

The logo features a dark blue background with a faint, semi-transparent image of a modern building with large windows. The text is white and centered.

# Milken Institute School of Public Health

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THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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**ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-22 PhD Student Handbook**

**Policies and Procedures**

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## Overview

The PhD Student Handbook serves as a resource for all PhD students in The Milken Institute School of Public Health (GWSPH). It includes information on the policies and procedures for navigating through the PhD program.

The PhD Student Handbook is supplementary to the GWSPH Graduate Student Handbook, as well as individual PhD program guides. This PhD Handbook and the GWSPH Graduate Student Handbook will be updated as needed and can be found on the [GWSPH Student services page](#).

### PHD PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree offered by the Milken Institute School of Public Health at the George Washington University prepares students to assume roles as public health researchers and leaders in academia and other public health settings. The PhD degree is the terminal research degree in the professional discipline of public health. Consistent with this advanced professional orientation, the PhD degree prepares future public health researchers to apply critical thinking and rigorous research methods to a complex, wide range of practical public health problems.

The PhD degree is designed to train future researchers and scholars in the generation of knowledge in the applied, interdisciplinary field of public health. Current events consistently illustrate the need for public health researchers who can conduct research to improve US and global public health. The PhD degree is designed to prepare professionals with the necessary skills to effectively address future research needs.

The Milken Institute School of Public Health currently offers 7 PhD Degrees in the following public health disciplines:

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Program Director(s)</b>
<u>Environmental Health</u>	Dr. Kate Applebaum, <a href="mailto:kapplebaum@gwu.edu">kapplebaum@gwu.edu</a> Dr. Lance Price, <a href="mailto:lprice@gwu.edu">lprice@gwu.edu</a>
<u>Epidemiology</u>	Dr. Heather Young, <a href="mailto:youngh@gwu.edu">youngh@gwu.edu</a>
<u>Exercise Physiology and Applied Nutrition</u>	Dr. Jennifer Scheck, <a href="mailto:jscheck25@gwu.edu">jscheck25@gwu.edu</a>
<u>Global Public Health Science</u>	Dr. Nirbhay Kumar, <a href="mailto:nkumar@gwu.edu">nkumar@gwu.edu</a>
<u>Health and Biomedical Data Science</u>	Dr. Keith Crandall, <a href="mailto:kcrandall@gwu.edu">kcrandall@gwu.edu</a> Dr. Yan Ma, <a href="mailto:yanma@gwu.edu">yanma@gwu.edu</a>
<u>Health Policy</u>	Dr. Avi Dor, <a href="mailto:avidor@gwu.edu">avidor@gwu.edu</a> Dr. Leighton Ku, <a href="mailto:lku@gwu.edu">lku@gwu.edu</a>
<u>Social and Behavioral Sciences</u>	Dr. Melissa Napolitano, <a href="mailto:mnapolitano@gwu.edu">mnapolitano@gwu.edu</a>

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES AND LEADERSHIP

1. Student Affairs: The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) is the first stop for students needing support, assistance, and advice on any Milken Institute SPH matters. The OSA handles the following areas:
  - Student Services and advisement on GWSPH Policies and Procedures
  - GWSPH Forms and Publications
  - GWSPH International Student Forms/Requirements
  - Course Evaluations
  - Questions regarding GWSPH Special Events, i.e. Orientations, GWSPH Multicultural Celebrations, Public Health Week, Career Fair, Commencement, and School Celebration Ceremony
  - Student Organization Classroom Reservations
  - GWSPH Course Schedules, Course Caps, Rooms, etc.
  - GWSPH Listserv Subscriptions and Questions
  - Student Organizations
  
2. Admissions: The [Office of Admissions](#) handles enrollment into the residential graduate programs for the GWSPH. This office can assist students with the following:
  - Admissions and matriculation
  - International student questions and external funding information
  - General scholarship process and external funding information
  - New student clearance for registration
  - Petitioning for readmission or changing programs
  
3. GWSPH Financial Student Services: Student Financial Services is committed to assisting students in creating a financial plan to achieve their educational goals and in resolving emergent issues that pertain to federal student aid, institutional resources such as scholarships and assistantships and managing their student accounts. Staff within this office serve as a liaison between GWSPH and the [GW Office of Student Financial Assistance](#) and [student accounts](#) at GW. GWSPH can assist students with the following:
  - Counseling on Federal Student Aid eligibility and the application process.
  - Management of institutionally funded grants and scholarships
  - Identifying and applying for Graduate Assistantship and Graduate Research Assistant positions.
  - Identification of external scholarship resources
  - Assistance in managing services through the primary Office of Student Financial Assistance and Student Accounts at GW.
  
