

# Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

## Department of Health Policy and Management

### Master of Public Health and Graduate Certificate Health Policy 2024-2025

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

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## Master of Public Health (MPH) in Health Policy

#### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Department of Health Policy and Management—a practice-oriented academic community in Washington, DC—is to improve health and health systems locally, nationally, and globally through excellence in education, innovative scholarship and applied research that is translated into practice and policy, and the promotion of transformational leadership that advances health policy and health services management.

We are committed to:

- Preparing graduates who will become innovative and effective leaders in public health and health policy, health services delivery, and health system transformation;
- Conducting rigorous multidisciplinary research that addresses significant health challenges, is objective, and is translated to inform and affect health policy, health care management, and public health practice;
- Being a trusted resource for shaping and advancing health policy and management practices because of our research integrity and rigor, the real-world leadership experiences of our faculty and staff, and our exceptional students;
- Leveraging our unique location in Washington, DC which allows for strong collaborations with health policy and management leaders and practitioners;
- Improving the health and health care of under-served and vulnerable populations; and
- Promoting equity, social justice, and learning from the diversity among our faculty, staff, students, and alumni in terms of background, experience, and thought.

#### **Overview**

The Department of Health Policy and Management is the home for health policy studies and research at the Milken Institute School of Public Health (SPH). The Department focuses on virtually all facets of U.S. health policy related to both public health and health services and emphasizes preparing students to understand and analyze health policy matters in a broad, cross-cutting, and real-world context. Among schools of public health, the Milken Institute SPH Department of Health Policy and Management is unique, having been created to take maximum advantage of its location in Washington, DC, the nation's health policy-making epicenter. The MPH in Health Policy is for students who wish to develop in-depth policy analysis skills for use in various practice

settings, including both federal and state levels of government, private-sector health policy consulting, and not-for-profit advocacy. This program is also available as a joint degree to GW law students (the JD/MPH and LLM/MPH programs) and physician assistant students (the PA/MPH program) who wish to enhance their clinical training with a thorough understanding of health policy. The Graduate Certificate in Health Policy is also available (please see section “B” below), standing alone or as a supplement to a primary (e.g., MPH, JD, MD) degree.

### **Course Requirements**

All MPH students admitted to the Health Policy program enroll in MPH Core Courses (17 credits), Program-Specific Courses (20 credits) and Elective Courses (8 credits). The MPH Core includes a practice experience in which students apply their didactic education by working for credit for an organization that engages in health policy research, analysis, or practice. Students may wish to give greater emphasis to either public health or health services policy as they develop their course of study with their advisor. See the Program-At-A-Glance section below for details about the required courses.

### **Program-Specific Competencies**

Graduates of the MPH in Health Policy will be able to:

1. Identify and analyze health policy options to address public health and health systems problems, including their impact on equity.
2. Interpret and apply laws to health policy situations, considering relevant facts, equity, and the legal rights and responsibilities of stakeholders.
3. Apply microeconomic concepts and tools to analyze health policy questions.
4. Find, assess, and apply data (including statistics) and other evidence to do policy analysis and research.
5. Write and speak on health policy topics clearly and persuasively in different contexts for and on behalf of a variety of stakeholders.

