training Initiative (CITI) Course in The Protection of Human Research Subjects.
9. **Integrity Quiz & Plagiarism requirement:** All students are required to review the George Washington University Code of Academic Integrity and take the quiz within their first semester of study. The Code of Integrity and step-by-step instructions can be found here: <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/integrity>

| Table 2: Curriculum Guide | | | |
|---|--|---|-------------------------|
|  <p>Milken Institute School of Public Health THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY</p> | | <p>Master of Public Health Maternal and Child Health Program</p> <p>Program-at-a-Glance 2020-2021</p> | |
| Required Core Courses (15 credits) | | | |
| | | Credits | Semester Offered |
| PUBH 6002* | Biostatistical Applications for Public Health | 3 | Fall, Spring, Summer |
| PUBH 6003* | Principles and Practice of Epidemiology | 3 | Fall, Spring, Summer |
| PUBH 6007* | Social and Behavioral Approaches to Public Health | 2 | Fall, Spring, Summer |
| PUBH 6011 | Environmental & Biological Foundations of Public Health | 3 | Fall, Spring, Summer |
| PUBH 6012 | Fundamentals of Health Policy | 2 | Fall, Spring, Summer |
| PUBH 6021 | Essentials of Public Health Practice & Leadership 1: Leading Self and Teams in Public Health | 1 | Fall, Spring, Summer |

| | | | |
|--|--|----------------|-------------------------|
| PUBH 6022** | Essentials of Public Health Practice & Leadership 2: Managing Organizations & Influencing Systems in Public Health | 1 | Fall, Spring, Summer |
| PUBH 6023 | Interprofessional Education Experience | 0 | Fall, Spring, Summer |
| Required Department-Specific Courses (6 credits) | | | |
| | | Credits | Semester Offered |
| PUBH 6500* | Planning and Implementing Health Promotion Programs (pre-req: PUBH 6007) | 3 | Fall, Spring |
| PUBH 6501 | Program Evaluation (pre-req: PUBH 6500) | 3 | Fall, Spring |
| Required Program Specific Courses (6 credits) | | | |
| | | Credits | Semester Offered |
| PUBH 6550 | Maternal and Child Health I: Foundations (must be taken in the first fall semester enrolled in the program) | 3 | Fall |
| PUBH 6551 | Maternal and Child Health II: Advanced MCH Research (pre-req: PUBH 6002; may be taken simultaneously with PUBH 6550) | 3 | Fall |
| Program Specific Electives (select 10 credits from the list below)*** | | | |
| MCH Populations & Topics | | | |
| PUBH 6552* | Women's Health | 2 | Spring |
| PUBH 6553 | Adolescent Health | 2 | Spring |
| PUBH 6563* | Global Child Health | 2 | Fall, Spring |
| PUBH 6555 | Reproductive Health: US and Global Perspectives | 2 | Spring |
| PUBH 6560 | School Health and Safety | 2 | Summer |
| EXNS 6242 | Nutrition Through the Life Cycle | 2 | Fall |
| PUBH 6240 | Pediatric HIV/AIDS | 1 | Summer |
| HDEV 6109 | Child Development | 3 | Fall |
| Policy & Advocacy | | | |
| PUBH 6561 | MCH Policy Analysis | 2 | Spring |
| PUBH 6359 | Reproductive Health Policy | 2 | Spring |
| PUBH 6335* | Public Health & Law | 3 | Fall, Spring |
| Applied Methods & Program Design | | | |
| PUBH 6620 | Designing Healthy Communities | 2 | Spring |
| PUBH 6503* | Introduction to Public Health Communications and Marketing | 3 | Fall, Spring, Summer |
| PUBH 6269 | Reproductive & Perinatal Epidemiology | 1 | Summer |
| PUBH 6514* | Preventing Health Disparities | 2 | Fall, Spring |
| PUBH 6235 | Epidemiology of Obesity | 1 | Summer |
| Global MCH | | | |
| PUBH 6452 * | Social and Behavior Change Communication in Middle- to Low-Income Countries | 2 | Fall |
| PUBH 6400* | Global Health Frameworks | 2 | Spring |
| PUBH 6455* | Global Vaccinology | 3 | Spring & Fall |
| PUBH 6481* | Global Mental Health | 2 | Summer |
| General Electives (6 credits) | | | |
| Any Graduate Course(s) | | 6 | Fall, Spring, Summer |
| Other Required Courses | | | |
| PUBH 6015.18 | Culminating Experience | 2 | See Advisor |
| Course Distribution | | Credits | |
| Public Health Core Courses | | 15 | |
| Department Specific Courses | | 6 | |
| Program-Specific Required Courses | | 6 | |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|--|
| Program-Specific Electives | 10 | |
| Electives | 6 | |
| Culminating Experience | 2 | |
| Total Degree Credits | 45 | |

* These classes are additionally offered online. A maximum of 15 credits can be attributed to online courses.

