

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Milken Institute School of Public Health Bachelor of Science in Public Health 2019-2020

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

Program Director

Sara Wilensky, PhD, JD
950 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20052
wilensky@gwu.edu
202-994-4126

GWSPH Undergraduate Advisors

950 New Hampshire Avenue, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20052
sphundergrad@gwu.edu

BACKGROUND

The George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health (SPH) first offered the BS in Public Health in the fall semester of 2003. The GW SPH was established in July 1997, bringing together three long-standing University programs. It is fully accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). Since its inception, the GW SPH has offered several undergraduate degrees and programs, including the Bachelor of Science in Public Health, Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science (with various concentrations), and Minors in Public Health, Exercise Science, or Nutrition. To learn more about the Milken Institute SPH, visit <http://publichealth.gwu.edu>.

MISSION STATEMENT

In the context of a liberal arts and sciences tradition that emphasizes critical thinking, analysis, and synthesis of information, students in the Bachelor of Science in Public Health program will acquire knowledge and skills in the critical component elements of public health.

VISION

The Bachelor of Science in Public Health program strives to be an intellectual leader in the development of undergraduate public health education. The program hopes to matriculate students who will take their public health voice into diverse fields of professional practice, bringing an informed and evidence-based viewpoint to public health issues affecting society at large.

VALUES

While nurturing students' capacity to think analytically and creatively, we strive to deepen their commitment to improving the public's health.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES in the LIBERAL ARTS TRADITION

The BS in Public Health, founded in the liberal arts tradition often associated with small private colleges, is a respected and proven model for teaching students to assume responsibility for their own life-long learning. Liberal arts education has its foundation in both the arts (*trivium*, based on three disciplines: language, logic, and rhetoric) and the sciences (*quadrivium*, based on four disciplines of natural phenomena: arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, and music) as studied in medieval universities. While contemporary arts and sciences programs have expanded beyond the imagination and expectations of the medieval founders, it is within the context of this liberal arts tradition that the BS in Public Health strives to prepare students for progressive

independence, maturity, knowledge of the world, understanding of diverse inhabitants, and respect for their differing points of view. Because this degree is intended to convey technical detail and analytic skills, grounded in a liberal arts philosophical base, it also has the educational objectives of nurturing critical thinking, analysis, and synthesis of information, and recognizing the historical and societal associations of current trends in public health and health care delivery.

CORE COURSE COMPETENCIES

The following competencies are designed to be achieved by all public health majors through the indicated courses:

Upon completion of the Bachelor of Science in Public Health, students will be able to:

1. **Overview of Public Health:** Address the history and philosophy of public health as well as its core values, concepts, and functions across the globe and in society (PUBH 1101, 1102, 2110, 3132, 3133, 4140W/4141).
2. **Role and Importance of Data in Public Health:** Address the basic concepts, methods, and tools of public health data collection, use, and analysis and why evidence-based approaches are an essential part of public health practice (PUBH 1101, 1102, 2110, 2112, 3130, 3131, 3132, 3133, 3135W, 4140W/4141).
3. **Identifying and Addressing Population Health Challenges:** Address the concepts of population health, and the basic processes, approaches, and interventions that identify and address the major health-related needs and concerns of populations (PUBH 1101, 1102, 2110, 2112, 3130, 3131, 3132, 3133, 3135W, 4140W/4141).
4. **Human Health:** Address the underlying science of human health and disease including opportunities for promoting and protecting health across the life course (PUBH 1101, 1102, 2110, 3132, 3133).
5. **Determinants of Health:** Address the socio-economic, behavioral, biological, environmental, and other factors that impact human health and contribute to health disparities (PUBH 1101, 1102, 2110, 2112, 3130, 3132, 3133, 3135W, 4140W/4141).
6. **Project Implementation:** Address the fundamental concepts and features of project implementation, including planning, assessment, and evaluation (PUBH 2112, 3130, 3133, 4140W/4141).
7. **Overview of the Health System:** Address the fundamental characteristics and organizational structures of the U.S. health system as well as to the differences in systems in other countries (PUBH 1101, 1102, 3130, 3133, 3135W).
8. **Health Policy, Law, Ethics, and Economics:** Address the basic concepts of legal, ethical, economic, and regulatory dimensions of health care and public health policy, and the roles, influences and responsibilities of the different agencies and branches of government (PUBH 1101, 1102, 3130, 3133, 3135W).
9. **Health Communications:** Address the basic concepts of public health-specific communication, including technical and professional writing and the use of mass media and electronic technology (PUBH 1101, 1102, 2110, 2112, 3130, 3131, 3133, 3135W, 4140W/4141).