<b>Milken Institute School of Public Health</b> <hr/> <b>THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY</b>		<b>Master of Public Health in Health Policy</b>  <b>Program-At-A-Glance</b>  <b>2024-2025</b>	
Required MPH Core Courses		Credits	Semester Offered
PUBH 6000	MPH Applied Practice Experience	0	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6002	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health	3	Fall, Spring, Summer, Online
PUBH 6003	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology	3	Fall, Spring, Summer, Online
PUBH 6007	Social and Behavioral Approaches to Public Health	2	Fall, Spring, Summer, Online
PUBH 6009	Fundamentals of Program Evaluation (prerequisite: PUBH 6007)	2	Fall, Spring, Summer, Online
PUBH 6011	Environmental and Biological Foundations of Public Health	3	Fall, Spring, Summer, Online
PUBH 6012	Fundamentals of Health Policy	2	Fall, Spring, Summer, Online
PUBH 6021	Essentials in Public Health Practice & Leadership 1: Leading Self and Teams in Public Health (Note: Must be taken in first semester)	1	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6022	Essentials in Public Health Practice & Leadership 2: Managing Organizations & Influencing Systems in PH	1	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6023	Interprofessional Education Experience	0	Fall, Spring, Summer
<b>Total</b>	<b>MPH Core Course Credits</b>	<b>17</b>	
Required Program-Specific Courses		Credits	Semester Offered
PUBH 6310	Statistical Analysis in Health Policy (prerequisite: PUBH 6002)	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6315	Introduction to Health Policy Analysis (prerequisite: PUBH 6012)	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6320	Advanced Health Policy Research and Analysis Methods (prerequisites: PUBH 6315)	3	Spring, Fall
PUBH 6325	Federal Policymaking and Policy Advocacy (prerequisite: PUBH 6012)	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6330 <b>OR</b> PUBH 6335	Health Services and Law (prerequisite: 6012) <b>OR</b> Public Health and Law (prerequisite: 6012)	3	Either Fall or Spring  Either Fall or Spring, Online
PUBH 6340	Health Economics and Financing (prerequisite: a prior course in economics or PUBH 6352)	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6350	Health Policy Capstone (prerequisites: 6310, 6320, and departmental approval) Notes: Must be taken in final MPH semester, or second to last if graduating in December. Formerly "Culminating Experience.")	2	Spring, Summer
	<b>Health Policy Selective (choose one course from list below):</b>	2	
<b>Choose at least one course from this list</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PUBH 6356. State Health Policy (prerequisite: PUBH 6012)</li> <li>PUBH 6370. Medicare/Medicaid Law &amp; Policy (prerequisite: PUBH 6012)</li> <li>PUBH 6384. Health Care Quality and Health Policy (prerequisite: PUBH 6012)</li> <li>PUBH 6367. Population Health, Public Health and Health Reform. (prerequisite: PUBH 6012)</li> <li>PUBH 6399. Value-Based Payment Reform (prerequisite: PUBH 6315)</li> <li>PUBH 6361. Health Workforce Policy (prerequisite: PUBH 6012)</li> <li>PUBH 6561 or 6399. Maternal and Child Health Policy (prerequisite: PUBH 6012)</li> </ul>		Fall  Spring  Fall  Fall  Varies  Summer  Varies
<b>Total</b>	<b>Program-Specific Course Credits</b>	<b>20</b>	

Elective Courses		Credits	Semester Offered
Any PUBH or HSML course	A personalized combination of elective courses. Any PUBH or HSML course will count as an elective toward the MPH in Health Policy degree (prerequisites may apply). Courses listed as selectives above will count as an elective if not counted as a selective. Residential MPH program students may take up to 15 PUBH credits online.	Varies	<p>As elective course offerings vary, please check the current semester's course schedule for a list of health policy electives and other PUBH and HSML electives.</p> <p><u>Regularly offered HPM electives include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PUBH 6352. Basics of Economics for Health Policy (Fall, 1 cr)</li> <li>• PUBH 6354. Substance Use Disorder Policy (Spring, 2 cr)</li> <li>• PUBH 6356. State Health Policy (Fall, 2 cr)</li> <li>• PUBH 6361. Health Workforce Policy (Summer, 2 cr)</li> <li>• PUBH 6367. Population Health, Public Health and Health Reform. (Fall, 2 cr)</li> <li>• PUBH 6368. Law, Medicine, and Ethics (Fall and online, 3 cr)</li> <li>• PUBH 6370. Medicare/Medicaid Law &amp; Policy (Spring, 2 cr)</li> <li>• PUBH 6378. HIV Policy (Varies, 2 cr)</li> <li>• PUBH 6390. Prescription Drugs: Policy and Public Health (Online, 3 cr)</li> <li>• PUBH 6384. Health Care Quality and Health Policy (Fall, 2 cr)</li> <li>• PUBH 6399. Cost-Benefit Analysis in Health Care (Spring, 2 cr)</li> <li>• PUBH 6399. Reproductive Health Policy (Varies, 2 cr)</li> <li>• PUBH 6399. Health Care on the Hill (Summer, 1 cr)</li> <li>• PUBH 6399. Emerging HP Issues in HC Finance (Summer, 1 cr)</li> <li>• PUBH 6045. National and Global Public Health Systems (Varies, 1 cr)</li> <li>• PUBH 6399. Health Care in Retail Settings (Spring, 1 cr)</li> <li>• PUBH 6399. Health Impact Assessments (Varies, 2 cr)</li> <li>• PUBH 6399. Value-Based Payment Reform (Fall, 2 cr)</li> <li>• PUBH 6399 or 6561. Maternal and Child Health Policy (Varies, 2 cr)</li> </ul>
<b>Total</b>	<b>Elective Credits</b>	<b>8</b>	
Course Distribution Summary			
Required MPH Core Courses		17 Credits	
Required Program-Specific Core Courses, including the Practicum and Capstone		20 Credits	
Elective Courses		8 Credits	
<b>Total Program Credits</b>		<b>45 Credits</b>	

