

Program Director:

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Mission:

The purpose of humanitarian action is to save lives, minimize suffering, and protect the integrity of the people, usually but not always in a short period of time. The mission of the Humanitarian Health and Disaster Response Program is to prepare a well-versed corps of health professionals to address health and related issues in humanitarian and disaster settings and public health emergencies. This program will equip students with necessary knowledge, attitudes and self-efficacy/skill-sets to assess needs, design and implement programs, and contribute to better decision-making, performance efficiency, and sound policy making within aid system in humanitarian settings and during disasters and mass health emergencies.

Goals:

The overarching goals of the program are to train students to be public health practitioners and leaders in design, implementation, and evaluation of humanitarian and disaster response programs and policies through learning to:

- Understand and assess the fundamental causes of humanitarian situations and mass health emergencies and their public health challenges
- Understand and analyze the interdependence of health science, socio-political science, economics, and global governance in humanitarian and disaster situations
- Identify and apply common healthcare and socio-political tools and policies to assess and address the burden of a wide range of health and social conditions in humanitarian and emergency situations
- Produce data and evidence with scientific rigor, and assess the efficacy and effectiveness of wide range of social and health care interventions in humanitarian and health emergency settings
- Generate and use best local and global level evidence for sound healthcare and socio-political policy formulation and program management, and translate recommendations into actions that support on-the-ground humanitarian and disaster response programs
- Develop strong cultural sensitivity and cross- and inter-cultural competencies within diverse health and political systems in humanitarian aid
- Develop understanding of and assume leadership positions in humanitarian aid and disaster response industries and related disciplines
- Work with methodological rigor in and contribute to international-level priority setting, program design, implementation, and evaluation

- Communicate effectively the results of research and practice to a diverse group of stakeholders in humanitarian and health emergency settings

Program Competencies:

1. Apply multidisciplinary perspectives to identify, analyze, and address global health challenges.

Relevant courses:

- PUBH 6400 Global Health Frameworks
- PUBH 6410 Global Health Study Design
- PUBH 6467 Accountability & Ethics in Humanitarian and Disaster Settings

2. Apply relevant quantitative tools to inform different audiences and public health topics

Relevant courses:

- PUBH 6412 Global Health Quantitative Research Methods

3. Interpret and critique research and best practices to inform the development of evidence-based solutions for global health and humanitarian challenges.

Relevant courses:

- PUBH 6468 Preparation & Response to Epidemics, Pandemics, Mass Health Emergencies, Disasters
- PUBH 6480 Public Health in Humanitarian Settings

4. Analyze the ethical issues of global health programs, policies and research.

Relevant courses:

- PUBH 6416 Ethical and Cultural Issues in Global Health Research and Programs
- PUBH 6467 Accountability & Ethics in Humanitarian and Disaster Settings

5. Explain and analyze major problems and challenges in humanitarian and disaster settings and strategies to address them.

Relevant courses:

- PUBH 6480 Public Health in Humanitarian Settings
- PUBH 6467 Accountability & Ethics in Humanitarian and Disaster Settings
- PUBH 6468 Preparation & Response to Epidemics, Pandemics, Mass Health Emergencies, Disasters

6. Describe the institutional landscape and the governance in the aid system, and the interrelationship of foreign policy and health outcomes in humanitarian settings

Relevant courses:

- PUBH 6480 Public Health in Humanitarian Settings
- PUBH 6467 Accountability & Ethics in Humanitarian and Disaster Settings

7. Communicate public health and medical evidence on humanitarian and health emergency topics to a variety of audiences such as technical experts, lay population, policymakers, or other relevant stakeholders

Relevant courses

- PUBH 6467 Accountability & Ethics in Humanitarian and Disaster Settings
- PUBH 6468 Preparation & Response to Epidemics, Pandemics, Mass Health Emergencies, Disasters

8. Describe and address current main communicable, non-communicable, and other pathologies across the populations, geographic locations, and social and political contexts in the humanitarian and disaster settings.

Relevant courses:

- PUBH 6468 Preparation & Response to Epidemics, Pandemics, Mass Health Emergencies, Disasters
- PUBH 6480 Public Health in Humanitarian Settings
- PUBH 6462 Nutrition and Food in Large Humanitarian Emergencies

Program Requirements:

Please make sure to follow the program guide for the academic year in which you matriculated into the program.

MPH students who select the MPH in Humanitarian Health and Disaster Response program enroll in Core Courses (19 credits), Program-Specific Courses (15 credits), program selective courses (6 credits) and general electives (5 credits).

