

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Milken Institute School of Public Health Bachelor of Science in Public Health 2025-2026

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

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BACKGROUND

Established in 1997, the George Washington University's Milken Institute School of Public Health (GWSPH) is fully accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). GWSPH offers several undergraduate degrees and programs, including Bachelor of Science degrees in Public Health (with or without a Pre-Medical or Health Professional concentration), Exercise Science (with or without various concentrations), Nutrition (with or without various concentrations), and Health Data Science; minors in Public Health, Exercise Science, Nutrition Science, and Bioinformatics; dual BS/MPH degrees in Public Health and Nutrition and BS/MS degrees in Health Data Science. To learn more about GWSPH, visit <http://publichealth.gwu.edu>.

MISSION STATEMENT

In the context of a liberal arts and sciences tradition that emphasizes critical thinking, analysis, and synthesis of information, students in the Bachelor of Science in Public Health program will acquire knowledge and skills in the critical component elements of public health. Students with a pre-medical professional (PMP) or pre-health professional (PHP) concentration will also acquire knowledge and skills in areas critical to pursuing a future in healthcare delivery.

VISION

The Bachelor of Science in Public Health program strives to be a leader in the development of undergraduate public health education. The program hopes to matriculate students who will carry forward their public health knowledge and skills into diverse fields of professional practice, including the medical profession. Our students will bring an informed, evidence-based viewpoint to public health issues affecting medical practice and society.

VALUES

While nurturing students' capacity to think analytically and creatively, we strive to deepen their commitment to improving the public's health and bringing diverse public health viewpoints to their future professions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES in the LIBERAL ARTS TRADITION

The Bachelor of Science (BS) in Public Health, founded in the liberal arts tradition often associated with small private colleges, is a respected and proven model for teaching students to assume responsibility for their life-long learning. Liberal arts education has its foundation in both the arts (*trivium*, based on three disciplines: language, logic, and rhetoric) and the sciences (*quadrivium*, based on four disciplines of natural phenomena: arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, and music) as studied in medieval universities. While contemporary arts and sciences programs have expanded well beyond the imagination and expectations of

medieval founders, it is within the context of this liberal arts tradition that the BS in Public Health strives to prepare students for progressive independence, maturity, knowledge of the world, understanding of diverse inhabitants, and respect for differing points of view. Because we intend this degree to include technical detail and analytic skills grounded in a liberal arts philosophical base, it also has the educational objectives of nurturing critical thinking, analysis, and synthesis of information and recognizing the historical and societal associations of current trends in public health and health care delivery. We intend the BS in Public Health with a pre-medical or pre-health concentration to provide students with a major that both achieves the goals of a liberal arts education in public health and provides them with the requisite knowledge and skills to pursue a future in the healthcare delivery professions.

PUBLIC HEALTH CORE COURSE COMPETENCIES

All public health students will achieve competency in the following domains through satisfactory completion of the indicated courses (i.e., earning a C- or better in each course). Upon completion of the Bachelor of Science in Public Health, students will be able to:

1. **Math/Quantitative Reasoning:** Identify and apply the concepts and applications of basic statistics (PUBH 2140, 2142, 3131)
2. **Science:** Address the foundations of biological and life sciences (PUBH 2110, 2112, and 3132)
3. **Overview of Public Health:** Address the history and philosophy of public health as well as its core values, concepts, and functions across the globe and in society (PUBH 1010, 1101, 2110, 2112, 2142, 3132, 3133, 4140W)
4. **Role and Importance of Data in Public Health:** Address the basic concepts, methods, and tools of public health data collection, use, and analysis and why evidence-based approaches are an essential part of public health practice (PUBH 1010, 1101, 2110, 2112, 2140, 2142, 3130, 3131, 3132, 3133, 3135W, 4140W)
5. **Identifying and Addressing Population Health Challenges:** Address the concepts of population health and the basic processes, approaches, and interventions that identify and address the major health-related needs and concerns of populations (PUBH 1010, 1101, 2110, 2112, 2140, 2142, 3130, 3131, 3132, 3133, 3135W, 4140W)
6. **Human Health:** Address the underlying science of human health and disease, including opportunities for promoting and protecting health across the life course (PUBH 1010, 1101, 2110, 2112, 3132, 3133)
7. **Determinants of Health:** Address the socio-economic, behavioral, biological, environmental, and other factors that impact human health and contribute to health disparities (PUBH 1010, 1101, 2110, 2112, 3130, 3132, 3133, 3135W, 4140W)
8. **Project Implementation:** Address the fundamental concepts and features of project implementation, including planning, assessment, and evaluation (PUBH 2112, 2140, 3130, 3133, 4140W)
9. **Overview of the Health System:** Address the fundamental characteristics and organizational structures of the US health system as well as the differences in systems in other countries (PUBH 1101, 3130, 3133, 3135W)
10. **Health Policy, Law, Ethics, and Economics:** Address the basic concepts of legal, ethical, economic, and regulatory dimensions of health care and public health policy and the roles, influences, and responsibilities of the different agencies and branches of government (PUBH 1101, 2112, 2140, 3130, 3132, 3133, 3135W, 4140W)
11. **Health Communications:** Address the basic concepts of public health-specific communication, including technical and professional writing and the use of mass media and electronic technology (PUBH 1010, 1101, 2110, 2112, 2140, 2142, 3130, 3131, 3133, 3135W, 4140W)

