

# Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

## Graduate Certificate in Public Health 2025-2026

<http://publichealth.gwu.edu/>

### Program Director

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### Overview

The Graduate Certificate in Public Health consists of the core curriculum for the MPH. It is intended for students who have earned their Bachelor's degree who:

- 1.) are interested in learning more about the field of public health without committing to a full graduate degree;
- 2.) are currently public health professionals and want to be eligible to take the certifying examination in public health;
- 3.) are interested in a graduate degree in public health but are not sure what specific area of expertise they might want to pursue.

The certificate program is 15 credits and may be eligible to be applied to an MPH degree program should a student want to pursue a degree program at a later date. The curriculum is made up of the core public health coursework, without the leadership and culminating experience requirements.

The graduate certificate program can be completed through residential or online modalities to allow students maximum flexibility while maintaining personal and professional commitments. Online courses are taught in 10-week online modules across the calendar year (four modules per year); residential courses are taught in 14-week modules on campus.

### Admissions Requirements

- A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited university.
- International students must provide certified, translated transcripts showing the equivalency to the U.S. bachelor's degree. World Education Services (WES) is the preferred provider.
- Official transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate schools attended
- A 1500 word statement of purpose, stating your reasons for wanting the PH certificate and your relevant work experience
- A resume
- Two letters of recommendation

Admissions requirements and application procedures for the Graduate Certificate programs are similar to those of the Master's degree programs. Please see this website:

<http://publichealth.gwu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions>.

## **Standardized Test Requirements**

- The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is not required to apply.
- International students must submit a TOEFL score when English is not the native language. A minimum score of 100 is required on the internet-based test. IELTS is also acceptable. An overall score of 7.0, with no individual score below a 6.0 is needed for admissions.

## **Transfer Credits**

Up to 3 graduate credits that have not been applied to a previous graduate degree may be transferred to the Certificate. External credits must have been earned from an accredited institution in the last 3 years with a grade of B or better.

## **Transfer to a Degree Program**

Public Health Graduate Certificate students can transfer as many credits as meet program requirements, to the MPH degree (all 15 certificate credits will count). 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 to transfer. Students interested in applying to an MPH degree program should meet with Departmental Advisors regarding program-specific admission requirements.

## **Time to Degree**

The certificate must be completed within 2 years of matriculation.

## **Program Competencies**

- Apply epidemiological methods to settings and situations in public health practice
- Select quantitative and qualitative data collection methods appropriate for a given public health context
- Analyze quantitative and qualitative data using biostatistics, informatics, computer-based programming, and software, as appropriate
- Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy, or practice
- Compare the organization, structure, and function of health care, public health, and regulatory systems across national and international settings
- Discuss the means by which structural bias, social inequities, and racism undermine health and create challenges to achieving health equity at organizational, community and systemic levels
- Assess population needs, assets, and capacities that affect communities' health
- Apply awareness of cultural values and practices to the design, implementation, or critique of public health policies or programs
- Design a population-based policy, program, project, or intervention
- Select methods to evaluate public health programs
- Discuss the policy-making process, including the roles of ethics and evidence
- Evaluate policies for their impact on public health and health equity
- Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation to a non-academic, non-peer audience with attention to factors such as literacy and health literacy
- Apply a systems thinking tool to visually represent a public health issue in a format other than standard narrative

## Non-Academic Requirements

- **Professional Enhancement**

Students in the certificate program must participate in 8 hours of Professional Enhancement. These activities are pre-approved by an advisor and may be public health-related lectures, seminars, and symposia related to your field of study.

Professional Enhancement activities supplement the rigorous academic curriculum of the SPH degree programs and help prepare students to participate actively in the professional community. You can learn more about opportunities for Professional Enhancement via the Milken Institute School of Public Health Listserv, through departmental communications, or by speaking with your advisor.

Students submit a completed [Professional Enhancement Form](#) to the Office of Student Records which is required documentation to be cleared for graduation.

- **Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Training**

All students are required to complete the Basic [CITI training module](#) in Social and Behavioral Research. This online training module for Social and Behavioral Researchers will help new students demonstrate and maintain sufficient knowledge of the ethical principles and regulatory requirements for protecting human subjects - key for any public health research.

- **Academic Integrity Quiz**

All Milken Institute School of Public Health students are required to review the University's Code of Academic Integrity and complete the GW Academic Integrity Activity. This activity must be completed within 2 weeks of matriculation. Information on GWSPH Academic Integrity requirements can be found [here](#).

<b>Milken Institute School of Public Health</b> <hr/> <b>THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY</b>		<b>GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH</b>  <b>Program-at-a-Glance 2025-2026</b>
PUBH 6002	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health	3
PUBH 6003	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology	3
PUBH 6007	Social and Behavioral Approaches to Public Health	2
PUBH 6009	Fundamentals of Program Evaluation	2
PUBH 6011	Principles of Environmental Health Sciences	3
PUBH 6012	Fundamentals of Health Policy	2
	<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>15</b>