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Master of Public Health Humanitarian Health and Disaster Response Program-at-a-Glance 2025-2026

Course#	Required Core Course 19 credits	Credits	Semesters Offered	
			Residential	Online
PUBH 6002	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health	3	Fall, Sp, Sum	All
PUBH 6003	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology	3	Fall, Sp, Sum	All
PUBH 6007	Social and Behavioral Approaches to Public Health	2	Fall, Sp, Sum	All
PUBH 6009	Fundamentals of Program Evaluation (prerequisite: PUBH 6007)	2	Fall, Sp, Sum	All
PUBH 6011	Environmental and Biological Foundations of Public Health	3	Fall, Sp, Sum	All
PUBH 6012	Fundamentals of Health Policy	2	Fall, Sp, Sum	All
PUBH 6021	Essentials of Public Health Practice and Leadership 1	1	Fall, Sp, Sum	All
PUBH 6022	Essentials of Public Health Practice and Leadership 2	1	Fall, Sp, Sum	All
PUBH 6023	Interprofessional Education Experience (prerequisites: all core courses OR 20 completed MPH credits)	0	Fall, Sp, Sum	All
PUBH 6418	GH Culminating Experience 1: Proposal Development (Pre-requisites: 6002, 6003, 6400, 6412, 6480; co-requisites: 6416 OR 6423)	1	Fall, Sp, Sum	n/a
PUBH 6419	GH Culminating Experience 2 (Prerequisite 6418)	1	Fall, Sp, Sum	n/a
PUBH 6000	MPH Applied Practice Experience (Pre-requisites: 6002, 6003, 6021, 6400, 6412, 6480, 6416)	0	Fall, Sp, Sum	n/a
Total	Core Credits	19		
Course #	Required Program-Specific Courses 15 Credits	Credits	Semesters Offered	
			Residential	Online
PUBH 6400	Global Health Frameworks	2	Fall	Fall, Sp2
PUBH 6410	Global Health Study Design	1	Fall, Sp	
PUBH 6412	Global Health Quantitative Research Methods (prerequisite: PUBH 6002, 6410)	3	Sp, Fa	
PUBH 6416 OR PUBH 6423	Ethical and Cultural Issues in Global Health Research and Programs OR Ethics in Public Health Practice and Policy	1	Fall, Sp, Sum	

PUBH 6462	Nutrition and Food in Large Humanitarian Emergencies (Pre or corequisite: PUBH 6480)	1	Spring	
PUBH 6467	Accountability and Ethics in Humanitarian and Disaster Settings (Pre or corequisite: PUBH 6480)	3	Fall	
PUBH 6468	Preparation and Response to Epidemics, Pandemics, Mass Health Emergencies, and Disasters	2	Fall	
PUBH 6480	Public Health in Humanitarian Settings	2	Fall	Sp1, Sum
Total	Total Required Program-Specific Credits	15		
Course#	Selective Courses	Credits	Semesters Offered	
	6 credits <i>Choose from list below</i>		Residential	Online
PUBH 6045	National and Global Public Health Systems	1	Spring (1 st half)	
PUBH 6047	Systematic Reviews to Synthesize Evidence in Public Health Practice (Prerequisites: PUBH 6002 and 6003)	1	Fall/Spring	
PUBH 6132	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in Low-Income Countries	2	N/A	Fall, Sp2
PUBH 6423	Ethics in Public Health Practice and Policy	1	Summer	
PUBH 6464	Mental Health in Humanitarian Settings (Pre or corequisite: PUBH 6480)	1	Spring	
PUBH 6465	Reproductive Health and Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Settings (Pre or corequisite: PUBH 6480)	1	Fall	
PUBH 6478	Health System Quality Measurement in Global Health	2	Fall	
PUBH 6492	Global Health Programs and Approaches to the Control of Chronic Diseases (Prerequisites: PUBH 6002, 6003 and 6400)	2	Fall	
PUBH 6499	Humanitarian Assistance; Governance, Coordination, and Practice	1	Online	Summer Institute
Total	Total Selective Credits	6		
Course#	Elective Courses	Credits	Semesters Offered	
	5 credits <i>Suggests courses listed below</i>		Residential	Online
PUBH 6262	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	1	Fall, Sp, Sum	
PUBH 6263	Advanced Geographical Information Systems (Prerequisite: PUBH 6262)	1	Fall, Sp, Sum	
PUBH 6435	Global Health Program Design and Implementation (Prerequisite: PUBH 6400)	2	Sp, Sum	