CAREERS

The BS in Public Health strives to increase awareness and understanding of public health principles among students who are preparing for professional careers in fields such as:

- Allied Health
- Government
- Business
- Health Education
- Health Services Administration
- Law
- Medicine (or another of the health professions)
- Public Health (both those who plan to pursue graduate degrees in public health or students who intend to pursue entry-level jobs in specific sectors of public health, health services, or public policy for which bachelor's level education is appropriate)

ADMISSIONS

Internal transfer students accepted into the program matriculate in the semester following admission. We will accept applications from students with a GPA of 2.75 or higher using a streamlined online application form.

It is **strongly** recommended that internal transfer students receive guidance about the program before submitting an application. Please email the undergraduate advisors at sphundergrad@gwu.edu to schedule an appointment to discuss the program and options for degree planning.

The internal transfer application deadline is October 1st in the fall semester and February 1st in the spring semester. If the date falls on a holiday or weekend, submissions are accepted the next business day. **Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.**

Beginning in Fall 2019, incoming freshman and external transfer students may apply directly to the major through GW admissions.

Admission to the program is made on a selective and space-available basis. We will gradually expand the program over the next few academic years in an effort to accommodate all interested students. At this time, however, no students are guaranteed admission to the program.

No student is considered to have declared a public health major until this process is completed and the student has received and returned their signed copy of the acceptance letter from the GWSPH Office of Recruitment and Admissions. Thereafter, students will transition from their first school's academic advisor(s) to the GWSPH Undergraduate Advisors.

Students follow the prescribed curriculum effective in the year that he/she matriculates into the BS in Public Health program.

ACADEMIC DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

There are three categories of Degree Requirements: University General Education Requirements, Public Health Core Courses, and Public Health Electives. Students take other elective courses to reach the 120 total credits required to graduate.

A. General Education REQUIREMENTS (19 credits)

The Public Health program follows the University General Education Requirements. **See the University Bulletin website for most up-to-date version of Gen Ed requirements and approved courses:** <http://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/>

B. Public Health REQUIRED Core & Research Methods Selective (33 credits)

The public health major curriculum constitutes 45 credits: *33 core credit credits and 12 elective credit* offered through the Milken Institute SPH.

Prerequisite Requirements: Please note that these are prerequisites for required core courses, rather than prerequisites to apply to the program.

<i>Required Course</i>	<i>Prerequisite(s)</i>
PUBH 2110	BISC 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1115 (with 1120/1125 lab), 1116 (with 1126 lab), BISC 1111, BISC 1112, or HONR 1033 (<i>Scientific Reasoning & Discovery: Biology Only</i>)
PUBH 2112 & PUBH 3135W	PUBH 1101- Introduction to Public Health
PUBH 3130	ECON 1011- Principles of Economics I (Microeconomics)
PUBH 3131	STAT 1051, 1053, 1127 or 1111 (<i>STAT 1127 is preferred</i>)
PUBH 4140W or PUBH 4141	PUBH 3130 & PUBH 3135W; <i>no more than 1 other core course can be taken concurrently. Students accepted in Fall 2019 and after must also satisfy the Research Methods Selective prior to enrolling in 4140W or 4141.</i>

C. Public Health ELECTIVES (12 credits).

No more than 9 elective credits may be taken through approved study abroad programs or non-GW domestic courses.

Public Health Core Courses (33 credits)

Required Courses (30 credits)

<u>Course #</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
PUBH 1101	3	Introduction to Public Health and Health Services
PUBH 1102	3	History of Public Health
PUBH 2110	3	Public Health Biology
PUBH 2112	3	Principles of Health Education and Health Promotion
PUBH 3130	3	Health Services Management and Economics
PUBH 3131	3	Epidemiology: Measuring Health and Disease
PUBH 3132	3	Health and Environment
PUBH 3133	3	Global Health and Development
PUBH 3135W	3	Health Policy
PUBH 4140W or PUBH 4141	3	Senior Seminar: Grant Proposal, or Senior Seminar: Community Needs Assessment

Research Methods Selective* (3 credits)- Must choose 1 course from list below:

