

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Milken Institute School of Public Health
Doctor of Philosophy – Social and Behavioral Sciences
Department of Prevention and Community Health
2016

Note: All curriculum revisions will be updated immediately on the website:

<http://www.publichealth.gwu.edu>

Program Director

Melissa A. Napolitano, Ph.D.

Associate Professor
Department of Prevention and Community Health
950 New Hampshire Ave, 3rd Floor
Washington, DC 20037
Phone: (202) 994-9099
PhDSBS_Director@gwu.edu

Mission

The mission of the Department of Prevention and Community Health in graduating Doctoral-level professionals within this specialty field is to create a cadre of professionals who are uniquely equipped to provide public health expertise and conduct research in the field of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS). Upon completion of the PhD, these accomplished researchers will be prepared to apply their research and analytic skills to a range of research questions as well as implementation, evaluations, and advocacy needs of various cultural and socioeconomic groups and communities.

Admissions Requirements

The Doctor of Philosophy Program is designed for professionals seeking to become public health researchers. Applicants who have completed an MPH degree from a Council of Education for Public Health (CEPH) accredited Program, or who hold a master's degree in a social, behavioral, or quantitative field will be considered for admission to the PhD Program. For the PhD, qualified applicants with degrees from institutions in foreign countries are also eligible for admission. All applicants must submit scores from the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) taken within five years of the date of application. Because admission to this program is highly selective, successful applicants have competitive academic credentials and substantial prior public health professional work experience related to the specialty field to which they are applying.

PhD Competencies

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Program prepares professionals to make significant scholarly contributions to the scientific and evidence base of public health. The PhD will train strong theoretical, methodological, and practical scholars, whose contributions could be as practitioners or academics. Our students will be well trained in a substantive health area with a strong background in theory of social and behavior change, study design and evaluation, and statistical methods. Upon completion of the PhD, students in all programs will demonstrate ability in the core competencies listed at the end of this document.

Program-Specific Competencies

On completion of the PhD Program, students will possess the following functional competencies and subject area knowledge:

- Synthesize the research literature in public health social and behavioral sciences as well as be able to compare and contrast prominent social and behavioral science theories.

Relevant Courses and Experiences	
PUBH 8408	Advanced Topics in Health Behavior Research and Practice
PUBH 8409	Advanced Topics in Health Communication Research

- Critically examine and employ distinct theories, or combinations of theories, at multiple levels to study health outcomes.

Relevant Courses and Experiences	
PUBH 8xxx	Behavioral Medicine and Public Health
	Comprehensive Exams

- Demonstrate advanced knowledge in the principles of evaluation and study design and data analysis as well as develop evidence based questions and predictions, gather, synthesize, and interpret empirical evidence.

Relevant Courses and Experiences	
PUBH 8416	Doctoral Research Methods 1: Study Design and Evaluation
PUBH 8417	Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis
PUBH 8418	Doctoral Research Methods 2: Applications
PUBH 8419	Measurement in Public Health and Health Services Research – Doctoral Seminar

- Exhibit the ability to apply scientific knowledge to develop new conceptual models and/or research predictions, including, justifying new questions with existing literature, selecting appropriate research methods to study those questions, and indicate the potential contributions of the proposed research.

Relevant Courses and Experiences	
PUBH 8xxx	Advanced Theorizing in Social and Behavioral Sciences in Public Health
	Research with mentor

- Report research objectively, insightfully, and in the context of theory and prior research.

Relevant Courses and Experiences	
PUBH 8999	Dissertation Research
	Research with mentor

- Have an awareness of, and adhere to, the ethical standards of the discipline for the conduct of scientific research.

Relevant Courses and Experiences	
	Professional Enhancement (PE) hours in research ethics

- Gain competency in classroom instruction and practices in substantive issues in public health social and behavioral sciences.