## **Interprofessional Education (IPE) Experience (PUBH 6023)**

MPH students are required to select an IPE experience from a host of options provided throughout enrollment to participate in a one-time, case-based or activity-based learning experience. The IPE experience is a way to actively participate in a supervised environment to work with people from other professions/programs outside of public health. Students are eligible to enroll in the IPE upon successful completion of most of the MPH core coursework including: PUBH 6002, 6003, 6007, 6011, 6012 and 6021. Students will have many opportunities to register for this zero-credit (no fee) IPE course (PUBH 6023- Interprofessional Education Experience) and will receive credit upon successful completion.

See <https://publichealth.gwu.edu/content/interprofessional-education-gwsph>.

## **Applied Practice Experience (Practicum & EPR) (PUBH 6000)**

The Applied Practice Experience (APEX) may be satisfied with either a practicum or, for experienced public health professionals, through an expedited portfolio review (EPR).

The practicum is a planned, supervised, and evaluated practice experience that aims to provide students with an opportunity to synthesize, integrate, and apply practical skills, knowledge, and training learned through courses, to gain applied experience in a professional public health work environment, and to work on public health practice projects that are of particular interest to you. Information about the Practicum will be introduced through school-wide Practicum Information Sessions held by the Office of Applied Public Health and through meetings with your department practicum staff and faculty.

During the practicum, you will work at least 120 hours in the field under the supervision of the site preceptor who has agreed to directly supervise the work you are conducting. Students are required to fulfill all requirements of the 120-hour practicum to receive credit for PUBH 6000.

If you have had prior work experience, then you will find that the practicum provides the opportunity to hone skills or to gain new experience in a different area. However, if you have substantial public health experience relevant to your department/track, including 5+ years of full-time public health work for students after receiving your undergraduate degree, or 3+ years of full-time work for students who already have a graduate degree prior to beginning the MPH, then you may be able to satisfy the APEX requirement with an EPR (in which recent work meeting practicum competencies is submitted), subject to approval by your department's practicum team.

See <https://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/practicum> for student and preceptor guidebooks, competencies, and other resources. The following chart gives examples of potential practicum sites for Health Policy students:

SAMPLE PRACTICUM TOPICS AND SITES	
TOPIC	SITE
Injury Prevention	Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Insurance Coverage for Kids	Children's Defense Fund
Community Health Centers	National Association of Community Health Centers
Emergency Preparedness	US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Policy and Strategic Planning
Newborn Screening Programs	March of Dimes
Federal Health Policy	Member and Committee Offices on Capitol Hill (e.g., Senate Finance Committee, HELP)
Mental Health of Kids in the Criminal System	DC Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services
Medically Underserved in DC	District of Columbia Primary Care Association
Health Information Technology Policy	Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT
Insulin Affordability	American Diabetes Association
Public Health Workforce	National Association of City and County Health Officials