CAREERS

The BS in Public Health strives to increase awareness and understanding of public health principles among students who are preparing for professional careers in fields such as:

- Allied Health (Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant, Dietitian)
- Government
- Business
- Health Education
- Health Services Administration
- Law
- Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, and Pharmacy
- Public Health (both those who plan to pursue graduate degrees in public health and students who intend to pursue entry-level jobs in specific sectors of public health, health services, or public policy for which a bachelor's level education is appropriate)

ADMISSIONS

Incoming first-year and external transfer students may apply directly to the major through the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

Students admitted to another GW school may apply to transfer to Milken in their second semester or after: <https://registrar.gwu.edu/undergraduate-internal-transfer>. To transfer, students must have a cumulative GW GPA of 2.75 or higher. Transfer requests are effective at the start of the following semester. Students must declare the Public Health major within two weeks of transferring to Milken here: <https://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/gwsph-undergraduate-declaration-form>.

Current GW students who apply to transfer to the BSPH program between May 9, 2025, and May 8, 2026, and incoming first-year and external transfer students who start taking GW classes in the Fall 2025 or Spring 2026 semesters will follow the curriculum described in this guide.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

BSPH students must complete 120 credits to graduate, which includes required coursework in three categories: (1) University General Education Requirements, (2) Public Health Core Courses, and (3) Public Health Guided Electives. Students in the pre-medical or health concentrations will also take required courses in those concentrations.

SPH Double-Counting Policy

Students pursuing a second major may double-count up to three courses (maximum of 10 credits) toward their BS core requirements or guided electives. Students with a declared SPH major who pursue a minor may double-count up to two courses (maximum of 7 credits). Students may also double-count SPH undergraduate core courses toward another program's major or minor requirements, but only if the other program permits it. There are two exceptions to this policy:

- **Double-Counting Across SPH Programs:** Students who pursue a double major in two SPH programs will be permitted to double-count one additional course, for a maximum of 13 credits. SPH majors can similarly share three courses (maximum of 10 credits) with an SPH minor.
- **BS Nutrition, Minor in Food Leadership:** Students pursuing a minor in Food Leadership may only double-count EXNS 2119 Introduction to Nutrition Science (3 credits) toward both their BS in Nutrition requirements and the minor. No other Nutrition core requirements or guided electives may be double-counted.

General Education Requirements (22-23 credits)

The BSPH program follows the University General Education Requirements (GPAC Tier One). **See the Bulletin for current requirements:** <http://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/>.

University General Education Requirements (GenEd) Courses		
University Writing	UW 1020: UNIVERSITY WRITING or HONR 1015	4
Critical Thinking in the Humanities	ONE COURSE IN THE HUMANITIES (https://advising.columbian.gwu.edu/gpac-course-list)	3
Quantitative Reasoning	ONE COURSE IN EITHER MATH OR STATISTICS ^a (https://advising.columbian.gwu.edu/gpac-course-list)	3
Scientific Reasoning	BISC 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1111, ^b or 1112 ^b OR HONR 1033 - <i>Biology topic only</i>	3-4
Critical Thinking, Quantitative Reasoning, or Scientific Reasoning in the Social Sciences	TWO COURSES IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES ^c (https://advising.columbian.gwu.edu/gpac-course-list)	6
Oral Communications*	ONE COURSE WITH AN APPROVED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS COMPONENT (<i>see Appendix B</i>)	3
TOTAL GenEd Credits		22-23

^a Students should NOT take STAT 1051, 1053, 1111, or 1127 to fulfill this requirement because these courses are equivalent to PUBH 2142: Introduction to Biostatistics for Public Health, which is required for all BSPH students but is not a Quantitative Reasoning GenEd course.