PUBH 6436	Global Health Program Management and Leadership	2	Fall, Sum	
PUBH 6440	Global Health Economics (Prerequisite: PUBH 6400)	2	Spring	
PUBH 6441	Global Health Organizations and Regulations (Prerequisite: PUBH 6400)	2	Fall	
PUBH 6442	Comparative Global Health Systems	2	Fall	All
PUBH 6445	Quantitative Methods for Impact Evaluation (Prerequisites:6002, 6003, and 6412)	3	Spring	
PUBH 6455	Global Vaccinology	3	Summer	Sp1, Sum
PUBH 6484	Prevention and Control of Vector Borne Diseases	2	Spring	
PUBH 6486	Global Health Programs and Approaches to the Control of Infectious Diseases (Prerequisites: PUBH 6002 and 6003)	2	Fall	Fall, Sp2
PUBH 6493	Fundamentals of Supply Chain Management in Developing Countries	2	Spring	
PUBH 6501	Program Evaluation (Prerequisites: PUBH 6002, 6003 and 6007; and PUBH 6435 or 6500)	3	Fall, Sp	
PUBH 6563	Global Child Health	2	Fall	Fall, Sp2
PUBH 6850	Introduction to SAS for Public Health Research	1	Fall, Sp, Sum	
PUBH 6851	Introduction to R for Public Health Research	1	Fall, Sp, Sum	
PUBH 6852	Introduction to Python for Public Health Research	1	Fall, Sp, Sum	
PUBH 6853	Use of SAS for Data Management and Analysis	3	Fall,Sp	
IAFF 6118 through IAFF 6186	A variety of global affairs courses	3	Fall	
PUBH 6xxx	Any PUBH graduate level course may be substituted for an elective course above. Other course(s) with advisor's advanced approval	1--3	Fall, Sp, Sum	All
Total	Elective Credits	5		
Total	Degree Credits	45		

Graduation Requirements

1. **Graduate Credit Requirement:** 45 graduate credits are required.
2. **Course Requirements:** Successful completion of the Core Courses and the Program-Specific Courses are required.
3. **Applied Practice Experience (APEX) Requirement:** Students are required to fulfill all requirements of the Applied Practice Experience (Practicum) to receive credit for 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 through an EPR instead of doing the practicum, with advanced approval by your departments practicum team.
 - Note that before completing the 120 hours practicum experience Global Health HH students must fulfill the following pre-requisites: 6002, 6003, 6021, 6400, 6412, 6416 OR 6423 , 6480, 6021
4. **Interprofessional Education Experience (IPE):** Students are required to enroll and participate in an authorized IPE activity (PUBH 6023). All MPH students are required to select an IPE experience from a host of options provided throughout your enrollment as a MPH. The IPE is a one-time, case-based or activity-based learning experience. It requires a 3-hour live session as well as review of materials ahead of time. The IPE experience is a way to experience working with people from other professions/programs outside of public health. Students will have many opportunities to register for this zero-credit (no fee) IPE ‘class’ (PUBH 6023 *Interprofessional Education Experience*) and will receive credit upon successful completion. Note that students must complete 20 credits of course work before enrolling in the IPE. [More information is available here.](#)
5. **Grade Point Requirement:** A 3.0 (B average) program grade point average is required.
6. **Time Limit Requirement:** The degree must be completed within five years.
7. **Transfer Credit Policy:** Up to 12 graduate credits that have not been applied to a previous degree may be transferred to the MPH upon approval. Credits must have been earned from an accredited institution in the last 3 years with a grade point of 3.0 or better.
8. **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.

9. **Integrity Quiz & Plagiarism requirement:** All students are required to review the George Washington University Code of Academic Integrity and take the quiz within their first semester of study. The Code of Integrity and step-by-step instructions can be found here:
<http://publichealth.gwu.edu/integrity>
10. **Professional Enhancement requirement:** Students must participate in 8 hours per degree program of advisor pre-approved Public Health-related lectures, seminars, and symposia, related to your field of study. Students must submit documentation of Professional Enhancement activities to the Office of Student Records. The documentation consists of the Professional Enhancement Form
<http://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/forms>

**The Department of Global Health
MPH, Humanitarian Health and Disaster Response
Course Mapping Example
2025-2026**

The following are advising tips relating to course sequencing:

- All full-time students must take PUBH 6400 Global Health Frameworks, PUBH 6021 Leading Self and Teams in Public Health PUBH 6480 Public Health in Complex Emergencies, and PUBH 6003 Principles and Practice of Epidemiology during their first fall semester. These are prerequisites to many required and elective courses.