4. Career Services: GWSPH Career Services provides the tools, resources and recommendations needed to help students and alumni confidently navigate the career management lifecycle. Students may make a career counseling appointment on the [career counseling page](#) and may schedule a meeting by phone, in person or online. Career Services can assist students and alumni with the following:
  - Immediate and Long-Term Career Goal Setting
  - Resume; Cover Letter Revisions
  - Job Search and Networking Strategies
  - Mock Interviews; Interview Preparations
  - Offer and Salary Negotiations

5. Student Records: The primary role of the Office of Student Records is to provide all GWSPH students and Faculty with administrative support related to their academic record. Student Records can assist with the following:

- Registering for restricted courses with a Registration Transaction Form
- Filing a Petition
- Graduation Clearance
- CITI Documentation
- Submission of Professional Enhancement Activities
- Half-time/Full-time Certification Requests
- Academic Integrity Quiz verification
- Assistance with locating academic advising
- DegreeMap

<b>Office Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Student Affairs (OSA)	950 New Hampshire Ave, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Washington, DC 20052	<a href="mailto:gwsphosa@gwu.edu">gwsphosa@gwu.edu</a> (202) 994-7400
Admissions	950 New Hampshire Ave, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Washington, DC 20052	<a href="mailto:gwsphadmit@gwu.edu">gwsphadmit@gwu.edu</a> (202) 994-2160
GWSPH Student Financial Services	950 New Hampshire Ave, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Washington, DC 20052	<a href="mailto:gwsphfinaid@gwu.edu">gwsphfinaid@gwu.edu</a> (202) 994-3601
Career Services	950 New Hampshire Ave, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Washington, DC 20052	<a href="mailto:gwsphcareer@gwu.edu">gwsphcareer@gwu.edu</a> (202) 994-3601
Student Records	950 New Hampshire Ave, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Washington, DC 20052	<a href="mailto:gwsphrecords@gwu.edu">gwsphrecords@gwu.edu</a> (202) 994-0822

6. SPH Leadership: The leadership of the SPH includes leaders in academic, research and administrative areas. For PhD related matters, please contact Dr. Lorien Abrams, Associate Dean for PhD/MS Programs.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Lynn R. Goldman, MD, MS, MPH	Michael and Lori Milken Dean of Public Health	<a href="mailto:goldmanl@gwu.edu">goldmanl@gwu.edu</a> (202)994-5179
Jane Hyatt Thorpe, JD	Senior Associate Dean for Academic, Student & Faculty Affairs	<a href="mailto:jthorpe@gwu.edu">jthorpe@gwu.edu</a> (202)994-4183
Adnan A. Hyder, MD, PhD, MPH	Senior Associate Dean of Research	<a href="mailto:Hyder1@gwu.edu">Hyder1@gwu.edu</a> (202)994-3180
Lorien C. Abrams, ScD, MA	Associate Dean for PhD/MS Programs	<a href="mailto:lorien@gwu.edu">lorien@gwu.edu</a> (202)994-3518
Heather Renault	Assistant Dean for Student Services	<a href="mailto:hrenault@gwu.edu">hrenault@gwu.edu</a> (202)994-0554

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

This section summarizes many important policies and procedures that will help students successfully navigate their way through their GWSPH PhD program.

### 1. Student Rights and Responsibilities

All students, upon enrolling in and while attending The George Washington University, are subject to the provisions of the [Guide to Student Rights and Responsibilities](#). That documentation typically addresses instances of significant or recidivistic non-academic student misconduct, which may result in a disciplinary record and sanctions that include suspension or expulsion from the university, or other educational sanctions. For more information, please visit [The Office of Students Rights & Responsibilities Website](#).

### 2. Maintaining Enrollment Status

Once enrolled in a PhD degree program, students are expected to be continuously registered for at least one credit during all fall and spring terms and actively engaged in fulfilling the requirements of the degree.