^b Students who receive AP or IB credit for these courses do not need to repeat them at GW

^c ECON 1011: Principles of Microeconomics I is a Social Science GenEd and one of the prerequisite selective options for PUBH 3130: Health Services Management & Economics

* BSPH students select from a limited, pre-approved list of GenEd Oral Communications courses – see Appendix B

BSPH Core Prerequisite Requirements

<i>Required Course</i>	<i>Prerequisite (s) – <u>Must earn a C- or better in each prerequisite before taking the Required Course</u></i>
PUBH 2110	BISC 1005*, 1006*, 1007*, 1008*, 1111*, 1112*, or HONR 1033: Biology-related topic*
PUBH 2112	PUBH 1101- Introduction to Public Health and Health Services
PUBH 3130	ECON 1011- Principles of Economics I* (Microeconomics) or ACCY 2001 – Introduction to Financial Accounting AND PUBH 1101 – Introduction to Public Health and Health Services Restricted to Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors
PUBH 3131 [†]	PUBH 2142 - Introduction to Biostatistics for Public Health [‡]
PUBH 3133	PUBH 1101 – Introduction to Public Health and Health Services Restricted to Juniors and Seniors
PUBH 3135W	PUBH 1101- Introduction to Public Health and Health Services Restricted to Juniors and Seniors
PUBH 4140W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PUBH 1101, • PUBH 2110, • PUBH 2112, • PUBH 2140, • PUBH 2142, • PUBH 3130, • PUBH 3131, • PUBH 3132, • PUBH 3133, AND • PUBH 3135W Restricted to Seniors in their final semester

*These courses also satisfy GenEd requirements.

[†] Students who have already taken and earned a C- or better in STAT 1051, 1053, 1111, or 1127, DNSC 2001, or APSC 3115 may enroll in PUBH 3131 without first taking PUBH 2142; however, all BSPH students must take PUBH 2142 even if they have already taken STAT 1051, 1053, 1111, or 1127, DNSC 2001, or APSC 3115 unless they took one of these courses before declaring the public health major.

[‡] PUBH 2142 is not the same course as STAT 1127: Statistics for Biological Sciences.

Public Health Required Core Requirements (34 credits)

The public health major curriculum comprises 46 credits: *34 core credits and 12 elective credits* offered through GWSPH.

Required Core Courses (34 Credits) – Must earn a C- or better in each Core Course*		
Course	Course Title	Credits
PUBH 1010**	First-Year Experience in Public Health	1
PUBH 1101	Introduction to Public Health and Health Services	3
PUBH 2110	Public Health Biology	3
PUBH 2112	Principles of Health Education and Health Promotion	3
PUBH 2140	Research Methods Foundations [^]	3
PUBH 2142	Introduction to Biostatistics for Public Health	3
PUBH 3130	Health Services Management and Economics	3
PUBH 3131	Epidemiology	3
PUBH 3132	Health and Environment	3
PUBH 3133	Global Health and Development	3
PUBH 3135W	Health Policy	3
PUBH 4140W	Senior Seminar or Senior Seminar: Community Needs Assessment or Senior Seminar: Service Learning	3
Total Public Health Required Core Credits		34

*Rule does not apply to PUBH 1010, which is a P/NP course.

**External transfers to GW and internal transfers who transfer to the BSPH after the fall semester of their first year do not have to take PUBH 1010.

[^]Students required to take a research methods course for another major, minor, or concentration may be eligible to substitute that course for PUBH 2140 with the BSPH Program Director's permission.

Students who do not earn a P in PUBH 1010 may not retake the course. Instead, those students must take an additional Public Health Guided Elective credit (for a total of 13 credits).

Public Health Guided Electives (12-13 credits)

Students may take up to nine guided elective credits through approved study abroad programs or non-GW courses. Guided electives are those listed in Appendix A. Students may request the BSPH Program Director review courses not on the pre-approved guided elective list to assess whether they are appropriate guided electives.

Students who take PUBH 1010 but do not earn a P in it must take 13 public health guided elective credits. Students who took PUBH 1010 and earned a P in it and students who did not take PUBH 1010 must take 12 public health guided elective credits.

Concentration Requirements:

No Concentration:

BS Public Health, No Concentration - Must Fulfill the Following Degree Requirements	
All General Education Requirements (GenEd), including Public Health Core Course prerequisites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C- or better required in BSPH prerequisite courses (Introductory Biology course and, if taken, ECON 1011) 	22-23 Credits
All Public Health Core Curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C- or better required in core Public Health courses (except PUBH 1010, which is a P/NP course) and all related prerequisite coursework 	34 Credits
Public Health Guided Electives (see Appendix A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C- or better required in Public Health Guided Electives 	12-13 Credits
General Electives	50-52 Credits
Total Number of Credits	120

Pre-Medical Professional (PMP) Concentration:

The pre-medical professional (PMP) concentration includes two components: (1) a set of required core courses and (2) a set of additional recommended, though not required, courses. Medical school admission requirements vary, so please review school-specific requirements and consult with the pre-health advisor (prehealth@gwu.edu) as soon as possible. Talk with your academic advisor about how these courses can fit into your four-year plan.

