

# Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

## Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) Program 2024-2025

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

**The curriculum table has been updated to reflect course credit changes. These changes are highlighted.  
All students who entered in fall 2024 will follow this updated curriculum.**

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### Program Overview

The mission of the school-wide, interdisciplinary DrPH program is to educate public health thought leaders and practitioners ready to shape public health policy and practice discourse to lead organizational and societal change in the U.S. and worldwide. This is a public health leadership training program that delivers practice-based curriculum to equip public health leaders with skills for the development, implementation, and evaluation of public health programs and policies and resolve complex systematic problems. The DrPH program training utilizes health policy and global health opportunities exclusive to Washington, D.C. to prepare our students for senior-level public health leadership roles in the U.S. and globally. Focusing on leadership and practice, we are providing curriculum flexibility to meet the diverse needs of our students through rigorous course work in global health; environmental & occupational health; health policy & management; prevention & community health; exercise & nutrition; biostatistics, and epidemiology.

### Program Requirements

All Milken Institute School of Public Health (SPH) DrPH students are required to have completed a master's or professional degree prior to admissions to the DrPH. In this 48-credit doctoral program, students will take 35 credits of required coursework and an additional 13 credits are applied to the dissertation proposal preparation and dissertation portfolio project.

### DrPH Competencies

The DrPH curriculum aligns with the current Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) criteria, including 20 foundational DrPH competencies. In addition to these, the GWSPH DrPH program has identified five program-specific competencies. The five GW-specific competencies listed below are identified with an asterisk (\*).

### Data & Analysis

1. Explain qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods and policy analysis research and evaluation methods to address health issues at multiple (individual, group, organization, community and population) levels
2. Design a qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods, policy analysis or evaluation project to address a public health issue

3. Explain the use and limitations of surveillance systems and national surveys in assessing, monitoring and evaluating policies and programs and to address a population's health
4. Apply implementation science approaches to improve uptake of evidence for decision-making\*

### **Leadership, Management & Governance**

5. Propose strategies for health improvement and elimination of health inequities by organizing partners, including researchers, practitioners, community leaders and others
6. Communicate public health science to diverse audiences, including individuals at all levels of health literacy, for purposes of influencing behavior and policies
7. Integrate knowledge, approaches, methods, values and potential contributions from multiple professions and systems in addressing public health problems
8. Create a strategic plan
9. Facilitate shared decision making through negotiation and consensus-building methods
10. Create organizational change strategies
11. Propose strategies to promote inclusion within public health programs, policies and systems
12. Assess one's own strengths and weaknesses in leadership capacities, including cultural proficiency
13. Propose human, fiscal and other resources to achieve a strategic goal
14. Cultivate new resources and revenue streams to achieve a strategic goal

### **Policy & Programs**

15. Design a system-level intervention to address a public health issue
16. Integrate community-informed knowledge such as cultural values and practices in the design of public health policies and programs
17. Integrate scientific information, legal and regulatory approaches, ethical frameworks and varied parties' interests in policy development and analysis
18. Propose interprofessional team approaches to improving public health
19. Integrate leadership frameworks into practices, programs, and/or policies to address public health challenges\*
20. Understand how to apply a health equity lens in all aspects of public health practice, including assessments, programs, policies, and/or services\*
21. Apply the core elements of a policy analysis to issues in health policy (health services and public health policy)\*

### **Education & Workforce Development**

22. Assess an audience's knowledge and learning needs
23. Deliver training or educational experiences that promote learning in academic, organizational or community settings
24. Use best practice modalities in pedagogical practice
25. Develop workforce strategies that consider human motivation, adult learning principles, organizational factors, and available resources\*

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## Doctor of Public Health Program of Study

AY 2024-2025

### Course Distribution Summary

- Total Credits = Minimum 48
- Required Coursework = 35 credits
- Dissertation Portfolio = 13 credits (*highlighted courses below*)