- **For fall and spring terms**, PhD students must register for one or more credit hours to maintain enrollment status until they have successfully completed all PhD program requirements, including defense, final approval, and submission of their dissertation. Registration must be consecutive, or the student will be considered out of status.
- Students may register for additional classes during **summer sessions** but are not required to do so to remain in status for GWSPH. Students should consult their program director and advisors, as well as any loan requirements, about summertime enrollment and research activity expectation as well as other enrollment requirements. Students on SPH Fellowships with summer stipends will be taxed on their summer stipend if not enrolled in a class. For more information, contact GWSPH Financial Student Services.
- PhD students who fall out of status by not registering for each Fall and Spring semester will be withdrawn from the program and required to petition for re- admission through the Milken Institute SPH Office of Admissions.
- If a degree-seeking student finds it necessary to interrupt active pursuit of a degree program, it is permissible to petition to take a **Leave of Absence** for a specific period of time, limited to a total of one calendar year (or 2 semesters) during the student's program. Students must apply for a Leave of Absence by completing a petition during the Fall or Spring registration period; the petition must be approved by the PhD Program Director and PhD advisor, if different. Each Leave of Absence must be separately approved and can be taken sequentially or at different times while in the program. Students must officially register for Leave of Absence to stay in status. If a student discontinues active enrollment in degree studies without being granted a leave of absence, or if they are granted a leave but do not return to active study at the close of the period of approved absence, the student is no longer in status. The University may charge a nominal registration fee to remain enrolled during a Leave of Absence.
- Students are responsible for completing and submitting all required registration materials and ensuring that DegreeMap is up to date. Students are advised to periodically review their registration actions to make certain they are accurate and current. Students should always retain copies of all registration materials and paperwork submitted to the University or the Milken Institute SPH. DegreeMap can be accessed through [GWeb](#) (Student Records & Registration → Student Records Information Menu → DegreeMAP).

### 3. PhD Transfer Credit and Substitution Policy

**Transfers:** With the approval of the program director, graduate credits may be transferred according to the PhD transfer credit policy. The transfer credit policy for PhD students depends on the number of credits for the PhD program. There is one policy for PhD programs with 48 credits and another for PhD programs with 72 credits.

#### 48 credit degree policy:

With approval of the program director, up to 12 graduate credits that have not been applied to any previous graduate degree may be transferred to the PhD program. External credits must have been earned from an accredited institution in the last 6 years with a minimum grade of 3.0 (B) in each course.

#### 72 credit degree policy:

With approval of the program director, up to 24 graduate credits may be transferred to the PhD program. External credits must have been earned from an accredited institution in the last 6 years with a minimum grade of 3.0 (B) in each course.

In order for transfer credits to be considered and evaluated, students must first complete the [Transfer Credit Petition Form](#). When completing the form, the student must provide a transcript and the syllabus for each course being petitioned.

**Substitutions:** With the approval of the program director, students can petition to waive and replace (or substitute) courses listed in the program guide to better fit their training needs and/or to ensure that classes taken are at the appropriate level for students. Please consult with advisor and/or program director for replacing/substituting courses in the program guide.

### 4. Maintaining Good Academic Standing

The Milken Institute School of Public Health takes academic integrity issues seriously. It is the student's responsibility to review, understand, and comply with the George Washington University's [Code of Academic Integrity](#). Students should also be familiar with [Student Rights & Responsibilities](#). For more details on Academic Standing, consult the GWSPH Graduate Student Handbook.

A graduate student who is not suspended, on academic probation, or on provisional admission status is considered to be in good academic standing. A minimum grade-point average of 3.0 (B) must be maintained to be awarded a graduate degree. All courses taken for graduate credit after matriculation as a degree candidate (but excluding those audited or taken for the grade of CR/NC) will be used to calculate the grade point average (GPA).

\*\* Students receiving Federal Student Aid are subject to Federal Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements. This is a separate GW policy, which can be found on the [Office of Student Financial Assistance Webpage](#).\*\*

#### **Timely Progress Towards a PhD Degree**

A graduate student who fails to make adequate and timely progress toward the PhD degree, through repeated leaves or repeated failure to complete an appropriate number of credit hours per module/semester, may be suspended or removed from the program. Students suspended on these



grounds may apply for readmission after providing sufficient evidence of academic promise through [SOPHAS Express](#). Program length is listed in the PhD program guides.