Pre-Medical Professional (PMP) Concentration Required Courses					
Course	Course Title	Credits	Course	Course Title	Credits
BISC 1111 ^{a,b,c}	Intro Biology: Cells & Molecules*	4	BISC 3165 or CHEM 3165 or BISC 3261	Biochemistry I or Introductory Medical Biochemistry	3-4
BISC 1112 ^{a,b,c}	Intro Biology: The Biology of Organisms	4	MATH 1221 ^c , 1231 ^{a,c} , or 1232 ^{a,c}	Calculus with Precalculus II (or higher level MATH)	3
CHEM 1111 ^{a,b,c}	General Chemistry I	4	PHYS 1011 ^{a,b,c} and 1012 ^{a,b,c} , or PHYS 1021 ^{a,b,c} and 1022 ^{a,b,c} , or PHYS 1025 ^b and 1026 ^b	General or University Physics or University Physics with Biological Applications	8
CHEM 1112 ^{a,b,c}	General Chemistry II	4			
CHEM 2151/2153	Organic Chemistry I and Lab	4	PSYC 1001 ^a or SOC 1001	General Psychology or Intro to Sociology	3
CHEM 2152/2154	Organic Chemistry II and Lab	4			
Total Pre-Medical Professional (PMP) Concentration Requirements					41-42

^a Students who receive AP or IB credit for these courses do not need to repeat them at GW.

^b Medical schools expect students to have at least 8 undergraduate credit hours of upper-level BISC coursework **with lab components**. They may also expect students to have a specific number of undergraduate semesters/credits of CHEM and advanced PHYS coursework.

^c These courses also satisfy GenEd requirements.

Additional Courses Recommended for Pre-Medical Professionals		
Course	Course Title	Credits
BISC 2202	Cell Biology	3
BISC 2207/2208	Genetics & Lab	3-4
BISC 2322	Human Physiology	3
BISC 2337W	Intro Microbiology	4
Total PMP Additional Recommended Credits		13-14

BS Public Health – PMP Concentration - Must Fulfill the Following Degree Requirements		
General Education Requirements (GenEd) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C- or better required in BSPH prerequisite courses (Introductory Biology course and, if taken, ECON 1011) 		16-19 Credits*
Pre-Medical Professional (PMP) Concentration Requirements		41-42 Credits
All Public Health Core Curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C- or better required in core Public Health courses and all related prerequisite coursework 		34 Credits
Public Health Guided Electives (see Appendix A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C- or better required in Public Health Guided Electives 		12-13 Credits
General Electives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Electives total includes additional courses recommended for pre-medical professionals if taken 		13-17 Credits
Total Number of Credits		120

*Some of the PMP concentration courses also satisfy GenEd requirements. Any 1000-level science courses required for the PMP concentration satisfy the Scientific Reasoning GenEd requirement, reducing the total additional GenEd credits needed to 19. Students taking MATH 1221, 1231, or 1232 to satisfy the PMP calculus requirement will also satisfy the Quantitative Reasoning GenEd requirement, further reducing their total additional GenEd credits required to 16.

Pre-Health Professional (PHP) Concentration:

The pre-health professional (PHP) concentration is available for students interested in a career as a healthcare delivery professional (other than a physician). Students may select a pre-health professional track in Nursing, Physician Assistant, Physical Therapy, or Dentistry. The PHP concentrations have two components: (1) a set of required core courses applicable to all pre-health professional tracks and (2) additional track-specific required courses. If interested in a healthcare profession outside these tracks, students should work with a pre-health advisor (prehealth@gwu.edu) to identify the courses most applicable to the student's health discipline of interest. Graduate program requirements vary, so please review program-specific admissions requirements and consult with the pre-health advisor as soon as possible. Talk with your academic advisor about how these courses can fit into your four-year plan.

Pre-Health Professionals (PHP) Concentration Required Core Courses						
Course	Course Title	Credits		Course	Course Title	Credits
BISC 1111 ^{a,b,c}	Intro Biology: Cells & Molecules	4		EXNS 2211	Anatomy & Physiology II	4
BISC 1112 ^{a,b,c}	Intro Biology: The Biology of Organisms	4		BISC 2336 and BISC 2337	Microbiology and Microbiology Lab	4
CHEM 1111 ^{a,b,c}	General Chemistry I	4		MATH 1221 ^{b,c} , 1231 ^{a,b,c} , or 1232 ^{a,b,c}	Calculus with Precalculus II (or higher-level MATH)	3
CHEM 1112 ^{a,b,c}	General Chemistry II	4				
EXNS 2210	Anatomy & Physiology I	4		PSYC 1001 ^a	General Psychology	3
Total Pre-Health Professionals (PHP) Concentration Core Requirements						34

^a Students who receive AP or IB credit for these courses do not need to repeat them at GW.