<u>Course #</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
PUBH 3152	3	Qualitative Methods in Public Health
EXNS 3111	3	Nutrition Science Research Methods
ANTH 3531	3	Methods in Sociocultural Anthropology
EHS 2107	3	Theory and Practice of Research in a Clinical Setting <i>(can be used to fulfill Research Methods OR Elective requirement, not both)</i>
PSC 2101	3	Scope and Methods of Political Science
PSYC 2101	3	Research Methods in Psychology
SOC 2101	3	Social Research Methods

**Additional courses approved in advance by Program Director may fulfill Research Methods Selective requirement.*

Approved Public Health Elective Courses (12 credits)- From list below:

<u>Course #</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
AMST 3950	3	Topics: Narrative Medicine in American History <i>only</i>
ANTH 3504	3	Illness, Healing and Culture
ANTH 3513	3	Anthropology of Human Rights
ANTH 6302	3	Issues in Development
BADM 4101	3	Business Law and Ethics
BIOC 3560	3	Diet, Health, and Longevity
BISC 3450/3450W	3	Evolutionary Medicine
EHS 2107	4	Theory and Practice of Research in a Clinical Setting <i>(can be used to fulfill Research Methods OR Elective requirement, not both)</i>
EXNS 1114	3	Community Nutrition
EXNS 2119	3	Introduction to Nutrition Science
EXNS 2122	3	Food Systems in Public Health
EXNS 2123	3	Nutrition & Chronic Disease
GEOG 1003	3	Society and Environment
GEOG 2104	3	Introduction to Cartography and GIS
GEOG 2127	3	Population Geography
GEOG 2137	3	Environmental Hazards
HIST 3363	3	Race, Medicine, and Public Health

HLWL 1106	3	Drug Awareness
HLWL 1109	3	Human Sexuality
HONR 2047	3	Special Topics- Medicine and Society <i>only</i>
HONR 2047	3	Special Topics- Gender, Race, and Science <i>only</i>
HSCI 2101	3	Psychosocial Aspects of Health and Illness (<i>residential delivery only</i>)
HSCI 2105	3	Current Issues in Bioethics (<i>residential delivery only</i>)
IAFF 2190W	3	TOPICS: Science, Policy and Tech <i>only</i>
PHIL 2124	3	Philosophies of Disability
PHIL 2281	3	Philosophy of the Environment
PSYC 3128	3	Health Psychology
PSYC 3199	3	TOPICS: Substance Abuse and Addictions <i>only</i>
PSYC 4202W	3	Applied Social Psychology Research Lab: Discrimination and Health <i>only</i>
PUBH 2113	3	Impact of Culture Upon Health
PUBH 2114	3	Environment, Health and Development
PUBH 3115	3	Global Health and Human Rights
PUBH 2117	3	Service Learning in Public Health
PUBH 3116	3	Global Health Systems Performance
PUBH 3136	3	Health Law
PUBH 3137	3	Global Public Health Nutrition
PUBH 3150	3	Sustainable Energy and Environmental Health
PUBH 3151W	3	Current Issues in Bioethics
PUBH 3199	1-3	Various Topics in Public Health
PUBH 3201	3	Introduction to Bioinformatics
PUBH 4201	3	Practical Computing
PUBH 4202	3	Bioinformatics, Algorithms, and Data Structures
STAT 2118	3	Regression Analysis
STAT 2183/2183W	3	Intermediate Statistics Lab/Packages

**Additional courses approved in advance by Program Director may fulfill Electives requirement. Coursework approved to transfer in will count as electives.*

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS/POLICIES

1. Follow the admissions process outlined above;
2. Consult the Milken Institute SPH Program Advisor prior to the first term's course registration and in future terms as needed. The student is also expected to consult a program advisor in all matters affecting the program of studies, such as changes, substitutions, or withdrawals;
3. Students are responsible for reviewing and understanding the policies and requirements as outlined in the Undergraduate Student Handbook, which can be found here:
<https://publichealth.gwu.edu/content/services-students>
4. Earn 120 credits within the established course distribution outlined below:

Summary Credit Distribution Chart		
Category	Credits	Premedical Credits
Gen Ed Requirements	19	19 + 38 pre-Med cr*
Public Health Core Curriculum/Research Methods	33	33
Public Health Electives	12	12
Additional Electives	56	18
Total Number of Credits	120	120

* *Gen Ed's credit total = Gen Ed's PLUS premedical concentration curricular requirements.*

Course Descriptions, program information, and Registration information can be found on the website:
<http://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics>; and <http://bulletin.gwu.edu/courses/PUBH/> .