

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.

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Doctor of Public Health Health Policy Program of Study 2020

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	Spring Year 1
PUBH 8417	Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis <i>Prereq: PUBH 8416</i>	3	Spring Year 1
PUBH 8418	Applied Statistical Analysis	3	Fall 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
PUBH 6080^	Pathways to Public Health	0	Year 1

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 equivalent required prior to enrolling (or approval of Instructor)</i>	3	Year 1 or Year 2

SPECIALTY FIELD ELECTIVE COURSES 7-10 CREDITS

Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken/ Proposed
	Any GW graduate level course: 8000 level courses (advanced approval not required; consultation with Advisor strongly	varies	

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> .

DrPH Graduation Requirements

Graduation

While degrees are awarded at the end of each semester, formal commencement ceremonies occur only in May, including the doctoral hooding ceremony. Students are eligible to participate in graduation activities only after they have completed all degree requirements and have no financial obligations to the University. Students may include DrPH designation after their name upon completion of all degree requirements.

Graduation Requirements

1. Credits: Successful completion of 48 credits.
2. Curriculum: Successful completion of the foundational, research methods, program-specific specialty field, and professional leadership courses.
3. Comprehensive examination: Once the course of study is completed, students are required to pass the comprehensive exam to be officially admitted to the candidacy phase.
4. Dissertation: PUBH 8422 Advanced Health Care and Public Health Research Design plus 6 to 9 credits in dissertation research are required. Once the proposal has been successfully defended and the dissertation research credit requirement has been met, the oral defense may be scheduled.
5. Grade point average: A minimum overall grade-point average of *B* (3.0).
6. Time limit: The degree must be completed within seven years of matriculation.
7. 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.
8. Integrity Quiz & Plagiarism requirement: All students are required to review the George Washington University Code of Academic Integrity, take the quiz within their first semester of study, and ensure documentation is submitted to the SPH Office of Student Records..
9. Professional Enhancement requirement: Students must participate in 8 hours per degree program of advisor pre-approved Public Health-related lectures, seminars, and symposia, related to the appropriate field of study. Students must submit documentation of Professional Enhancement activities to the SPH Office of Student Records.

Note: no transfer credits are accepted.