^b Students should check with specific graduate programs to assess whether there are minimum expectations for advanced coursework in BISC, CHEM, and MATH.

^c These courses also satisfy GenEd requirements.

Pre-Health Professionals (PHP) Concentration Track-Specific Requirements (courses taken in addition to the PHP Concentration Required Core Courses)					
Pre-Nursing Track			Pre-Physician Assistant (PA) Track		
Course	Course Title	Credits	Course	Course Title	Credits
EXNS 2119	Introduction to Nutrition Science	3	CHEM 2151/2153	Organic Chemistry I & Lab	4
PUBH 3151W or HSCI 2105	Current Issues in Bioethics	3	CHEM 2152/2154	Organic Chemistry II & Lab	4
PSYC 2013 ^b	Developmental Psychology	3	BISC 3165 or CHEM 3165 or BISC 3261	Biochemistry I or Introductory Medical Biochemistry	3-4
SOC 1001	Introduction to Sociology	3	BISC 2207/2208	Genetics and Lab	4
Total Nursing Track-Specific Credits		12	Total PA Track-Specific Credits		15-16
Pre-Physical Therapy (PT) Track			Pre-Dentistry Track		
Course	Course Title	Credits	Course	Course Title	Credits
PHYS 1011 ^{a,b}	General Physics I	4	CHEM 2151/2153	Organic Chemistry I & Lab	4
PHYS 1012 ^{a,b}	General Physics II	4	CHEM 2152/2154	Organic Chemistry II & Lab	4
PSYC 2013 ^b	Developmental Psychology	3	BISC 3165 or CHEM 3165 or BISC 3261	Biochemistry I or Introductory Medical Biochemistry	3
Total PT Track-Specific Credits		11	PHYS 1011 ^{a,b}	General Physics I	4
			PHYS 1012 ^{a,b}	General Physics II	4
			BISC 2207/2208, 2202, or 3212	Genetics, Cell Biology, or Immunology	3-4
			Total Dentistry-Track Specific Credits		22-23

^a Students who receive AP or IB credit for these courses do not need to repeat them at GW. Students should check with specific graduate programs to assess whether there are minimum expectations for advanced coursework in PHYS.

^b These courses also satisfy GenEd requirements.

BS Public Health – Pre-Nursing Professional Concentration - Must Fulfill the Following Degree Requirements:	
General Education Requirements (GenEd) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C- or better required in BSPH prerequisite courses (Introductory Biology course and, if taken, ECON 1011) 	13-16 Credits ^{*, ¥, †}
Pre-Nursing Professional Concentration Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This includes PHP core courses <i>plus</i> pre-nursing track-specific requirements 	46 Credits
All Public Health Core Curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C- or better required in core Public Health courses and all related prerequisite coursework 	34 Credits
Public Health Guided Electives (see Appendix A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C- or better required in Public Health Guided Electives 	12-13 Credits
General Electives	11-15 Credits
Total Number of Credits	120

BS Public Health – Pre-Physical Therapy Professional Concentration - Must Fulfill the Following Degree Requirements:	
General Education Requirements (GenEd) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C- or better required in BSPH prerequisite courses (Introductory Biology course and, if taken, ECON 1011) 	13-16 Credits ^{*, ¥, †}
Pre-Physical Therapy Professional Concentration Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This includes PHP core courses <i>plus</i> pre-PT track-specific requirements 	45 Credits
All Public Health Core Curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C- or better required in core Public Health courses and all related prerequisite coursework 	34 Credits
Public Health Guided Electives (see Appendix A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C- or better required in Public Health Guided Electives 	12-13 Credits
General Electives	12-16 Credits
Total Number of Credits	120

BS Public Health – Pre-Physician Assistant Concentration - Must Fulfill the Following Degree Requirements:	
General Education Requirements (GenEd) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C- or better required in BSPH prerequisite courses (Introductory Biology course and, if taken, ECON 1011) 	16-19 Credits ^{*, †}
Pre-Physician Assistant Concentration Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This includes PHP core courses <i>plus</i> pre-PA track-specific requirements 	49 Credits
All Public Health Core Curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C- or better required in core Public Health courses and all related prerequisite coursework 	34 Credits
Public Health Guided Electives (see Appendix A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C- or better required in Public Health Guided Electives 	12-13 Credits
General Electives	6-9 Credits
Total Number of Credits	120