### REQUIRED COURSE WORK

Course #	Course Title	Credits	Semester
PUBH 8730	Doctor of Public Health Immersion	2 credits	Fall 1
PUBH 8700	DrPH Seminar and Introduction to DrPH Applied Practice Experience (DAPEX)**	3 credits	Fall 1
PUBH 8706	Leadership Principles and Practice I	3 credits	Fall 1
PUBH 8731	Applied Public Health Methods I: Program Planning, Implementation and Evaluation	3 credits	Fall 1
PUBH 8732	Applied Public Health Methods II: Mixed Methods	3 credits	Spring 1
PUBH 8703	Dissertation Portfolio: Independent Study I for DAPEX and Dissertation Proposal Development	1 credit	Spring 1
PUBH 8710	Public Health Project Management and Social Entrepreneurship	3 credits	Spring 1
PUBH 8714	Leadership Principles and Practice II	3 credits	Spring 1
PUBH 8705	Dissertation Portfolio: Independent Study II for DAPEX and Dissertation Proposal Development	1 credit	Summer 1
PUBH 8716	Education and Workforce Development Approaches for Public Health Leaders	3 credits	Summer 1
PUBH 8722	Public Health Policy Analysis	3 credits	Summer 1
PUBH 8707	Dissertation Portfolio: Dissertation Proposal Development**	3 credits	Fall 2
PUBH 8718	Public Health Communications and Marketing	3 credits	Fall 2
PUBH 8720	Health Equity and Public Health Leadership	3 credits	Fall 2
PUBH 8709	Dissertation Portfolio: Dissertation Proposal Defense	3 credits	Spring 2
PUBH 8724	Organizational Leadership and Change Management	3 credits	Spring 2
PUBH 8733	Applied Public Health Methods III: Evidence for Decision-Making	3 credits	Spring 2
PUBH 8711	Dissertation Portfolio: DAPEX and Dissertation Implementation	1 credit	Summer 2
PUBH 8713	Dissertation Portfolio: Dissertation Development	1 credit	Fall 3
PUBH 8715	Dissertation Portfolio: Dissertation Defense	0 credit	Spring 3
PUBH 6080	Pathways to Public Health***	0 credits	Year 1

<b>COMPREHENSIVE EXAM</b> (UPON COMPLETION OF REQUIRED COURSEWORK -- SUMMER 2 MAY/JUNE)	
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>48 CREDITS</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SPH Non-Academic Requirements</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT EXPERIENCE(S) - (MINIMUM 8 HOURS)</li> <li>2. CITI TRAINING</li> <li>3. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY QUIZ</li> </ol>	

\*\*DAPEX/Dissertation courses with didactics PUBH 8700 and PUBH 8707

\*\*\*Students without a prior degree from a CEPH-accredited school or program of public health will be required to successfully pass the free, zero credit, online course (PUBH 6080) within one year of matriculation. There is no fee for this course. See information about Pathways to Public Health on the website in the Academic Advising section.

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THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