## **Health Policy Capstone (Culminating Experience)**

**The Health Policy Capstone (PUBH 6350)** is a 2-credit course that must be taken in the student's final semester of MPH study. **PUBH 6320, Health Policy Research and Analysis Methods, is a non-negotiable pre-requisite to the Health Policy Capstone.** Designed to bring together all the competencies learned throughout the MPH in Health Policy curriculum, this course serves as the capstone for MPH students in Health Policy. In addition to weekly classes, this seminar requires the production of a substantial health policy analysis or similar product, which can serve as a polished writing sample for the new graduate. The Capstone course is separate and distinct from the Practicum in Health Policy. Register for the Capstone using a paper Registration Transaction Form through the HPM Department (you can't register online).

## **Course Descriptions and Registration**

For descriptions of all public health courses, see <http://bulletin.gwu.edu/courses/pubh/>. Additional information about courses and registration can be found here: <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/>. For course schedules from current and prior semesters, go to <https://my.gwu.edu/mod/pws/> (select main campus and then public health – log in required).

## **Flexible Programming (Online Courses)**

MPH-HP students may take up to 15 (of the 45 required) credits online, which may be completed prior to beginning residential coursework or at the same time as residential coursework. Note that online courses follow a quarterly academic calendar rather than semesters and that schedules for online courses may not be posted at the same time as the residential programs: <https://publichealthonline.gwu.edu/academics/curriculum/academic-calendar/>. For more information about online courses, see the course schedule for the semester you're interested in here: <https://my.gwu.edu/mod/pws/> (select online and then public health – log in required) and general information here: <https://publichealthonline.gwu.edu/academics/curriculum/>.

## **Transfer Credit Policy**

Up to 12 graduate credits that have not been applied to a previous graduate degree may be transferred to the Master of Public Health program. External credits must have been earned from an accredited institution in the last 3 years with a grade of 3.0 (B) or better. SPH Graduate Certificate students can transfer as many credits as meet program requirements, up to 18 credits, to the MPH. Graduate Certificate students wishing to transfer to a degree program may apply to do so via the online change of concentration petition after completion of 3 or more courses and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better. A grade of B or better is required for a course to be transferred. Refer to the Milken Institute SPH Graduate Student Handbook for details on these and other requirements: <https://publichealth.gwu.edu/content/services-students> (click link for Graduate Student Handbook).

## **Required Academic Integrity and Human Subjects Research Training**

All MPH students, regardless of concentration, must successfully complete the Academic Integrity quiz in their first two weeks of study. All students must also complete on-line CITI social-behavioral training module before registering for the practicum. Refer to the Milken Institute SPH Graduate Student Handbook for details on these and other requirements: <https://publichealth.gwu.edu/content/services-students> (click link for Graduate Student Handbook).

## **Professional Enhancement Hours**

All undergraduate, certificate, masters, and doctoral degree students in the Milken Institute School of Public Health are *required* to attend eight hours of Professional Enhancement activities during their program. Professional Enhancement activities supplement the academic curriculum and help prepare students to

participate actively in the professional community. They enhance practical knowledge and awareness of public health issues – either in general or in a student’s area of study.

Students can fulfill this requirement by attending workshops, seminars, or other relevant professional meetings, which are frequently held at Milken Institute SPH and elsewhere in the metropolitan Washington, DC area. Examples of SPH-sponsored events include sponsored speakers, such as the Geiger-Gibson Distinguished Visitor Seminar and the Southby Lecture, and frequent brown bag lunches with presentations by faculty and visiting experts. Examples of conference sponsors include Academy Health, the National Academy for State Health Policy, the Pan American Health Organization, the American Public Health Association, and the American College of Healthcare Executives. Examples of organizations that regularly hold health policy events include Kaiser Family Foundation, Bipartisan Policy Center, Alliance for Health Reform, and the Brookings Institution. Opportunities for professional enhancement are regularly publicized via the Milken Institute SPH and Department of Health Policy & Management listservs and newsletters.

Students must submit documentation of Professional Enhancement activities to the Office of Student Records. The documentation consists of the Professional Enhancement Form found at <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/forms> (which includes a prior approval signature from the student’s advisor, a description of the program agenda, and proof of attendance).