BS Public Health – Pre-Dentistry Concentration - Must Fulfill the Following Degree Requirements:	
General Education Requirements (GenEd) • C- or better required in BSPH prerequisite courses (Introductory Biology course and, if taken, ECON 1011)	16-19 Credits ^{*, †}
Pre-Dentistry Concentration Requirements • This includes PHP core courses <i>plus</i> pre-dentistry track-specific requirements	56-57 Credits
All Public Health Core Curriculum • C- or better required in core Public Health courses and all related prerequisite coursework	34 Credits
Public Health Guided Electives (see Appendix A) • C- or better required in Public Health Guided Electives	12-13 Credits
General Electives	0-2 Credits
Total Number of Credits	120-123

*Some PHP concentration core and track-specific courses also satisfy GenEd requirements. Any 1000-level science courses required for the PHP concentration core satisfy the Scientific Reasoning GenEd requirement, reducing the total additional GenEd credits required to 19.

¥Students in the pre-nursing and physical therapy tracks must take PSYC 2013, which counts as 1 of 2 required Social Science GenEd courses, reducing their additional GenEd credits required to 16.

† Students taking MATH 1221, 1231, or 1232 to satisfy the PHP calculus requirement will also satisfy the Quantitative Reasoning GenEd requirement, further reducing their total GenEd credits required to 16 (for pre-physician's assistant and dentistry track students) or 13 (for pre-nursing and physical therapy students).

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS/POLICIES

1. Consult your GWSPH Undergraduate Academic Advisor before registration for your first semester in the program and future semesters as needed. Students must consult an advisor in all matters affecting the program of study, such as substitutions or withdrawals.
2. Students following the pre-medical or pre-health professional concentrations must consult the pre-health advising team (<https://prehealth.gwu.edu/>) on pre-health expectations and procedures.
3. Students must take all BSPH core, guided electives, and prerequisite courses for a letter grade.
4. To graduate with a BSPH major, students must earn a C—or higher in all courses required for the major (core, guided elective, and prerequisite).
5. Students can double-count BSPH core courses toward another major or minor's requirements if the other program allows it. See double-counting policy.
6. Students cannot double-count required or elective courses applied to another major or minor toward BSPH requirements. The only exceptions to this policy are courses taken for the Health Equity Micro-Minor, which students may also apply toward BSPH guided elective requirements (if the course is an approved BSPH guided elective), and approved research methods courses taken as part of the required curriculum of another major or minor, which students may substitute for PUBH 2140 (Research Methods Foundations). See double-counting policy.
7. Students are responsible for reviewing, understanding, and following the policies and requirements as outlined in the SPH Undergraduate Student Handbook (<https://publichealth.gwu.edu/content/services-students>) and the University Bulletin (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/>).
8. Students must earn a minimum of 120 total credits and satisfy all course requirements for the Public Health major (and concentrations, if applicable) as listed above.
9. Students may apply up to three Lifestyle, Sport, and Physical Activity (LSPA) credits toward their degree as general elective credits. LSPA credits beyond the three permitted will not count toward the 120-credit graduation requirement.

10. Students must complete all BSPH core courses at GW. However, following GW's transfer credit requirements, students may complete up to nine BSPH guided elective credits at another university. Students must obtain the BSPH Program Director's approval of the coursework before enrolling. See here for more information: <https://registrar.gwu.edu/undergraduate-transfer-credit>

Students can find course descriptions, program information, and registration information at <https://publichealth.gwu.edu/programs/public-health-bs> and <http://bulletin.gwu.edu/public-health/undergraduate-programs/>.

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Appendix A: Public Health Guided Electives, Academic Year 2025-2026

Students may petition the BSPH Program Director to approve a GW elective not listed below (student must provide the syllabus when petitioning for guided elective approval).

AMERICAN STUDIES

AMST 3950	Special Topics – Narrative Medicine in American History <i>only</i>	3
AMST 4701W	Epidemics in American History	3
AMST 4702W	Race, Medicine, and Public Health	3

ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTH 2502	Anthropology of Science and Technology	3
ANTH 3503	Psychological Anthropology	3
ANTH 3504	Illness, Healing, and Culture	3
ANTH 3513/3513W	Anthropology of Human Rights	3
ANTH 3991	Special Topics – Medical Anthropology Topic <i>only</i>	3

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

BADM 1004	The Age of Globalization	3
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BIOCHEMISTRY

BIOC 3560	Diet, Health, & Longevity	3
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BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

BISC 2339	Parasitology	3
BISC 2450	Organic Evolution	3
BISC 3450 or 3450W	Evolutionary Medicine	3

COMMUNICATION

COMM 3172	Health Communication	3
COMM 3179	Sexual Communication	3

COMPUTER SCIENCE

CSCI 1011	Introduction to Programming with Java	3
CSCI 1012	Introduction to Programming with Python	3
CSCI 1013	Computational Problem-Solving Across Disciplines	3
CSCI 1111	Introduction to Software Development	3
CSCI 4576	Introduction to Biomedical Computing	3