## Doctor of Public Health (DrPH)

2024-2025

### DrPH Sample Sequencing Guide for Full-time versus Part-time Study

*Note: DrPH courses are offered 1 time per year only*

Full-Time (3 years) (3 terms per year for 3 years)	Part-Time (3.5 - 4 years) <i>Strongly prefer FT for first Fall Term as this maintains core course sequencing</i>
<b>Fall Yr 1:</b> 11 credits 8700, 8706, 8730, and 8731	<b>Fall Yr 1:</b> 8 credits 8700, 8706, and 8730
<b>Spring Yr 1:</b> 10 credits 8710, 8732, 8714 and 8703 – Dissertation Portfolio: <i>Independent Study I for DAPEx Proposal Development</i>	<b>Spring Yr 1:</b> 7 credits 8710, 8732 and 8703 – Dissertation Portfolio: <i>Independent Study I for DAPEx Proposal Development</i>
<b>Summer Yr 1:</b> 7 credits 8716, 8722 and 8705 – Dissertation Portfolio: <i>Independent Study II for DAPEx Proposal Development</i>	<b>Summer Yr 1:</b> 7 credits 8716, 8722 and 8705 – Dissertation Portfolio: <i>Independent Study II for DAPEx Proposal Development</i>
<b>Fall Yr 2:</b> 9 credits 8718, 8720 and 8707 – Dissertation Portfolio: <i>Proposal Defense Planning</i>	<b>Fall Yr 2:</b> 9 credits 8731, 8720 and 8707 – Dissertation Portfolio: <i>Proposal Defense Planning</i>
<b>Spring Yr 2:</b> 9 credits 8724, 8733 and 8709 – Dissertation Portfolio: <i>Proposal Defense</i>	<b>Spring Yr 2:</b> 6 credits 8709 and 8714
<b>Summer Yr 2:</b> 1 credit 8711 – Dissertation Portfolio: <i>DAPEx Comp Exam- May</i>	<b>Summer Yr 2:</b> 1 credit 8711 – Dissertation Portfolio: <i>DAPEx</i>
<b>Fall Yr 3:</b> 1 credit 8713 – Dissertation Portfolio: <i>Dissertation</i>	<b>Fall Yr 3:</b> 4 credits 8718 and 8713 - Dissertation Portfolio: <i>Dissertation</i>
<b>Spring Yr 3:</b> 0 credit 8715 - Dissertation Portfolio: <i>Dissertation Defense</i>	<b>Spring Yr 3:</b> 6 credits 8724, 8733 and 8715 – Dissertation Portfolio: <i>Dissertation Defense Comp Exam- May</i>
<b>Summer Yr 3:</b> <i>Continuous research courses, as needed</i>	<b>Summer Yr 3:</b> <i>Continuous research courses, as needed</i>
	<b>Fall Yr 4:</b> <i>Continuous research courses, as needed</i>
	<b>Spring Yr 4:</b> <i>Continuous research courses, as needed</i>
	<b>Summer Yr 4:</b> <i>Continuous research courses, as needed</i>

### **IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT SEQUENCING:**

1. The full-time and part-time sequences listed in this document are suggested schedules and are subject to change based on course availability and pacing of students. Students should consult with their academic advisor to ensure they are following the most up-to-date sequence and are taking the appropriate courses during a given semester.
2. Most courses are offered once each year, so students are encouraged to follow this sequencing guide as closely as possible. Part-time students should pay close attention to the part-time sequencing outlined above and work closely with their advisors to determine their course sequence each semester and throughout the program.
3. Students become eligible to sit for the comprehensive exam after all required coursework has been completed. The comprehensive exam will be administered once a year in May; specific dates to be determined annually. Students may retake the comprehensive exam up to 1 time.
4. GW students are required to be registered for coursework every fall and spring semester until they have successfully completed all program requirements to remain in active status. It is not required to be registered in the summer term to maintain active status. In the DrPH program, this requirement also pertains to the defense, final approval, and submission of the dissertation. Students must be registered in PUBH 8715 (Dissertation Portfolio: Dissertation Defense) or continuous enrollment (may be a nominal fee) in the term in which the dissertation is defended, including the summer term, if that is when the defense is scheduled.
5. DrPH students are required to take eight courses related to the DrPH Dissertation Portfolio. These courses are structured and sequenced to guide students through the dissertation process, which includes the conceptualization, development, and defense of their DrPH Applied Practice Experience (DAPEX); writing up this experience in a dissertation format; and successful completion of their dissertation defense. Students can begin their DAPEX after successfully completing their proposal defense and the proposal is approved by the student's Dissertation Committee.
6. The DrPH program is designed for full time students to complete all requirements within 3 years and part time students within 3.5 to 4 years. However, all students must complete all DrPH requirements within 7 years of matriculation, including official leaves of absence.