### **Notification of Academic Status**

Students who are not in good academic standing will be notified by email as part of their annual review. Any student seeking to appeal academic decisions with respect to maintenance of good academic standing may do so through the Senior Associate Dean of Academic, Student and Faculty Affairs on a case by case basis.

### **5. Student Appeals Process**

All students have the right to appeal an academic decision. Information on appeals is noted in the GWSPH Graduate Student Handbook.

### **6. Professional Enhancement Activities**

Some PhD programs have required Professional Enhancement activities requirements. Consult your program guide for program specific Professional Enhancement activities instructions and requirements. Professional enhancement activities supplement the academic curriculum and help prepare students to participate actively in the research community. Students can fulfill this requirement by attending workshops, seminars, or other relevant professional meetings. The Professional Enhancement form is available from the [GWSPH Academic Forms](#) page.

### **7. Graduate Teaching Assistantship Program (GTAP) Course**

In addition, all PhD students are required to take the [Graduate Teaching Assistantship Program \(GTAP\)](#) course in order to serve as a Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) in a future course. This class is for 0 credits, is available online, and must be completed prior to the semester in which the GTA is to occur. Many PhD students take this class in their first semester. Please consult with your PhD Advisor or Program Director to register.

## PHD PROGRAM ADVISING, TIMELINE AND PHASES

### 1. Role of PhD Faculty Advisor

Doctoral study is a multifaceted and complex challenge that begins with thoughtful planning and deliberate execution of a timeline with the guidance of a faculty advisor. The experience culminates with the awarding of the PhD degree to candidates who successfully complete the program requirements. Progression through the PhD degree requires dedication, commitment, and persistence.

PhD students are assigned to a faculty advisor (Advisor) following admission. Advisors will guide the student in the selection of his or her coursework plan, research opportunities, professional/leadership development, dissertation research topics, the selection of the dissertation committee members, among other topics. In addition to routine academic and research advising (with a minimum of 1/semester depending on stage in the PhD program), the advisor will meet with the student to set annual objectives, as well as a timeline for program completion, typically in the fall. Based on this meeting, the advisor will provide the PhD Program Director with an update on the student's progress and goals for purposes of the annual review, including progress on objectives/timeline.

Students may change Advisors during the program, but the Advisor should be affiliated with the students' PhD program Department. The Advisor typically may become the dissertation chair or a member of the committee, but it is not required.

Advising roles include:

- Setting a timeline for the program and setting clear annual objectives and guiding the student toward meeting those objectives.
- Guiding the student in the development of a program of study, including the selection of elective courses and selection of professional research development work that enhances the dissertation research experience during the candidacy phase. The program of study is based upon the student's entry knowledge, skills, and experiences; his or her career objectives; and the expectations of the applicable field for scholarly professionals. Any variation from the program of study outlined in the program guide requires the approval of the department program director.
- Mentoring the student in his or her development as a scholar and professional, including addressing interpersonal skills as necessary.
- Guiding the student in later semesters to consider the focus of the dissertation research, exploring various potential topics and questions, and weighing the feasibility, advantages, and disadvantages of each.
- Guiding the student's preparation for the comprehensive examination.
- Serving as a resource as the student selects a dissertation committee chair and committee members.

### 2. Timeline for Completion of the Program

PhD students must complete all requirements of the degree program within 7 years of initial enrollment if they are in the Environmental Health, Exercise Physiology and Applied Nutrition, Global Public Health Sciences, Health and Biomedical Data Sciences, Health Policy or Social and Behavioral Sciences programs or within 8 years of initial enrollment if they are in the Epidemiology program. Students are expected to be actively engaged in their course of study throughout their time in the PhD program. For more information, see Section on "Maintaining Good Academic Standing."

Typically, students complete most coursework over a two year period. Most students take the comprehensive exams in the summer of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the program and defend their dissertation proposal in their 3<sup>rd</sup> year. While PhD programs allow for 7-8 years (depending on the program and matriculation year), we encourage students to maintain a schedule of classes and achievements to enable them to complete the program in 4-5 years or sooner. Progress towards completion of the PhD program will be monitored, and an annual review will take place each year in order to ensure timely progress is being made. Please consult your program guide and advisor for developing your timeline. The timeline will vary by student depending on background of the student and goals within the program.

