

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Department of Global Health PhD in Global Public Health Sciences 2025-2026

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

Program Director

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Mission

The mission of the multidisciplinary Global Public Health Sciences PhD program is to educate individuals in global health focused on developing new knowledge in the methods or applications of global health sciences from the molecular to the community setting. Our scholars will be rigorously trained in science, including the use of sound methodological approaches and innovative thinking that can be translated into real-world applications of global health, with specific focus in the areas of population health, health systems, and infectious and chronic diseases.

Program Requirements

All Milken Institute School of Public Health (GWSPH) DGH PhD students are required to have completed a master's degree in a relevant field for entry into the PhD program. Comprising a total of 48 credits, students are required to complete specific Schoolwide Foundational Courses (7 credits), DGH Core Courses (13 credits), Tailoring Courses (specific electives- minimum 14 credits) and Dissertation Preparation and Research (11-14 credits).

Competencies

Students in the Department of Global Health PhD program will be able to:

1. Critique and analyze specialized concepts in global health research
PUBH 8406 - Advanced Topics in Global Health
2. Apply rigorous quantitative methodologies to global health research
PUBH 6850-6852 - Introduction to SAS/R/Python; PUBH 6865- Applied Categorical Data Analysis; PUBH 6247 Epidemiologic Methods I: Design of Health Studies; PUBH 6445: Impact Evaluation; PUBH 8472 Survey Research Methods.
3. Conduct independent global health research and disseminate research findings to scientific or lay audiences
PUBH 8406 - Advanced Topics in Global Health
4. Integrate ethical guidelines in the conduct of global health research
PUBH 8475 - Ethics in Domestic and International Research
5. Illustrate the ability to conduct global health research in multidisciplinary settings.
PUBH 8406 - Advanced Topics in Global Health

**Department of Global Health
PhD in Global Public Health Sciences**

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Course Distribution Summary

- Total Credits = Minimum 48
- Required School-wide Foundation Courses and Research Methods = 7 credits
- Required DGH Core Courses = 13 credits
- Tailoring Electives = 14 credits minimum
- Dissertation Preparation and Dissertation = 11-14 credits

UNIV 0250- GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT CERTIFICATION. SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THIS CERTIFICATION IS REQUIRED PRIOR TO TAKING ON A ROLE AS TEACHING ASSISTANT. THIS ONLINE CERTIFICATION IS PAID FOR BY GW. THE 1-CREDIT RECEIVED FOR THIS CERTIFICATION IS NOT COUNTED TOWARD THE 48-CREDIT PhD PROGRAM.

**Required Schoolwide PhD Foundational and Research Methods Courses
7 Credits**

Course #	Course Name	Credits	Semester(s) offered
PUBH 6080^	Pathways to Public Health	0	Fall (Year 1)
PUBH 8001	PhD Seminar: Cross Cutting Concepts in Public Health <i>Basis for PhD General Comprehensive Exam</i>	1	Fall (Year 1)
PUBH 6862	Applied Linear Regression Analysis for Public Health Research	3	Fall
PUBH 8416 PUBH 6247 PUBH 6445	Study Design and Evaluation Methods OR Epidemiologic Methods I: Design of Health Studies OR Quantitative Methods for Impact Evaluation <i>Basis for PhD General Comprehensive Exam</i>	3	Fall (Year 1) Spring (Year 1) Spring (Year 1)

**Required Global Health Sciences Core Courses
13 Credits**

Course #	Course Name	Credits	Semester(s) offered
PUBH 6850 OR PUBH 6851 OR PUBH 6852	Introduction to SAS for Public Health Research OR Introduction to R for Public Health Research OR Introduction to Python for Public Health Research	1	Fall/Spring
PUBH 6865	Applied Categorical Data Analysis	3	Spring
PUBH 6400	Global Health Frameworks (<i>may be waived and replaced with specialization credits if prior coursework or experience in global health</i>)	2	Fall (Year 1)
PUBH 8406	Advanced Topics in Global Health <i>Basis for PhD General Comprehensive Exam</i>	3	Spring (Year 1)
PUBH 6445 PUBH 8472	Quantitative Methods for Impact Evaluation OR Survey Research Methods	3 3	Spring Spring
PUBH 8475	Ethics in Domestic and International Research <i>Basis for PhD General Comprehensive Exam</i>	1	Spring (Year 1)

**Example Specialization Areas
14 Credits Minimum**

(Examples below; Plan must be approved in advance by advisor)

Course #	Course Name	Credits	Semester(s) offered
Population Health Sciences Focus			
PUBH 8470	Global Health Demographic Methods	3	Fall (offered biannually)
PUBH 6252	Advanced Epidemiologic methods	3	Fall/Spring