### **Course Planning Tips**

**NOTE: Always see your advisor for course scheduling and sequencing strategies, but remember that proper course selection, fulfilling requirements, and on-time graduation are the student’s responsibilities.**

The Master of Public Health (MPH) in Health Policy curriculum consists of three types of courses:

- Required Core Courses (PUBH 6002, 6003, 6007, 6009, 6011, 6012, 6021, and 6022)
- Required Program-Specific Courses, including Capstone
- Electives

The MPH core courses are designed to provide students with a broad public health context as well as a foundation for subsequent coursework. Early completion of these core courses ensures that students will have the base of knowledge to successfully complete the program specific courses and to get as much as possible out of them.

PUBH 6021 (Essentials in Public Health Practice & Leadership 1: Leading Self and Teams in Public Health) must be taken in the student’s first semester. In rare cases where special circumstances apply, the Program Director may give permission for a student to take it in their second semester.

PUBH 6012 is the prerequisite for most of the program-specific required courses in health policy. Therefore, students seeking to graduate in two years must take PUBH 6012 in one of the first two semesters of study.

PUBH 6315 is the prerequisite for 6320 (Advanced Health Policy Research and Analysis Methods). Students must take 6315 before 6320.

PUBH 6310 (Statistical Analysis for Health Policy) and PUBH 6320 (Advanced Health Policy Research and Analysis Methods) are the course prerequisites for PUBH 6350, the Health Policy Capstone. Students must take 6310 and 6320 before 6350 (the Capstone). Ideally, students will take 6320 the semester immediately before 6350.

PUBH 6350, the Health Policy Capstone, must be taken in the student’s final MPH semester if the final semester is spring or summer. If the student’s final semester is fall, he or she must take the capstone in the summer preceding the final semester. Registration for the Capstone requires Departmental approval via registration transaction form.

Please check the course schedule for a given semester to determine all applicable prerequisites.

### **Timing and Accelerated Options**

We recommend that students allow at least five semesters to complete the MPH program. (This is typically two fall and spring semesters and one summer.) Students must complete the MPH program within five years.

The program technically can be done in a minimum of four semesters if started in a Spring or Summer semester, but students on this accelerated path must carefully plan their program and ensure they register as soon as registration opens to ensure that they get into the courses they need. Students may encounter schedule conflicts that prevent them from taking the courses they prefer and potentially delay graduation.

It is possible for students admitted to the residential MPH in Health Policy program to take online courses their first semester, which must include PUBH 6002 and PUBH 6012, and then complete the rest of the program on-campus in 12 months, which may be May to May or August to August (spending three semesters in residence in Washington, DC). **Students wishing to pursue an accelerated option should talk with their assigned academic advisor and/or the program director to plan their program carefully before they begin.**

The MPH in Health Policy is designed to be accessible to working professionals with all core courses available in the late afternoon (**3 pm or later**) or evening in Fall or Spring semesters, in addition to the opportunity to take up to 15 credits online. **Note that it is not possible for all courses to be made available after 6 pm so a student may need some flexibility in their work schedule if working full time while pursuing the MPH.**

### **Graduation Requirements for the MPH in Health Policy**

- **Graduate Credit Requirement:** Completion of 45 graduate credits.
- **Course Requirements:** Successful completion of all required courses (the MPH Core Courses, Program-Specific Courses, and Electives).
- **Grade Point Requirement:** A 3.0 (B average) overall grade point average at the completion of the degree requirements.
- **Successful completion of the Interprofessional Education (IPE) experience.**
- **Successful completion of the MPH APEx/Practicum Requirement:** Students are required to fulfill all aspects of the Applied Practice Experience (Practicum or Expedited Portfolio Review).
- **Successful completion of the required on-line CITI human subjects research training module.**
- **Successful completion of 8 Professional Enhancement hours.**
- **Time Limit Requirement:** The degree must be completed within five years.
- **Transfer Credit Policy:** Up to 12 graduate credits that have not been applied to a previous graduate degree may be transferred to the Master of Public Health program upon approval. External credits must have been earned from an accredited institution in the last 3 years with a grade of 3.0 (B) or better. SPH Graduate Certificate students can transfer as many credits as meet program requirements, up to 18 credits, to the MPH. Graduate Certificate students wishing to transfer to a degree program may apply to do so via the online change of concentration petition after completion of 3 or more courses and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better. A grade of B or better is required for a course to be transferred.
- **Online Course Policy:** MPH-HP students may take up to 15 (of the 45 required) credits online, which may be completed prior to beginning residential coursework or at the same time as residential coursework.