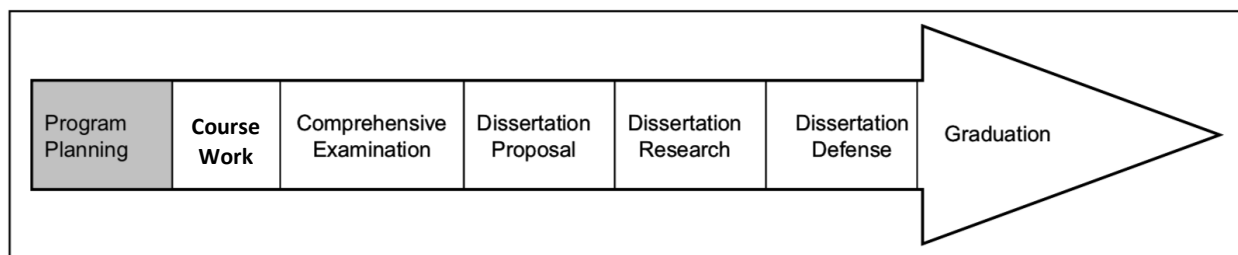
### 3. PhD Phases

The PhD Degree is divided into two phases: pre-candidacy and candidacy. During pre-candidacy a student completes the course requirements through the comprehensive examination. Upon satisfactory completion of the requirements associated with pre- candidacy, including successfully completing the comprehensive exam, the student moves to the candidacy phase.

PhD students are expected to pursue opportunities to contribute knowledge to their field of study through peer-reviewed publications. PhD students routinely collaborate with faculty as co-authors on publications and also sometimes use class assignments to conduct research and analysis for a publishable research report. These opportunities are available throughout all phases of the student’s doctoral experience.

#### **PRE-CANDIDACY PHASE:**

##### **1. Program Planning: The Program of Study**



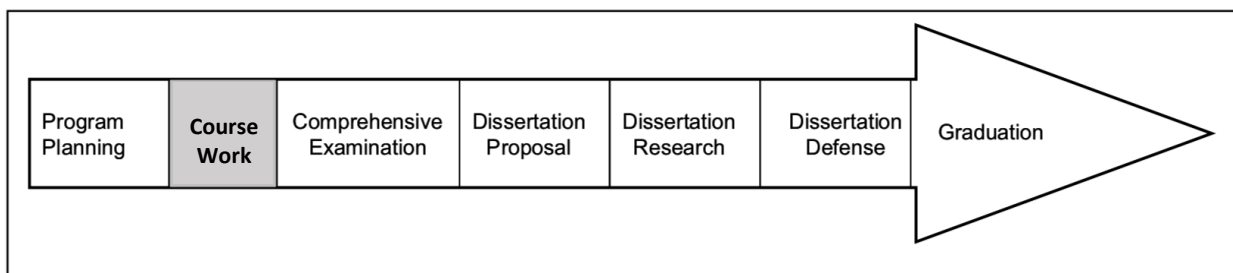
Careful planning with your advisor and PhD program director is the important first step. The student and the advisor will discuss the student’s interests, goals and experiences, and prepare a program of study. A timeline for completion of coursework will also be discussed and agreed upon.

There are three categories of doctoral, didactic courses associated with the pre-candidacy phase:

1. Required core courses and research methods
2. Required department and specialization specific courses
3. Elective courses

\*See your department’s program guide for additional details on specific course requirements\*

## 2. Course Work



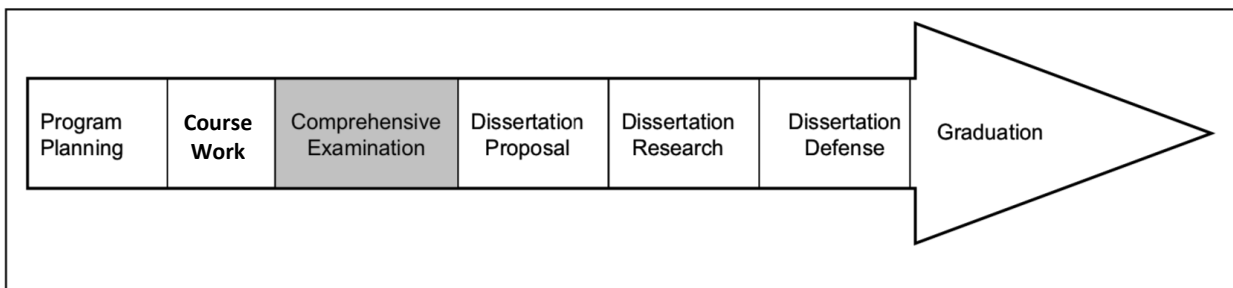
Once a program of study has been developed in consultation with the program guide and their advisor, PhD students must register for classes according to the procedures received from the Office of Admissions.

