

Program Director

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Mission

The DrPH Health Policy Specialty Field is focused on understanding and learning to apply to complex and real world problems the policy framework of public health and health care. Particular emphasis is placed on areas of focus affecting medically underserved and vulnerable populations. The specialty field allows candidates to work at the nexus of health policy, public health practice, and health services research.

Goals

The goal of the health policy specialty field is to create doctoral-level public health professionals who are uniquely equipped to provide real-world leadership at the national and state levels in all phases of public health, health care, and health policy development and implementation. The objectives of this specialty field are to:

- Provide advanced training on cutting edge issues in health policy;
- Equip candidates with the research and analytic methods they need to conduct the types of advanced analysis that can make a real difference in health care and public health.

Admissions Requirements

The Doctor of Public Health Program is designed for mid-career professionals seeking to become public health leaders. Applicants who have completed an MPH degree from a Council of Education for Public Health (CEPH) accredited program are strongly preferred for admission to the DrPH Program. Alternatively, applicants with a master's degree in another field may indicate their relevant training, research experience, or educational background comparable to the MPH. Doctoral applicants admitted without an MPH will be required to take additional course work at the graduate level that does not apply toward the minimum 48 credits required for the DrPH. 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.

Competencies

The Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) Program prepares professionals to assume national and international leadership positions in environmental and occupational health, global health, health behavior, and health policy. The field of public health provides unique insights into the complex interrelationships between health, politics, and human development. It enables professionals to address public health issues by marshalling research and analytic skills to develop innovative approaches to understand health and to promote and advocate for improved health outcomes. Upon completion of the DrPH, students in all programs will demonstrate ability in the core competencies listed at the end of this document.

Course Distribution Summary

- Total Credits = Minimum 48
- Required Foundation Courses and Research Methods = 22 credits
- Required Specialty Field Courses = 6 credits
- Specialty Field Electives = 7-10 credits
- Professional Leadership = 2 credits
- Dissertation Preparation and Dissertation = 8 to 11 credits

**REQUIRED FOUNDATIONAL AND RESEARCH METHODS COURSES
22 CREDITS**

UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES AND WITH ADVANCE APPROVAL OF THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR, ANOTHER METHODS COURSE MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR PUBH 8417, 8418, OR 8420.

Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken/ Proposed
PUBH 8401	Foundations of Public Health Leadership and Practice – Doctoral Seminar	3	Fall Year 1
PUBH 8402	Leadership and Decision Making: A Skills Based Approach	2	Summer Year 1
PUBH 8416	Study Design and Evaluation	3	Fall Year 1
PUBH 8417	Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis <i>Prereq: PUBH 8416</i>	3	Spring Year 1
PUBH 8418	Applied Statistical Analysis <i>Prereq: PUBH 8416</i>	3	Spring Year 1
PUBH 8419	Measurement in Public Health and Health Services Research <i>Prereq: PUBH 8418</i>	3	Spring Year 2
PUBH 8420	Advanced Analysis and Dissemination <i>Prereq: PUBH 8418, PUBH 8417</i>	3	Fall Year 2
PUBH 8403	Leadership in Public Health Practice and Policy	2	Fall Year 3

**REQUIRED SPECIALTY FIELD COURSES
6 CREDITS**

Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken/ Proposed
PUBH 8404	Advanced Topics – Health Systems & Health Policy Research- Doctoral Seminar- <i>Prereq: PUBH 6315 (or approval of Instructor)</i>	3	Year 1 or Year 2
PUBH 8405	Advanced Topics- Advanced Health Economics Research- Doctoral Seminar; <i>Prereq: Basic microecon required; PUBH 6340 (or approval of Instructor)</i>	3	Year 1 or Year 2

**SPECIALTY FIELD ELECTIVE COURSES
7-10 CREDITS
(SUGGESTED OPTIONS)**

Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken/ Proposed
PUBH 6330	Health Services and Law	3	
PUBH 6335	Public Health and Law	3	
PUBH 6325	Federal Policy Making and Policy Advocacy <i>(Prereq: 6305 or approval by instructor)</i>	2	
PUBH 6360	Advanced Maternal and Child Health Policy <i>(Prereq: PUBH 6305 & 6315 or approval by instructor)</i>	1	

PUBH 6362	Civil Rights Issues in Health Care (Prereq: PUBH 6330)	2	
PUBH 6376	Primary Health Care Policy (Prereq: PUBH 6315)	2	
	Any GW graduate level course	varies	
PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP COURSES 2 CREDITS (most students will take 2 credits Instructional Leadership)			
Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken / Proposed Instructor/Class TA'd
PUBH 8413	Research Leadership	Varies	
PUBH 8415	Instructional Leadership	Varies	
COMPREHENSIVE EXAM (TAKEN UPON COMPLETION OF ALL COURSE WORK)			
COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION DATE TAKEN _____ PASS/NO PASS _____			
DISSERTATION PREPARATION AND DISSERTATION 8 TO 11 CREDITS PUBH 8422 IS REQUIRED			
Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken/ Proposed
PUBH 8422	Advanced Health Care and Public Health Research Design- <i>Prerequisites: Pass Comprehensive Exam, Approval of Program Director, & One page abstract</i>	2 required	Fall Year 3
PUBH 8423	Dissertation Research DrPH Degree Dissertation Research <i>Prereq: PUBH 8422</i>	6 to 9 required	Multiple – may be taken in increments of 1 to 9 credits
TOTAL PROGRAM		48 CREDITS	
PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT EXPERIENCES 8 CLOCK HOURS			
Activity		Date	Hours