PUBH 8472	Survey Research Methods	3	Spring
PUBH 6563 + PUBH 8473	Global Child Health + Advanced Topics: Global Child Health	2 +1	Fall
PUBH 8419	Measurement in Public Health and Health Services Research	3	Spring
PUBH 6499	Injury and Global Public Health	1	Summer
PUBH 6481	Global Mental Health	2	Spring
PUBH 6486	Global Health Programs and Approaches to the Control of Infectious Diseases	2	Fall, Spring (online)
PUBH 6492	Global Health Programs and Approaches to the Control of Chronic Diseases	2	Fall
PUBH 6555	Reproductive Health: US and Global Perspectives	2	Spring
PUBH 6552	Women's Health		
PUBH 6553	Adolescent Health	2	Spring
EXNS 6242	Nutrition through the Life Cycle	2	Fall
Health Systems Focus			
PUBH 6478	Health system quality measurement for global health research and practice	2	Fall
PUBH 8419	Measurement in Public Health and Health Services Research	3	Spring
PUBH 6475	Theory Driven Approaches to Health System Design and Evaluation	2	Fall
PUBH 8417	Qualitative Research Methods & Analysis	3	Spring
SOC 6240	Field Research in Organizational Settings	3	
PSC 8132	Network Analysis	3	
EDUC 8131	Case Study Research Methods	3	Spring
EDUC 8140	Ethnographic Research Methods	3	Spring
EDUC 8142	Phenomenological Research Methods	3	Spring
EMSE 6740	Systems Thinking and Policy Modeling I	3	Fall
ORSC 6243	Seminar: Leadership in Complex Organizations	3	Spring
ORSC 6245	Seminar: Organizational Behavior	3	Fall
PPPA 8190	Philosophical Foundations of Policy and Administrative Research	3	Fall
PPPA 8023	Mixed Methods in Research Design	3	Summer
PUBH 8404	Health Systems & Health Policy Research	3	Spring
PUBH 8622	Healthcare Payments, Systems, and Delivery Models	2	Fall
Global Infectious Disease Focus			
PUBH 6484	Prevention and Control of Vector-Borne Diseases	2	Spring
PUBH 6486 + PUBH 8486	Global Health Programs and Approaches to the Control of Infectious Diseases +Advanced Doctoral Seminar	2 +1	Fall
MICR 8210	Infection and Immunity	3	Spring
PUBH 6455	Global Vaccinology	3	Summer
PUBH 6275	Essential Public Health Laboratory Skills	2	Summer / Fall
PUBH 6245 + PUBH 8245	Infectious Disease Epidemiology + Doctoral Topics	2 +1	Spring
PUBH 6278	Public Health Virology	3	Spring
PUBH 6277	Public Health Genomics	3	Spring
PUBH 6250+ PUBH 8250	Epidemiology of HIV/AIDS + Doctoral Topics	2 +1	Fall

PUBH 6259 + PUBH 8259	Epidemiologic Surveillance in Public Health + Doctoral Topics	2 +1	Spring
<i>Additional Relevant Offerings</i>			
PUBH 6445	Quantitative Methods for Impact Evaluation	3	Spring
PUBH 6495	Field Trials and Applications	2	TBD
PUBH 6887	Applied Longitudinal Data Analysis for Public Health	2	Spring
PUBH 6886	Statistical and Machine Learning for Public Health and Biomedical Research	3	Fall
PUBH 8901	Independent Study	1-3	Summer/Fall/Spring
PUBH 8116	Communicating Research Results	2	TBD
<i>May Add Additional Tailoring Courses Approved in Advance by Advisor</i>			
Dissertation Research 11-14 Credits			
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Semester(s) offered
PUBH 8435	PhD Dissertation Proposal Development	2	Fall/Spring
PUBH 8999	Dissertation Research-Global Health Sciences	9-12	Summer/Fall/Spring
Total credits		48	

^Pathways to Public Health course (PUBH 6080). As an accredited School of Public Health, curriculum in all graduate academic programs must provide a foundation in public health. If a student already holds a degree from a CEPH-accredited program or school of public health, this requirement will be waived. Otherwise, this zero-credit, free, online course should be completed within one year of matriculation.

Summary of GWSPH Graduation Requirements for a PhD in Global Public Health Sciences

1. **Credits:** Successful completion of 48 credits as delineated in the PhD program guide.
2. **Curriculum:** Successful completion of all course requirements for the PhD program in Global Public Health Sciences.
3. **Teaching Assistantship:** All PhD students in the Department of Global Health, regardless of funding, are required to serve as Teaching Assistants a minimum of two times. Students receiving a stipend from the university must serve as a teaching assistant for DGH courses a minimum of four times (e.g. once each academic year). Successful completion of the University Graduate Training Assistantship Certification (UNIV 0250) is required prior to serving as a Teaching Assistant.
4. **Qualifying Examination:** After successfully completing all first-year course requirements (as indicated by the note “*Basis for PhD General Comprehensive Exam*” in the table above), students must pass a written comprehensive exam in the summer following their first year. A written dissertation proposal must be defended orally after the completion of required coursework.
5. **Dissertation:** Completion of 9 credits of dissertation research is required. Once the proposal has been successfully defended and the dissertation research credit requirement has been met, the oral defense may be scheduled.
6. **Grade point average:** A minimum program grade point average of *B* (3.0).
7. **Time limit:** The degree must be completed within seven years of matriculation.
8. **CITI training requirement:** Successful completion of training regarding human subjects protections and compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). To fulfill this requirement, students must complete the Collaborative IRB Training Initiative (CITI) Course in the Protection of Human Research Subjects.
9. **Integrity Quiz and 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 submit pertinent documentation to the GWSPH Office of Student Records. See <https://studentconduct.gwu.edu/code-academic-integrity>.
10. **Professional Enhancement Activity requirement:** To supplement the academic curriculum of all GWSPH degree programs, students must attend eight (8) hours of advisor pre-approved public health-related lectures, seminars, symposia, or other professional meeting related to the student’s field of study or interest. Students must submit documentation of Professional Enhancement activities to the GWSPH Office of Student Records. For the required form, see <https://publichealth.gwu.edu/sites/default/files/gwsph-professional-enhancement-policy-form.pdf>. Students are expected to attend weekly department research seminars.