### **REQUIRED COURSES**

PUBH 8700: DrPH Seminar and Introduction to DrPH Applied Practice Experience (DAPEX)  
PUBH 8703: Dissertation Portfolio: Independent Study I for DAPEX and Dissertation Proposal Development  
PUBH 8705: Dissertation Portfolio: Independent Study II for DAPEX and Dissertation Proposal Development  
PUBH 8706: Leadership Principles and Practice I  
PUBH 8707: Dissertation Portfolio: Dissertation Proposal Development  
PUBH 8709: Dissertation Portfolio: Dissertation Proposal Defense  
PUBH 8710: Public Health Project Management and Social Entrepreneurship  
PUBH 8711: Dissertation Portfolio: DAPEX and Dissertation Implementation  
PUBH 8713: Dissertation Portfolio: Dissertation Development  
PUBH 8714: Leadership Principles and Practice II

PUBH 8715: Dissertation Portfolio: Dissertation Defense  
PUBH 8716: Education and Workforce Development Approaches for Public Health Leaders  
PUBH 8718: Public Health Communications and Marketing  
PUBH 8720: Health Equity and Public Health Leadership  
PUBH 8722: Public Health Policy Analysis  
PUBH 8724: Organizational Leadership & Change Management  
PUBH 8730: Doctor of Public Health Immersion  
PUBH 8731: Applied Public Health Methods I: Public Health Planning, Implementation & Evaluation  
PUBH 8732: Applied Public Health Methods II: Mixed Methods  
PUBH 8733: Applied Public Health Methods III: Evidence for Decision-Making

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- 1. Credits.** Successful completion of all required coursework; minimum 48 credits total credits required.
- 2. Grade point average.** A minimum overall grade point average of 3.0.
- 3. Timeline.** The degree must be completed within seven years of matriculation. Degrees are awarded each semester, though formal commencement ceremonies –including the doctoral hooding ceremony– only occur in May. Students are eligible to participate in graduation activities only after they have completed all degree requirements, including a successful dissertation defense and have no financial obligations to the University.
- 4. Doctoral Applied Practice Experience (DAPEX).** Successfully complete all requirements for the DAPEX.
- 5. Comprehensive examination.** Students become eligible to sit for the comprehensive exam after all required coursework has been completed. Please note in terms of the trajectory of the program that students may begin working on their DAPEX proposal prior to taking the comprehensive exam, however, they may *not* defend their proposal until after they have successfully passed the comprehensive exam. Upon successful completion of the exam, students officially enter the doctoral candidacy phase of the program. The exam may be repeated, up to one time, upon approval.
- 6. Dissertation Portfolio.** Throughout the program, the focus is on maintaining the Portfolio sequence as closely as possible, even for part-time students. The successful oral defense and submission of the dissertation portfolio is required.
- 7. Dissertation Portfolio: Proposal defense.** Doctoral candidates prepare a written proposal with guidance from their dissertation advisor and committee. Each DrPH candidate gives an oral presentation and defense to the committee who determines the student’s readiness to commence their DAPEX and dissertation.
- 8. Professional Enhancement.** All GWSPH students must complete a minimum of 8 hours of professional enhancement activities. This can be accomplished through participation in seminars, workshops, professional meetings and other appropriate functions. Documentation of attendance to the event should be submitted to the GWSPH Office of Student Records at [gwsphrecords@gwu.edu](mailto:gwsphrecords@gwu.edu).

**9. Integrity Quiz & Plagiarism.** In the first semester as a DrPH student, all students should review the George Washington University's Code of Academic Integrity, take the quiz and submit documentation to the GWSPH Office of Student Records at [gwsphrecords@gwu.edu](mailto:gwsphrecords@gwu.edu)

**10. 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 and then send to GWSPH Office of Student Records at [gwsphrecords@gwu.edu](mailto:gwsphrecords@gwu.edu). Please save this for future reference for your DAPEx and Dissertation Portfolio.