Course Descriptions may be found here: <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/courses>

DrPH Core Competencies- 2016

Doctor of Public Health

revised this page 7/27/16

I=Introduced D=Developed M= Mastered

	PUBH 8401	PUBH 8402	PUBH 8403	PUBH 8404	PUBH 8405	PUBH 8406	PUBH 8407	PUBH 8408	PUBH 8409	PUBH 8411	PUBH 8412	PUBH 8416	PUBH 8417	PUBH 8418	PUBH 8419	PUBH 8420	PUBH 8422	PUBH 8423
Program Specific Competencies																		
DrPH Core Competencies																		
Analyze a public health problem and determine appropriate sources of data and methods for problem identification, program planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.	D	D	D			D	M	M	M			D	D	D	D	D	M	M
Develop and analyze hypotheses and research propositions that can be tested by appropriate quantitative or qualitative research designs and methodologies.				D	D	D	M	M	M			D	D	D	D	D	M	M
Evaluate research tools including research design, statistical analysis data collection instruments and measurement systems.				D		D	D	D	D			D	D	D	D	D	M	M
Apply epidemiological and biostatistical techniques to studies designed to assure effective practice and policy decision-making in a field within public health. Students will possess epidemiological and biostatistical concepts/techniques necessary to successfully analyze and apply the results to epidemiological research to making and implementing												D		D	D	D	M	M
Design and conduct a qualitative study using appropriate theory and methods.													D					
Synthesize and evaluate research conducted by others.	I			M		I	D			D		M	M		D	M	M	M
Design strategies to accurately and effectively describe public health, economic, administrative, legal, social, political, and cultural implications of different health policy options.	I			D	D	D	D	M	D	D	I	D	D	D	D	D	D	M
Present public health data and research syntheses to scientific and professional audiences and the public.		D	D	M		D	D	M	I	I	I	D	D	D		D	D	M
Defend the feasibility and expected outcomes of different policy options and transform them into organizations, plans, processes, and programs.	I	D	D			D	D					D				M	D	M
Appraise the dynamic forces that contribute to cultural diversity and develop responsive plans and programs.		I	D			D	D	D	I			D		D				
Assess the determinants of health and illness, factors that contribute to health promotion and disease prevention, and factors that influence the use and cost of public health services in a population.	D			D		D	D	D	M			D				M	D	M
Describe the theory of organizational structure and its relation to professional practice.		D	D	D								I						
Support a culture of ethical standards of conduct in the research process and within organizations and communities.		I	D	I		D	D					D	D		D	M	D	M
Lead a team of diverse professionals reflecting shared values and vision to achieve specific objectives.		D	D						M			D						

Program-Specific Competencies

Because the DrPH builds on knowledge and competencies already acquired in a master program, upon completion of the DrPH in Health Policy, students will be able to demonstrate **strengthened** functional competence on master-level competencies in health policy and **additional** doctoral-level competence required of the DrPH in Health Policy, which is designed to teach not only the substance of health policy (how public health and health services policy is developed and implemented in the U.S.) and the skills of policy analysis (including research, qualitative and quantitative, and written and oral communications skills), but also the substance and skills needed to apply theoretical frameworks and qualitative and quantitative research methods to real world problems in order to draw recommendations for policy change.

Upon completion of the DrPH in Health Policy, students will demonstrate functional competence to:

- Critically describe and comprehensively assess the political, legal, philosophical, economic, financial, and/or social framework of U.S. health policy and demonstrate high level proficiency in applying that understanding to the analysis of current health policy issues. PubH 8404, PubH 8405
- Rapidly locate, critically assess, appropriately use, and subtly synthesize policy-relevant qualitative and quantitative information relevant to key issues in U.S. health policy, including a full range of evidence related to the legislative, regulatory, and judicial processes, peer-reviewed literature, and “gray” literature produced by governments, policy analysis and research entities and other relevant organizations. PubH 8404, PubH 8405
- Expertly apply the core elements of a policy analysis to key issues in U.S. health policy (health services and public health policy) through both short and long written papers, and in oral presentations of policy analyses. PubH 8404, PubH 8405
- Critically identify, appropriately assess and, expertly apply theoretical knowledge and conceptual models in support of health policy research, develop hypotheses that can be tested in a health policy research project, select appropriate health policy research designs and methodologies, including quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods, and understand and appropriately apply analytical strategies used in health policy research and analysis. PubH 8404, PubH 8405
- Acquire the ability and the expertise to write grant and contract proposals, prepare applications, and identify and address the ethical implications of research methods. PubH 8404
- Acquire the ability and the skills to become a leader in the field of health policy (public health and health services policy). PubH 8404, PubH 8405

Program Policies and Procedures

For program policies and procedures, please refer to the Doctor of Public Health Handbook and other resources, located at: <http://publichealth.gwu.edu> .