## **Sample Schedules for the MPH in Health Policy**

Table 1 (full time students) and Table 2 (part time students) present sample course schedules that students admitted to the MPH program in Health Policy can use as a guideline to structure their program of studies. In all cases, 45 credits are required to complete the degree, including core courses (17 credits), program specific courses (20 credits), and Health Policy electives (8 credits).

**Table 1: Sample Schedule for 2-Year Completion (fall start)**

\*Note that course schedules are subject to change.

Semester	Cr	Course #	Course Name
Fall 1 <sup>st</sup> year 11 credits	3 2 2 3 1	PUBH 6002 PUBH 6007 PUBH 6012 PUBH 6003 PUBH 6021	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health Social & Behavioral Approaches to Public Health Fundamentals of Health Policy Principles and Practice of Epidemiology Essentials in Public Health Practice & Leadership 1: Leading Self and Teams in Public Health
Spring 1 <sup>st</sup> year 10 credits	3 3 2 2	PUBH 6011 PUBH 6310 PUBH 6315 PUBH/HSML course	Environmental and Biological Foundations of Public Health Statistical Analysis in Health Policy Introduction to Health Policy Analysis Elective
Summer 1 <sup>st</sup> year 6 credits	2 2 2 0	PUBH 6009 PUBH 6325 PUBH/HSML course PUBH 6000	Fundamentals of Program Evaluation Federal Policymaking and Policy Advocacy Elective Practicum
Fall 2 <sup>nd</sup> year 9 credits	3 3 1 2 0	PUBH 6320 PUBH 6330 or 6335 PUBH 6022  PUBH ____ PUBH 6023	Advanced Health Policy Research and Analysis Methods, Health Services & Law or Public Health & Law Essentials in Public Health Practice & Leadership 2: Managing Organizations & Influencing Systems in PH Health Policy Selective Interprofessional Education Experience
Spring 2 <sup>nd</sup> year 9 credits	3 2 2 2	PUBH 6340 PUBH 6350 PUBH/HSML course PUBH/HSML course	Health Economics and Financing Health Policy Capstone Elective Elective

**Table 2: Sample Schedule for 3-Year Completion (fall start)**

\*Note that course schedules are subject to change.

Semester	C r	Course #	Course Name
Fall 1 <sup>st</sup> year 6 credits	3 2 1	PUBH 6003 PUBH 6012 PUBH 6021	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology Fundamentals of Health Policy Essentials in Public Health Practice & Leadership 1: Leading Self and Teams in Public Health
Spring 1 <sup>st</sup> year 7 credits	3 2 2	PUBH 6011 PUBH 6007 PUBH/HSML course	Environmental and Biological Foundations of Public Health Social & Behavioral Approaches to Public Health Elective
Summer 1 <sup>st</sup> year 5 credits	2 3	PUBH 6315 PUBH 6002	Introduction to Health Policy Analysis Biostatistical Applications for Public Health
Fall 2 <sup>nd</sup> year 6 credits	3 3	PUBH 6310 PUBH 6330 or 6335	Statistical Analysis in Health Policy Health Services & Law or Public Health & Law
Spring 2 <sup>nd</sup> year 5 credits	2 2 1 0	PUBH 6009 PUBH 6325 PUBH 6022 PUBH 6000	Fundamentals of Program Evaluation Federal Policymaking and Policy Advocacy Essentials in Public Health Practice & Leadership 2: Managing Organizations & Influencing Systems in PH Practicum
Summer 2 <sup>nd</sup> year 5 credits	3 2	PUBH 6340 PUBH/HSML course	Health Economics and Financing Elective
Fall 3 <sup>rd</sup> year 5 credits	3 2 0	PUBH 6320 PUBH _____ PUBH 6023	Advanced Health Policy Research & Analysis Methods Health Policy Selective Interprofessional Education Experience
Spring 3 <sup>rd</sup> year 6 credits	2 2 2	PUBH/HSML course PUBH/HSML course PUBH 6350	Elective Elective Health Policy Capstone