ECONOMICS

ECON 2151	Economic Development	3
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ECON 3148	Health Economics	3
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EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES

EHS 2104	Legal Aspects in Emergency Management	3
EHS 2105	Drug Addiction and Pain Management in the Emergency Health Services	1
EHS 2109	Infectious Disease and Bioterrorism	3
EHS 2160	Disaster Response Planning and Management	3
EHS 3174	Foundations of Emergency Health Services Systems	3
EHS 3175	Community Risk Management and Safety in EHS	3
EHS 4101	Humanitarian Relief Operations	3

EXERCISE & NUTRITION SCIENCES

EXNS 1114	Community Nutrition	3
EXNS 2116	Exercise and Health Psychology	3
EXNS 2119	Introduction to Nutrition Science	3
EXNS 2122	Food Systems in Public Health	3
EXNS 2123	Nutrition and Chronic Disease	3
EXNS 2126W	International Nutrition	3
EXNS 2127	Introduction to Food Policy	3
EXNS 3114W	Cultivating Food Justice in Urban Food Systems	3
EXNS 3995 ¹	Undergraduate Research	0-6
EXNS 4199	Advanced Topics in Exercise and Nutrition Sciences – Multi-level Determinants of Childhood Obesity & Prevention Strategies <i>only</i> (2 cr)	1-3

GEOGRAPHY

GEOG 1003	Society and Environment	3
GEOG 2104	Introduction to Cartography and GIS	3
GEOG 2127	Population Geography	3
GEOG 2137	Environmental Hazards	3
GEOG 3105	Techniques of Spatial Analysis	3
GEOG 3106	Intermediate GIS	3
GEOG 3143/3143W	Urban Sustainability	3
GEOG 3275	Sustainable Food Systems	3

HEALTH & WELLNESS

HLWL 1106	Drug Awareness	3
HLWL 1109	Human Sexuality	3

HEALTH SCIENCES

HSCI 1108	Introduction to Food and Nutrition	3
HSCI 2050	Foundations of Health Equity	3
HSCI 2100	Writing and Composition in the Health Sciences	3
HSCI 2101	Psychosocial Aspects of Health and Illness	3
HSCI 2105	Current Issues in Bioethics (<i>students can receive BSPH elective credit for either HSCI 2105 or PUBH 3151W but cannot receive BSPH elective credit for both</i>)	3

HSCI 2107	Healthcare in Literature	3
HSCI 2110	Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Concepts	3
HSCI 2112/2112W	Writing in the Health Sciences	3
HSCI 2118	Global Women's Health	1
HSCI 3100	Applied Health Equity in Washington, DC	1
HSCI 4103	Health Care Law/Regulation (<i>students can receive BSPH elective credit for either HSCI 4103 or PUBH 3136 but cannot receive BSPH elective credit for both</i>)	3

HISTORY

HIST 3301W	Topics: US History – Epidemics in American History (<i>same course as AMST 4701W and HONR 2047/2047W</i>) or Race, Medicine, and Public Health <i>only</i>	3
HIST 3363	Race, Medicine, and Public Health	3

HONORS

HONR 2047/2047W	Self and Society Seminar – Pediatric Ethics; Humanitarian Governance; Ethics in Public Health; Race, Medicine, and Public Health; Applied Health Equity; Leading Social Change – Social Entrepreneurship in the Nonprofit Sector; Food and Cities <i>only</i>	3
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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

IAFF 3190	Global Mental Health: Policy, Practice, and Research	3
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MANAGEMENT

MGT 4085	Social Entrepreneurship	3
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MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES

MLS 2005	Plagues, Pandemics, and Epidemics	3
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PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 2124/2124W [^]	Philosophies of Disability	3
PHIL 2125/2125W	Philosophy of Race and Gender (<i>same course as WGSS 2225</i>)	3
PHIL 2134 [^]	Philosophy of Human Rights	3
PHIL 2136	Contemporary Issues in Ethics	3
PHIL 2281	Philosophy of the Environment	3

POLITICAL SCIENCE

PSC 2224	Issues in Domestic Public Policy	3
PSC 2240	Poverty, Welfare, and Work	3
PSC 2367/2367W	Human Rights	3
PSC 2454	Humanitarianism	3
PSC 2992	Special Topics in American Politics and Government – Race and Ethnic Politics <i>only</i>	3
PSC 3192W	Health Care Policy	3

PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC 3126/3126W	Multicultural Psychology	3
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PSYC 3128	Health Psychology	3
PSYC 3199	Substance Abuse and Addictions	3
PSYC 3173	Community Psychology	3

