

**HIRSH HEALTH LAW AND POLICY PROGRAM  
2020-2021**

**Contact:**

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**Overview**

The Hirsh Health Law and Policy Program of the Milken Institute School of Public Health (SPH) offers unique educational opportunities to law students, practicing lawyers, and health professions students. Endowed by Harold and Jane Hirsh and home to GW's joint degree programs in law and public health, the program is designed to foster an interdisciplinary approach to the study of health policy, health law, public health, and health care. The Hirsh Program's overall goal is to advance a greater understanding regarding how the law influences and shapes all facets of health care and public health, as well as how the transforming health systems affect areas of the law. At the same time, the program seeks to achieve the pragmatic objectives of readying law degree candidates and practicing lawyers for the broad range of health law- and policy-related careers that are available today.

Established in 1997, the Hirsh Program is structured to allow students to take maximum advantage of its location in Washington, D.C., the center of the national health policy and law debate. The program is designed to provide a solid grounding in individual and population health, from the health care and public health systems themselves to extensive coursework in advanced health policy and law. The program serves Juris Doctor (JD) and Master of Laws (LLM) candidates as well as lawyers pursuing health law careers and all manner of health profession students.

**Joint Degree Admissions Information**

Applicants to the joint law-public health degree/certificate program may apply for admission to SPH at the time they apply to the Law School or after admission to the Law School. JD candidates who do not apply concurrently to the Law School and SPH are encouraged to file the MPH or Certificate application by the end of March of their first year of law school. LLM candidates are encouraged to apply to SPH at the time they apply to the Law School or during their first semester on campus.

Applicants to the joint law-public health program must complete the application processes for both the GW Law School (JD/LLM) and for the School of Public Health (MPH/Certificate). Admission to the joint degree program requires admissions acceptances from both Schools. However, because admission to each School is separate and distinct, applicants who are accepted by one School but not the other are free to enroll in the School to which they have been accepted.

Applications for both programs are available as follows:

- Law School: <http://www.law.gwu.edu/Admissions/Pages/Default.aspx>;
- SPH: <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions>. Whether applying simultaneously to both Schools or as a current GW Law student, applicants must complete the SOPHAS Application as indicated at the SPH website.

### **Program Costs**

SPH coursework taken while enrolled as a full- or part-time JD or LLM candidate is charged at the Law School tuition rate. The SPH tuition and fees rate are charged for semesters when no Law School courses are taken, including summers. Lawyers pay the SPH tuition and fees rate.

### **GWSPH Programs**

GW Law students may enroll simultaneously in the following programs at the Milken Institute School of Public Health:

- Residential Master of Public Health - *multiple disciplines from which to select*
- Health Policy Certificate
- Public Health Certificate

Find additional information on the program webpage [here](#).

### **Internship/Research Opportunities**

The Hirsh Program offers extensive assistance in arranging internships in congressional offices, federal agencies, and the hundreds of national health organizations located in and throughout the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Through its affiliation with the Department of Health Policy and Management at the SPH, the program also engages in extensive law-related health policy research, often offering Hirsh Program students paid or unpaid training opportunities during their period of study. Please visit the Department's website at <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/departments/health-policy-and-management> for a description of the types of research in which it engages.

### **Alumni**

Graduates of the Hirsh Program routinely accept positions at leading law firms, federal and state agencies, consulting firms, and universities in D.C. and other cities. The breadth of

placements regularly attained by graduates in both the public and private sector illustrates the opportunities afforded under the program. Once in their chosen field of practice, alumni of the program recognize that their joint studies in policy, law, and public health are an invaluable asset on the job. Alumni in the practice of health law, on the one hand, report that their training in the SPH enables them to understand the myriad aspects of the health care and public health systems, including their structure, financing, and terminology. On the other hand, Hirsh Program alumni who spend their days as public health professionals indicate that their training in the law earns them added respect from their employers and added credibility from the health care providers, agencies, and companies with which they interact.

### **Additional Information**

Additional information regarding the Hirsh Health Law and Policy Program can be found at:

<https://publichealth.gwu.edu/programs/joint-degree-jd-or-llm-mph>.

For information about SPH admissions, please contact [gwsphadmit@gwu.edu](mailto:gwsphadmit@gwu.edu).