

Program Director

Elizabeth Andrade, DrPH, MPH

Associate Professor

Tel: 202-994-3577

Email: elandrade@gwu.edu

Department of Prevention and Community Health

950 New Hampshire Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20052

Mission Statement

The mission of the Master of Public Health degree in Health Promotion at the Milken Institute School of Public Health at The George Washington University is to train students to enhance and protect the health of the public. The program is designed to assist individuals to become responsible and productive public health professionals who are capable of assessing, implementing, managing and evaluating health promotion and health education programs for the public and for at-risk populations. The required courses as well as the suggested electives are intended to train students in social and behavioral approaches and applications for improving public health using interventions at the individual, group, organizational and societal level.

Goals

The goals of this educational program are to provide and improve:

- ◆ Knowledge of and ability to use social and behavioral theory and behavior change models and strategies that have been shown to be successful in improving health behaviors and practices for a variety of populations.
- ◆ Knowledge and skills to assess needs for health interventions for the general public as well as at-risk populations.
- ◆ Ability to plan, design, implement, evaluate and communicate programs and research targeted toward health promotion and/or disease prevention for the public.
- ◆ Ability to advocate for improvements in social practices, policy and law that will provide supportive environments for the improvement of public health.
- ◆ Utilization of structures and resources of organizations and governments to create healthy environments that promote health.

Competencies

The competencies for the Health Promotion Program are based on the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) competencies in social and behavioral health, as well as the National Health Educator Competencies that students need to qualify at the master's level as certified health education specialists (CHES) which are recognized by the Society for Public Health Education. Upon Completion of the Health Promotion Program should possess the following five functional competencies:

1. **Assess the socioecological, psychosocial, and behavioral health needs of communities and populations.** (PUBH 6500, PUBH 6503, PUBH6504)
2. **Develop and plan health promotion strategies and programs that are theory-based, evidence-informed, and culturally appropriate.** (PUBH 6500, PUBH 6503)
3. **Implement, administer, and manage health promotion programs.** (PUBH 6500 PUBH 6501)
4. **Evaluate health promotion programs.** (PUBH 6500, PUBH 6501, PUBH 6504, PUBH 6530)
5. **Use qualitative and quantitative research to inform the design of health promotion strategies and programs.** (PUBH 6504, PUBH 6530)

Course Requirements

All Milken Institute School of Public Health (SPH) MPH students who select the Health Promotion Program enroll in MPH Core Courses (15 credits), Program-Specific Required Courses (14 credits) and Electives (14 credits). The 45 total credit requirement includes a 2-credit capstone experience (PUBH 6015 *Culminating Experience*) in which students demonstrate their mastery of their training in health promotion.

As an accredited School of Public Health, students in all GWSPH MPH programs are also required to fulfill both an interprofessional team experience and an applied practice experience. GWSPH has incorporated these requirements into the curriculum as follows:

Interprofessional Education (IPE) Experience:

- Following (or simultaneous to) enrollment in PUBH 6021 *Essentials in Public Health Practice & Leadership 1: Leading Self and Teams* (1-credit), students will be required to select an IPE experience from a host of options provided throughout your enrollment as a MPH student to participate in a one-time, case-based or activity-based learning experience. 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.

Applied Practice Experience (Practicum):

- The applied practice experience allows each student to individually demonstrate attainment of public health competencies. Information about the Practicum will be introduced in PUBH 6021 so students may begin planning for their practice experience. Detailed information and an introduction to the necessary tools will be provided by department staff and faculty. Students are required to fulfill all requirements of the 120-hour Practicum experience to receive credit for PUBH 6000.

<div>Milken Institute School of Public Health</div> <div>THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY</div>		<div>Master of Public Health Health Promotion Program</div> <div>Program-at-a-Glance</div> <div>2025-2026</div>	
Plan your Applied Practice Experience by the end of Year 1 and Complete your Culminating Experience during Year 2			
Required Core Course (15 credits)		Credits	Semester Offered
PUBH 6000	MPH Applied Practice Experience	0	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6002	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6003	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6007*	Social and Behavioral Approaches to Public Health	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6011	Environmental and Biological Foundations of Public Health	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6012	Fundamentals of Health Policy	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6021	Essentials of Public Health Practice & Leadership 1	1	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6022	Essentials of Public Health Practice & Leadership 2	1	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6023	Interprofessional Education Experience	0	Fall, Spring, Summer
Required Program-Specific Courses		Credits	Semester Offered
PUBH 6500	Planning and Implementation of Health Promotion Programs (Prerequisite: PUBH 6007)	3	Fall, Spring
PUBH 6501	Evaluation of Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Programs (Prerequisites: PUBH 6007 and PUBH 6500)	3	Fall, Spring
PUBH 6503	Introduction to Public Health Communication and Marketing	3	Fall, Spring
PUBH 6504	Social & Behavioral Science Research Methods (Prerequisites: PUBH 6002 and PUBH 6007)	3	Fall, Spring
PUBH 6530	Qualitative Methods in Health Promotion	2	Spring
Total	Required Program-Specific Credits	14	
Electives (14 credits) – some examples below; any graduate-level PUBH course		Credits	Semester(s) Offered
PUBH 6508	Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Health Promotion Interventions	3	Summer
PUBH 6514	Preventing Health Disparities	2	Fall, Spring
PUBH 6534	Community-Based Participatory Research	2	Spring
PUBH 6535	Promotion of Mental Health	2	Fall
PUBH 6552	Women’s Health	2	Fall, Spring
PUBH 6553	Adolescent Health	2	Spring
PUBH 6555	Reproductive Health: U.S. and Global Perspectives	2	Spring
PUBH 6560	School Health and Safety	2	Summer
PUBH 6563	Global Child Health	2	Fall, Spring
PUBH 6571	Social Marketing: Theory and Practice	3	Summer
PUBH 6572	Marketing Research for Public Health	3	Spring, Summer
PUBH 6599	Topics in PCH. Recommended topics courses include Culture and Health; Dissemination and Implementation Science; and Social Isolation, Loneliness, and Public Health	1-3	Fall, Spring, Summer
Culminating Experience (2 credits)		Credits	Semester Offered
PUBH 6015.17	Culminating Experience	2	See Advisor
Course Distribution		Credits	
Public Health Core		15	
Required Program-Specific Courses		14	
Electives		14	
Culminating Experience		2	
Total Degree Credits		45	

MPH 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. **Practicum Requirement:** Students are required to fulfill all requirements of the Applied Practice Experience (Practicum).
4. **Interprofessional Education Experience:** Students are required to enroll and participate in an authorized IPE activity (PUBH 6023).
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 Public Health-related lectures, seminars, and symposia, related to your field of study. Professional Enhancement activities supplement the academic curriculum and help prepare students to participate actively in the professional community. Opportunities for professional enhancement are regularly publicized via the Milken Institute SPH Listserv and through your department or advisor. 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> (which includes a prior approval signature from the student's advisor, a description of the program agenda, and proof of attendance. Remember to submit your documentation before you apply to graduate!