Students should review their program of study each semester with their advisor for accuracy and relevance. Any changes to the program of study must be approved by the advisor and/or program director.

Core courses for the PhD Program are as follows. Please consult with your program guide for the core course requirements of your specific PhD program. In many cases, PhD students will register for **PUBH 8099**: PhD Seminar: Cross Cutting Concepts in Public Health (1 credit) and **PH 6421**: Responsible Conduct of Research (1 credit) in their first semester of matriculation. In certain circumstances, students who have prior training that meet or exceeds expectations in a core course, substitutions may be possible in consultation with the program advisor/director.

Core Discipline	Core Class Title
Current Topics and Debates in Public Health	<b>PUBH 8099</b> : PhD Seminar: Cross Cutting Concepts in Public Health (1 credit)
Responsible Conduct of Research/Ethics	<b>PUBH 6421</b> : Responsible Conduct of Research (1 credit)
Statistical Methods	<b>PUBH 8418</b> : Applied Statistical Analysis or <b>PUBH 6862</b> : Applied Linear Regression Analysis for Public Health (3 credits)
Design of Health Studies	<b>PUBH 8416</b> : Study Design and Evaluation Methods or <b>PUBH 6495</b> : Field Trial Methods and Application, with (1 additional credit) (3 credits) <b>PUBH 6247</b> : Design of Health Studies (3 credits)
Grant and Proposal Writing	<b>PUBH 8435</b> : PhD Proposal Development (2 credits)

## 3. Comprehensive Examination



The comprehensive exam assesses the broader knowledge of general public health concepts and the ability to approach a research topic relevant to the student’s specialty area. The exam challenges students to synthesize concepts, research, and practice in the student’s specialty area. Students take comprehensive exams once all core and specialty field required courses are completed. The exact date of the comprehensive exam is determined in consultation with the PhD program director.

Once students pass the comprehensive exam, they are officially admitted into the candidacy phase. Students who fail to complete or pass comprehensive exams will be offered the opportunity to retake the exam in accordance with their PhD program policies. The second exam must be taken within 6 months of the initial exam. Failure to complete or pass the comprehensive exams will be grounds for termination from the PhD program.

**See your department’s program guide for additional details on specific requirements and format**

**CANDIDACY PHASE:**

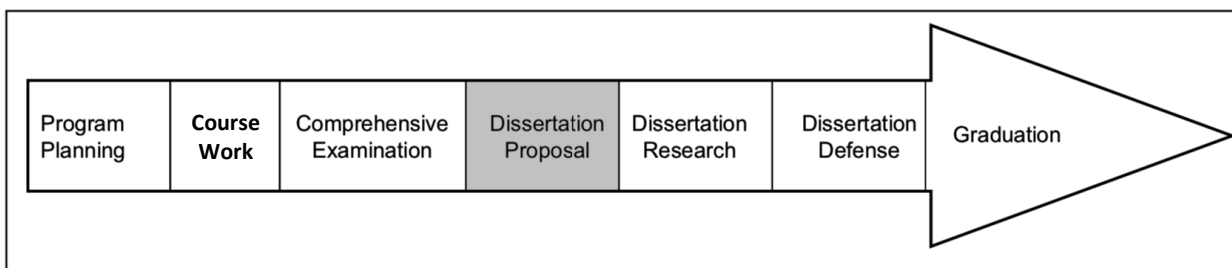
The objective of the dissertation is to demonstrate that the candidate has synthesized the knowledge gained during the pre-candidacy phase and is able to apply this knowledge to the resolution of a concrete and substantial public health research problem. The dissertation also demonstrates that the candidate has mastered research methods to successfully conduct scientific research.

The dissertation should uniquely contribute to the student’s specialty area. Dissertation research will:

- Use appropriate and scientifically rigorous methods.
- Propose new research and result in new knowledge acquisition.
- Advance public health knowledge and/or contribute to public health policy and practice either domestically or internationally.