## The Graduate Certificate in Health Policy

For those seeking a solid foundation in the substance of health policy and the skills of health policy analysis but who do not wish to undertake the full MPH, the Department offers an 18-credit Graduate Certificate. Designed to provide both basic and advanced-level skills in policy research and analysis, the Graduate Certificate also includes elective course offerings to fit the student's desires. If enrolled in the Graduate Certificate in Health Policy Program, the student will meet often with his/her advisor to craft a personalized course of study through the Elective Course offerings. Specifically, the Graduate Certificate in Health Policy requires:

- PUBH 6002, *Biostatistical Applications for Public Health* (3 credits) (prerequisite: none)
- PUBH 6012, *Fundamentals of Health Policy* (2 credits) (prerequisite: none)
- PUBH 6310, *Statistical Analysis in Health Policy* (3 credits) (prerequisite: PUBH 6002)
- PUBH 6315, *Introduction to Health Policy Analysis* (2 credits) (prerequisite: PUBH 6012)
- PUBH 6320, *Advanced Health Policy Research and Analysis* (3 credits) (prerequisite: PUBH 6315)
- Elective Courses (5 credits)

The Graduate Certificate in Health Policy is available standing alone, as a supplement to an MPH degree from a different department (Epidemiology, Global Health, Environmental & Occupational Health, etc.), or as a supplement to another degree (e.g., the J.D.). When pursued as a supplement to an MPH degree from another department, 5 cross-over credits from the MPH degree are available to count towards the 18-credit Graduate Certificate. In other words, for students seeking both an MPH from another department and a Graduate Certificate in Health Policy at the same time, a total of 58 credits are required to complete both programs of study (45 for the MPH and 13 additional credits for the Graduate Certificate in Health Policy).

Timing: The Graduate Certificate may be completed in as few as three semesters (12 months) if begun in spring or summer, or four semesters (16 months) if begun in fall. Like the MPH, it is designed to be accessible to working students with all core courses available in the late afternoon (3 pm or later) or evening in the fall or spring semesters, in addition to the opportunity to take some credits online. Note that it is not possible for all courses to be made available after 6 pm so a student may need some flexibility in their work schedule if working full-time while pursuing the Graduate Certificate.

### Graduation Requirements for the Graduate Certificate in Health Policy

- **Graduate Credit Requirement.** 18 graduate credits are required.
- **Course Requirements:** Successful completion of all required courses.
- **Grade Point Requirement:** A 3.0 (B average) overall grade point average at the completion of the degree requirements.
- **Successful completion of the required on-line CITI human subject research training module.**
- **Successful completion of 8 Professional Enhancement hours.**
- **Grade Point Requirement.** A 3.0 (B average) overall grade point average or better is required.
- **Time Limit Requirement.** The certificate must be completed within 2 years.
- **Transfer Credit Policy.** The Program Director/Advisor may approve up to 4 graduate credits that have not been applied to a previous graduate degree to be transferred to the graduate certificate. The course(s) must be relevant to the graduate certificate. Credits must have been earned in the last 3 years with a grade point of 3.0 or better. Graduate Certificate students wishing to transfer to an SPH MPH program can transfer as many credits as meet program requirements, up to 18 credits. Graduate Certificate students wishing to transfer to a degree program may apply to do so via the online change of concentration petition after completion of 3 or more courses and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better. A grade of B or better is required for a course to be eligible for transfer.
- **Online Course Policy:** Graduate Certificate students may take selected courses for credit online, which may be completed prior to beginning residential coursework or at the same time as residential coursework.