PUBLIC HEALTH

PUBH 1102	History of Public Health	3
PUBH 1299	Undergraduate Public Health Study Abroad	1-6
PUBH 2117	Service Learning in Public Health	3
PUBH 3115	Global Health and Human Rights	3
PUBH 3136	Health Law	3
PUBH 3150	Sustainable Energy and Environmental Health	3
PUBH 3151W	Current Issues in Bioethics	3
PUBH 3199	Various Topics in Public Health (<i>not including Research Methods Foundations OR Research Methods in Public Health</i>)	1-3
PUBH 3299	Undergraduate Public Health Study Abroad	1-6
PUBH 3995 ¹	Undergraduate Research	1-9
PUBH 4199 ¹	Independent Study	1-6
PUBH 6242	Clinical Epidemiology and Public Health: Reading the Research	2
PUBH 6243	Topics in Clinical Epidemiology and Public Health: Reading the Research	1
PUBH 6378	HIV Policy in the US	2

SOCIOLOGY

SOC 2102	Techniques of Data Analysis	3
SOC 2181	Special Topics in Sociology – Demography + The Social World and Health, Illness, and Society: Health Inequalities in the United States <i>only</i>	3
SOC 2189	Special Topics in Criminal Justice – Rethinking DC Youth & Policing <i>only</i>	3

STATISTICS

STAT 2118	Regression Analysis	3
STAT 2183/2183W	Intermediate Statistics Lab/Package	3

SUSTAINABILITY

SUST 1001	Introduction to Sustainability	3
SUST 3003	World on a Plate	3
SUST 3093	Gender and Sustainable Development	3

UNIVERSITY WRITING

UW 2020W	Advanced Topics in Writing – Black Girls’ and Women’s Health <i>only</i>	3
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WOMEN’S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

WGSS 2225	Philosophy of Race and Gender (<i>same course as PHIL 2125</i>)	3
WGSS 3170	Special Topics in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies – Writing/Righting Black Girls’ and Women’s Health <i>only</i>	3

* NOTE: Students may only take courses offered online during the summer term, even if the course is an approved guided elective and not offered residually in the fall or spring term

¹ BSPH majors may apply up to 9 credits of Undergraduate Research (EXNS 3995 and/or PUBH 3995) and/or Independent Study (PUBH 4199) toward their guided electives requirement. Students **MUST** take these courses for a letter grade and cannot take them Pass/No Pass if applying them toward the BSPH guided elective requirement.

[^] This course will also count toward the Oral Communications GenEd requirement

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Appendix B: Oral Communications GenEd Courses Approved for BSPH Students

Note: BSPH students MUST take a course from this list to satisfy their GPAC Tier One Oral Communication requirement

- [AMST 2450](#) History and Meaning of Higher Education in the United States
- [AMST 2620](#) Human Mind and Artificial Intelligence
- [ANTH 1004](#) Language in Culture and Society
- [ANTH 2502](#) Anthropology of Science and Technology: Twenty-First Century Brave New Worlds
- [CHEM 2118W](#) Practicing Science Communications
- [COMM 1040](#) Public Communication
- [COMM 1041](#) Interpersonal Communication
- [EAP 1010](#) Oral Academic Communication for International Students - *restricted to international students*
- [ECON 4198W](#) Proseminar in Economics - *restricted to ECON double-majors*
- [ENGL 1365](#) Literature and the Environment
- [ENGL 3918](#) Literature and Medicine
- [GTCH 2003](#) Step 1 and 2 Hybrid: Inquiry Approaches to Teaching and Lesson Design
- [GTCH 3101](#) Knowing and Learning in Mathematics and Science
- [HSSJ 4195](#) Senior Capstone - *restricted to HSSJ double-majors*
- [ORSC 2000](#) Sophomore Colloquium: Diversity in Organizations - *restricted to CCAS double-majors in their sophomore year who have CCAS as their home school*
- [PHIL 2124/PHIL 2124W](#) Philosophies of Disability – *double counts as a BSPH guided elective*
- [PHIL 2134](#) Philosophy of Human Rights – *double counts as a BSPH guided elective*
- [PSTD 1010](#) Introduction to Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution
- [SLHS 1011](#) Voice and Diction
- [SOC 4192](#) Advanced Seminar in Criminal Justice - *restricted to Criminal Justice double-majors*
- [SOC 4195/SOC 4195W](#) Senior Research Seminar - *restricted to SOC double-majors*
- [SPAN 3022](#) Advanced Oral Proficiency: Environmental and Social Sustainability in Latin America
- [SUST 2004](#) Introduction to Sustainability Communication
- [WLP 1020](#) Writing, Literature, and Society - *restricted to WLP students*