The research should advance existing knowledge and in some cases the results may lead to identification or assessment of feasible solutions or recommendations to the selected public health problem, appropriate to the context in which they occur. Candidates are expected to demonstrate competencies in structured scientific inquiry, research design and analysis, including qualitative methods and/or quantitative methods.

**1. Dissertation Proposal**



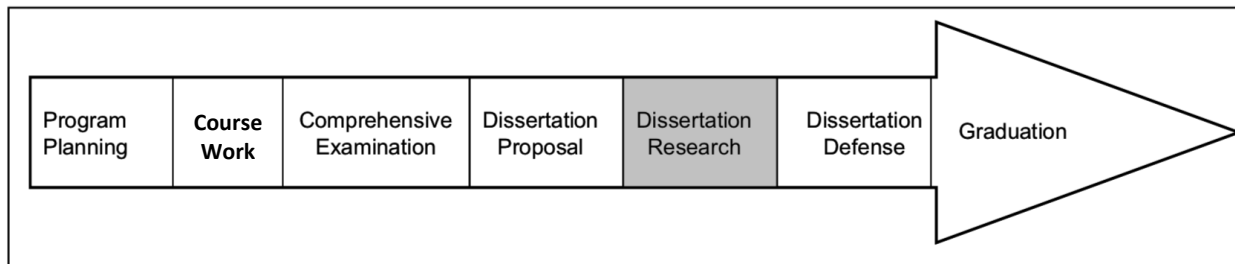
Soon after passing the comprehensive exam (if not before) all doctoral candidates will identify a dissertation topic and write a proposal outlining the research plan. In conjunction with writing their dissertation proposal, they will select a chair for their Dissertation Research Committee and select the members of their research committee. A draft of the dissertation proposal can be developed during **PH 8435: PhD Proposal Development** (2 credits). The proposal should provide a clear, concise, and thorough plan of the proposed research.

Students must identify and confirm their Dissertation Research Committee members and submit the Dissertation Research Committee Approval Form to PhD Student Records ([gwsphrecords@gwu.edu](mailto:gwsphrecords@gwu.edu)). The Dissertation Research Committee Approval Form can be accessed at: <https://publichealth.gwu.edu/content/services-students>.

o Continuing Research: PhD students who have met the coursework requirements, but have not yet successfully defended their dissertation proposal, must register for one credit of Continuing Research (PUBH 0940), which requires a tuition payment of one full credit hour to maintain active status.

**See your department’s program guide for additional details on specific requirements and guidance.**

## 2. Dissertation Research



Once the proposal has been successfully defended, students enroll in PUBH 8999 Dissertation Research each semester. Candidates should consult their program guides for the required number of dissertation research credits which are typically taken over the course of 2-3 years. Once all coursework and dissertation research credit requirements are met, students may register for Continuous Enrollment (nominal fee/semester) each fall and spring semester until they complete and defend their dissertation. Registering for Continuous Enrollment requires the PhD Program Director approval. Students may not enroll in Continuous Enrollment until they have satisfied all their requirements, including dissertation research credits.

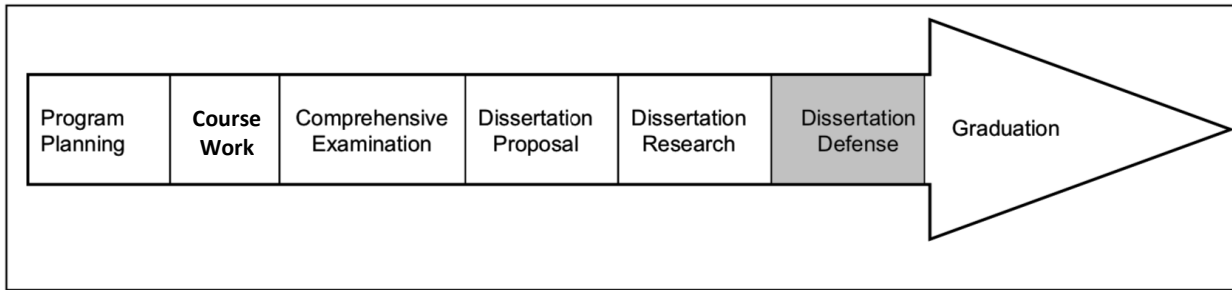
Students may not enroll in PUBH 8999 Dissertation Research until they have successfully defended their dissertation proposal. Students who are not eligible to enroll in PUBH 8999 must register for other course offerings or enroll in one credit of Continuing Research (PUBH 0940).