** In PUBH 6021 and 6022, the Applied Practice Experience (Practicum) will be introduced and guidelines and tools for fulfilling this requirement will be provided. Upon completion of the 120 hour required Practicum, students will receive credit for PUBH 6022.

*** Substitutions are allowed with advance advisor approval.

MCH AFFILIATED FACULTY

The following faculty advise MCH students on CE projects and/or teach MCH courses.

Lorien Abrams, ScD, MA, Professor

Dr. Abrams is a behavioral scientist with expertise in applying communication technology to design scalable programs aimed at tobacco cessation. The aims of her research are to develop and evaluate evidence-based tobacco treatment programs that run on mobile phones

Carla J Berg, PhD, MBA, Professor

Dr. Berg is the Associate Center Director for Population Sciences and Policy within the George Washington Cancer Center. Her research primarily focuses on socio-contextual factors related to substance use, particularly tobacco and marijuana. She has also conducted research regarding health behaviors and quality of life among cancer survivors.

Jeffrey Bingenheimer, PhD, MPH, Associate Professor

Dr. Bingenheimer has conducted research on sexual behavior, HIV risks, and the impact of neighborhood on health and mortality. His current research focuses on the influences of gendered family, peer group, and community contexts of behavioral risk factors for HIV, STIs, and pregnancy among adolescents and young adults in Ghana.

Mark Edberg, PhD, MA, Associate Professor

Dr. Edberg is a cultural anthropologist with a focus on public health (domestic and global). Professor Edberg is particularly knowledgeable about how poverty and marginalization intersect with key health issues, such as HIV/AIDS, substance use and youth violence

W. Douglas Evans, PhD, Professor

Dr. Evans has published widely on the effectiveness of social marketing and behavior change interventions in various subject areas and global settings. His current research focuses on the use of branding strategies in public health and the development and evaluation of new health technologies including mobile health.

David Huebner, PhD, Associate Professor

Dr. Huebner's passion for the fields of psychology and public health grows from the potential for scholarly inquiry in these areas to contribute to social justice, most notably by improving the health of minority and marginalized communities. A core component of his program of research focuses on understanding how physical and mental health are impacted by stresses unique to historically disenfranchised groups (e.g., discrimination).

Michael Long, ScD, Assistant Professor

Dr. Long conducts research at the intersection of epidemiology and quantitative policy analysis with the goal of identifying cost-effective and politically feasible policy solutions to promote community health. His work over the past decade has focused on identifying policy approaches to reversing the obesity epidemic in the United States.

Khadidiatou Ndiaye, MA, PhD, Teaching Assistant Professor

Dr. Khadidiatou Ndiaye is committed to promoting the voices of non-western populations in the health realm. She is dedicated to making contributions to the nexus of intercultural communication, health communication, and global health activities and believes that the complex issues addressing health and health behavior can be best understood by adopting an ecological approach.

Olga Acosta Price, PhD, Associate Professor

Dr. Price is the Director of the Center for Health and Health Care in Schools, national resource and technical assistance center committed to building effective school health programs. A passionate advocate of school-based mental health services, she has dedicated her formal training in clinical psychology to improving the lives of young people.

Kathleen M. Roche, MSW, PhD, Associate Professor

Dr. Roche is trained in fields of public health and social work, and her research program examines parenting influences on the health and well-being of adolescents facing challenges tied to immigration status, neighborhood disadvantage, acculturation to the US, and discrimination. Her expertise is in adolescence, adolescent health and well-being, parenting, acculturation-related factors, immigrant Latino/a families, and neighborhood-by-parenting interaction effects.

Carlos E. Rodriguez-Diaz, PhD, Associate Professor

Dr. Rodriguez-Diaz is a community health scientist with over fifteen years of experience conducting action research in Puerto Rico, the United States of America, and the Caribbean Region. His work has focused in the areas of HIV care and prevention, sexual health promotion, and health equity through actions on the social determinants of health.