Relevant Courses and Experiences	
	Instructional time

Program Policies and Procedures

For program policies and procedures, please refer to the Doctor of Philosophy Social & Behavioral Sciences Handbook and other resources, located at the bottom of the following link:

<http://publichealth.gwu.edu/content/services-students>

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of Public Health**

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**Department of Prevention and
Community Health**

**Doctor of Philosophy
Social and Behavioral Sciences**

TOTAL PROGRAM = 48 Credits

Foundational Courses & Research Courses = 18

Required Specialty Field Courses = 9

Specialty Field Electives = 14

Dissertation Prep & Dissertation = 7

Required Foundational Courses (12 credits) + Advanced Research Methods/Statistical Analysis Courses – find options included in list of Electives (6 credits)

<u>COURSE #</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>
PUBH 8416	Doctoral Research Methods 1: Study Design and Evaluation	3
PUBH 8417	Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis; Prereq PUBH 8416	3
PUBH 8418	Doctoral Research Methods 2: Applications; Prereq PUBH 8416	3
PUBH 8419	Measurement in Public Health and Health Services Research- Doctoral Seminar; Prereq PUBH 8418	3

Required Specialty Field Courses (9 credits)

PUBH 8408	Advanced Topics in Health Behavior Research and Practice - Doctoral Seminar	3
PUBH 8409	Advanced Topics in Health Communication Research - Doctoral Seminar; Prereq PUBH 8408	3
PUBH 8xxx (course to be created)	Behavioral Medicine and Public Health	3

Electives (14 credits) – below, electives are listed by sub-topic

NOTE: this list is not exhaustive and only provides common examples. Check online schedule of classes as course offerings vary.

Advanced Research Methods and Statistics Options:

PUBH 8xxx (course to be created)	Data Analysis and Presentation in Social and Behavioral Sciences Research	3
EDUC 8140	Ethnographic Research Methods	3
EDUC 8172	Multivariate Analysis	3
EDUC 8173	Structural Equation Modeling	3
EDUC 8131	Case Study Research Methods	3
PSYC 8231	Development of Psychometric Instruments	3
PUBH 8365	Design of Medical Studies	3
PUBH 6263	Advanced GIS	1
PUBH 6273	Ethnographic Methods; Prereqs PUBH 6003	1
PUBH 6533	Design of Community Health Surveys	2
PUBH 6310	Statistical Analysis in Health Policy	3
PUBH 8364	Quantitative Methods	2

Social and Behavioral Sciences Options:		
PUBH 8xxx (course to be created)	Translating Research into Public Health Programs	3
PUBH 8xxx (course to be created)	Doctoral Seminar in Health Literacy	3
PSYC 8253	Social Cognition	3
PSYC 8277	Health Psychology	3
PSYC 8287	Cross Cultural Psychology	3
PSYC 8211	Community Psychology	3
PSYC 8204	Biological Bases of Behavior	3
Global Health Options:		
PUBH 6262	Intro. Geographic Information Systems	1
PUBH 6400	Global Health Frameworks	2
PUBH 6416	Ethical and Cultural Issues in Global Health Research and Programs	1
PUBH 6431	Global Health Communication Strategies and Skills	3
PUBH 6442	Comparative Global Health Systems	2
Current Issues in Public Health Options:		
ECON 8375	Econometrics I	3
PUBH 6274	Emerging Infectious Diseases for Public Health Professionals; Prereq PUBH 6003 or MICR 6292	2
PUBH 6368	Law, Medicine, and Ethics	2
PUBH 6532	Community Organization, Development, and Advocacy	3
PUBH 6573	Media Advocacy for Public Health	3
PUBH 8405	Advanced Health Economics Research	3
HCS 8369	Issues in Health Care	2
HDEV 8100	Issues and Topics in Human Development	3
<i>Social and Behavioral Sciences Doctoral students interested in electives offered by other departments or schools should access the Program Guides for those department doctoral programs, or the Schedule of Classes, to identify other electives offered. Approval of the Program Director required.</i>		
Dissertation Preparation and Dissertation (7 credits)		
PUBH 8xxx (course to be created)	Advanced Theorizing in Social and Behavioral Sciences in Public Health- <i>Prerequisites:</i> Passing Comprehensive Exams, Approval of Program Director, one page abstract	1
PUBH 8999	Dissertation Research	1-6
Professional Enhancement Hours		
PE: 8 Hours	PhD students are required to attend 8 professional enhancement hours in research ethics topic areas. Hours must be documented and signed by an academic advisor.	

Social & Behavioral Sciences Doctoral students interested in electives offered by other departments within Milken Institute SPH should access the University Bulletin (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/>) for those department doctoral programs, or the Schedule of Classes, to identify other electives offered. Course Descriptions can be found here: <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/courses>