o Dissertation Research: PhD students who have successfully completed the dissertation proposal phase may register for PUBH 8999-Dissertation Research. Generally, students may register for one or more dissertation research credits per semester when they have entered candidacy. Consult your PhD program guide for program specific details.

o Continuous Enrollment: PhD students who have completed their Dissertation Research credit requirements may register for UNIV 0982-Continuous Enrollment with approval from their PhD Program Director. The University charges a nominal fee for Continuous Enrollment. Upon approval, students may continue to register for Continuous Enrollment throughout the remainder of their PhD program. Continuous Enrollment is most commonly used by students in their last semester or two of the program, as they complete the dissertation and prepare for their final dissertation defense. Consult your PhD program guide for program specific details.

**See your department’s program guide for additional details on specific requirements and guidance on the development of written doctoral thesis.**

### 3. Dissertation Defense

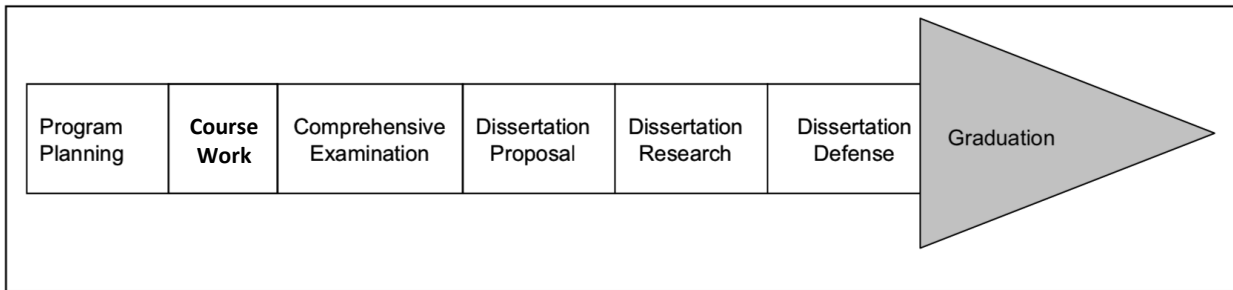


Students preparing for the official oral defense of their dissertation should be thinking ahead to the formatting requirements for the final document and the graduation clearance requirements for the Milken Institute SPH. The Dissertation Research Committee must be provided ample time to review the complete draft prior to scheduling the defense date (Time length for review will be specified by each Program Director). Refer to the Dissertation Guide FAQ's on the [student services website](#) for additional information about the dissertation defense.

#### Disposition of the Dissertation

All doctoral candidates are required to submit the FINAL dissertation (with all the approved changes) electronically to ProQuest/UMI in accordance with all requirements. <http://library.gwu.edu/etds/>.

#### 4. PhD Degree Certification and Graduation



Requirements, policies, and procedures to apply for graduation are detailed in the University Bulletin and the Milken Institute SPH website.

Students must submit an Application for Graduation:

<https://registrar.gwu.edu/online-graduation-application-instructions>

The completed Application for Graduation is submitted to the Milken Institute SPH Office of Student Affairs - Student Records or email [gwsphrecords@gwu.edu](mailto:gwsphrecords@gwu.edu). Students are advised to keep a copy of the form for their records.

- Deadlines for submission are noted on the Application for Graduation.
- Students planning to submit an Application for Graduation should contact their advisor/department program director well in advance (at the latest during the prior semester) to review transcripts ensuring that all graduation requirements have been met. This includes confirming program requirements have been completed and all grades have been submitted.
- Once the Application for Graduation has been submitted, students will be contacted by Milken Institute SPH Student Records department with a checklist of items that need to be completed.

#### Graduation Events

Graduation ceremonies for GW students occur in May of each calendar year. Students completing degree requirements in August, January or May are invited to participate in the May graduation events, which include the University Hooding Ceremony (specifically for doctoral graduates on campus), the Milken Institute School of Public Health Celebration (on campus), and the University Commencement (on the National Mall). Students who wish to participate in the May graduation events must notify the Office of Student Records, in accordance with their deadlines, to receive tickets/notifications of these events if you choose to participate.

***University and School policies and procedures as outlined in the George Washington University Bulletin and the Milken Institute SPH website apply to PhD students.***