Tamara Taggart, PhD, Assistant Professor

Dr. Taggart conducts socio-epidemiologic studies to examine the contextual (e.g., neighborhoods and social networks) and cultural (e.g., religiosity, racial identity, and masculinity) determinants of health, and then uses CBPR methods to develop and implement interventions to reduce HIV risk and substance use among racial/ethnic minority and socioeconomically disadvantaged adolescents and emerging adults.

Anne Rossier Markus, PhD, MHS, JD, Associate Professor/Interim Chair of Health Policy & Management

Dr. Markus is an expert on the financing and organization of health care and on access to care, she is particularly focused on how the health system addresses the needs of women, minorities and children, including those of low-income and with special needs. Dr. Markus brings her combined knowledge of public policy, health policy and law both to the classroom and to her substantial research portfolio.

Susan F. Wood, PhD, Professor & Director, Jacobs Institute of Women's Health

Dr. Wood has dedicated her career to applying scientific evidence to health policy decision making. A long-time champion of women's health, Dr. Wood has been directly involved with policy initiatives and legislative proposals designed to advance biomedical research, women's health, family planning and health care reform.

James M. Tielsch, PhD, MA, Professor and Chair of Global Health

Dr. Tielsch has been engaged in epidemiologic research and service in a number of areas both domestically and internationally; his expertise is in epidemiology, global health, maternal child health, children's health and nutrition.

Accelerated MPH Program in Maternal and Child Health
Milken Institute School of Public Health

Description

The MPH in Maternal and Child Health can be completed within one calendar year and is ideal for four types of students who wish to experience an intensive program of study in Maternal and Child Health in the Nation’s Capital. This includes:

- Professionals with prior masters, law, medical, nursing or doctoral degrees in other fields
- Mid-level professionals with extensive health or other education or work experience
- Students who are planning to matriculate to a professional program within 18 months but wish to obtain public health knowledge to augment their future studies
- Students pursuing advanced training (e.g., medical school, nursing school) who wish to take only one year away from their primary studies to study Maternal and Child Health.

Admission and Graduation Requirements

Admissions and graduation requirements are identical to the two-year MPH. Students considering the one year curriculum are strongly advised to contact the Program Director (Dr. Amita N. Vyas; mchdirector@gwu.edu) to discuss curriculum planning and scheduling. Students who opt to take longer than one year after entering the program may do so provided they meet the University’s requirements for graduation.

Coursework

Milken Institute SPH provides flexible course offerings and allows on-campus students to take up to 15 credits online through MPH@GW. This is a great opportunity to accommodate the course load associated with an accelerated program. Some restrictions may apply. Students should confirm with their advisor prior to enrollment. Refer to the student handbook for more information on Flexible Programming:

<https://publichealth.gwu.edu/studenthandbook>

Sample Schedule

One-year MPH students work closely with a dedicated advisor to plan a curriculum that meets their educational goals. The sample schedule that follows is only a guide and not a requirement. **45 graduate credits** are required to receive a MPH in MCH. For questions about scheduling, please consult the MCH program director.

Summer

| Course # | Course Name | Cr |
|--------------|--|-----------|
| PubH 6002*** | Biostatistical Applications for Public Health | 3 |
| PubH 6003 | Principles and Practice of Epidemiology | 3 |
| PubH 6007 | Social and Behavioral Approaches to Public Health | 2 |
| PubH 6012*** | Fundamentals of Health Policy | 2 |
| PubH 6021*** | Essentials of Public Health Practice & Leadership 1: Leading Self and Teams in Public Health | 1 |
| Total | | 11 |

*** Can change out each of these with the Fall core course (see below)

Fall

| Course # | Course Name | Cr |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------|
| PubH 6022 | Essentials of Public Health Practice & Leadership 2: Managing Organizations & Influencing Systems in Public Health | 1 |
| PUBH 6023 | Interprofessional Education Experience | 0 |
| PubH 6550 | Maternal and Child Health I | 3 |
| PubH 6551 | Maternal and Child Health II | 3 |
| PubH 6500 | Planning and Implementing Health Promotion Programs | 3 |
| +4 credits MCH program electives | | |
| +2 credits SPH electives | | |
| Total | | 16 |

Spring

| Course # | Course Name | Cr |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------|
| PubH 6011 | Environmental & Biological Foundations of Public Health | 3 |
| PubH 6014 | Practicum | 2 |
| PubH 6501 | Program Evaluation | 3 |
| +6 credits MCH program electives | | |
| +2 credits SPH electives | | |
| Total | | 18 |

Summer

| Course # | Course Name | Cr |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| PubH 6015 | Culminating Experience | 2 |
| +2 credits SPH electives | | 2 |
| Total | | 4 |