The Humanitarian Health and Disaster Response program contains a total of 5 elective credits that must be chosen from the list of elective courses provided in the program guide or approved by your advisor. Elective courses are often offered once per year, so students should plan which courses to take in advance. The ‘Elective Course(s)’ credits listed in the below course maps indicate the suggested distribution of these elective credits, but students can choose to distribute them however they feel fit. Students are advised to work with their advisor when deciding on electives.

Proposed course map 1: Allowing students to complete the program in 5 semesters.

1 st year Fall		1 st year Spring		1 st year Summer	
	Credits		Credits		Credits
6480 Public Health in Complex Emergencies	2	6011 Environmental and Biological Foundations of Public Health	3	6009 Fundamentals of Program Evaluation	2
6400 Global Health Frameworks	2	6412 Global Health Quantitative Research Methods	3	6003 Principles and Practice of Epidemiology	3
6467 Accountability & Ethics in Humanitarian and Disaster Settings	3	6464 Mental Health in Humanitarian Settings (Selective)	1	Elective course	3
6002 Biostatistical Applications for Public Health	3	6462 Nutrition and Food in Large Humanitarian Emergencies	1		
6021 Essentials of Public Health Leadership and Practice I	1	6007 Social and Behavioral Approaches to Public Health	2		
6416 Ethical and Cultural Issues in GH Research & Programs	1	6012 Fundamentals of Health Policy	2		
Total semester credits	12	Total semester credits	12	Total semester credits	8
2 nd year fall		2 nd year spring		2 nd year Summer	
6478 Health System Quality Measurement in Global Health (selective)	2	6419 Culminating Experience Part II	1	Students often opt to work on their Culminating Experience over the summer	
6465 Reproductive Health and Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Settings (Selective)	1	6023 Interprofessional Education Experience	0		
6132 WASH/Disaster Relief Management and Development (Selective)	2				
6410 Global Health Study Design	1				
6492 Global Health Programs and Control of Chronic Diseases (Selective)	2				
6022 Essentials of Public Health Practice and Leadership II	1				
6468 Prep & Response to Epi, Pandemic, Mass Health Emergency, and Disasters	2				
6418 Culminating Experience Part I	1				
** Eligible to do your MPH APEX (PUBH 6000)					
Total semester credits	12	Total semester credits	1		

Proposed course map 2: Slower speed, allowing students to continue into their second summer. Most students will probably follow this.

1 st year Fall		1 st year Spring		1 st year Summer	
	Credits		Credits		Credits
6480 Public Health in Complex Emergencies	2	6007 Social and Behavioral Approaches to Public Health	2	6011 Environmental and Biological Foundations of Public Health	3
6400 Global Health Frameworks	2	6012 Fundamentals of Health Policy	2	Elective(s)	2
6002 Biostatistical Applications for Public Health	3	6412 GH Quantitative Research Methods	3	6003 Principles and Practice of Epidemiology	3
6467 Accountability & Ethics in Humanitarian and Disaster Settings	3	6462 Nutrition and Food in Large Humanitarian Emergencies	1		
6021 Essentials of Public Health Practice and Leadership I	1	6464 Mental Health in Humanitarian Settings (Selective)	1		
		6416 Ethical and Cultural Issues in GH Research and Programs	1		
Total semester credits	11	Total semester credits	10	Total semester credits	7
2 nd year Fall		2 nd year Spring		2 nd year Summer	
6492 Global Health Programs and Control of Chronic Diseases (Selective)	2	6418 Culminating Experience Part I	1	6023 Interprofessional Education Experience	0
6478 Health System Quality Measurement in Global Health (selective)	2	6009 Fundamentals of Public Health Program Evaluation	2	6419 Culminating Experience Part II	1
6465 Reproductive Health and Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Settings (Selective)	1	Elective(s)	1		
6022 Essentials of Public Health Practice and Leadership II	1	6132 WASH/Disaster Relief Management and Development (Selective)	2		
6468 Prep & Response to Epidemic, Pandemic, Mass Health Emergency, and Disasters	2	**Eligible to do your MPH APEX (PUBH 6000)			
6410 Global Health Study Design	1				
Total semester credits	9	Total semester credits	6	Total semester credits	1