

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics

GW Undergraduate Students

Minor in Bioinformatics 2025-2026

Background

The Minor in Bioinformatics requires 18 credits. Upon successful completion of all requirements, the title of Minor and the courses taken in support of the Field are entered on the student's transcript.

Program Director

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Overview

The Milken Institute School of Public Health (SPH) offers the Minor in Bioinformatics. [Bioinformatics](#) is an interdisciplinary minor offering focused training that integrates concepts in health, biology, statistics, and computer science. The program develops and integrates skills across the core competency areas in bioinformatics, including computation, biology, statistics/mathematics, and foundational knowledge in bioinformatics. The Bioinformatics Minor consists of at least 18 credits (12 credits of required public health courses and six (6) credits of bioinformatics related elective courses). Students who complete this program enhance their core undergraduate program to add significant additional skills that aid in entry to the top graduate programs in bioinformatics and computational biology in the world, leading professional schools (including public health, law school, medical school, or dental school), or employment in public health, biotechnology, pharmaceutical, or software development companies.

Admissions Requirements

Applicants must have a 2.8 cumulative GPA or above.

To Add or Drop a Minor and to Change the Original Program of Study

Please see the GWSPH Undergraduate Advisor or Program Director for information, to drop the minor, assistance in the selection of the elective course, and any amendment to the courses on the original program of study.

GWSPH will not process requests to add a Minor in Bioinformatics during the registration period. To add the minor please complete this form: <https://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/gwsph-undergraduate-declaration-form>

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.

Prerequisite Coursework

| Required Course | Prerequisite(s) |
|------------------------|--|
| PUBH 3201 | This course assumes a basic knowledge of biology (equivalent to BISC 1112, BISC 1116, or PUBH 2110). |
| PUBH 3202/4201 | BISC 1111/1115 or 1112/1116, or equivalent |
| PUBH 4202 | PUBH 4201 or equivalent (programming) |

Required Bioinformatics Courses

Take all four courses - 12 credits

| Courses | Credits | Title |
|----------------|----------------|--|
| PUBH 3201 | 3 | Introduction to Bioinformatics |
| PUBH 3202 | 3 | Introduction to Genomics |
| PUBH 4201 | 3 | Practical Computing (or CSCI 1012 or CSCI 1121 or CSCI 1131) |
| PUBH 4202 | 3 | Bioinformatics Algorithms and Data Structures (or CSCI 1112) |

Approved Bioinformatics Elective Courses

Students may fulfill the elective requirement (6 credits) by taking any course on the Approved Bioinformatics Elective Course List shown below. Any course not on this list requires written approval by the Program Director in advance.

| Courses | Credits | Course Title |
|----------------|----------------|---|
| ANTH 2406 | 3 | Human Evolutionary Genetics |
| BISC 2207 | 3 | Genetics |
| BISC 3209 | 3 | Molecular Biology |
| BME 2820 | 3 | Biomedical Engineering Programming I |
| BME 2825 | 3 | Biomedical Engineering Programming II |
| BME 3820 | 4 | Principles and Practice of Biomedical Engineering |
| CHEM 3165 | 3 | Biochemistry I |
| CHEM 3166 | 3 | Biochemistry II |
| CSCI 3212 | 4 | Algorithms |
| CSCI 4364 | 3 | Machine Learning |
| EMSE 3760 | 3 | Discrete Systems Simulation |
| EMSE 3850 | 3 | Quantitative Models in Systems Engineering |
| EMSE 4765 | 3 | Data Analysis for Engineers & Scientists |
| MATH 3359 | 3 | Introduction to Mathematical Modeling |
| MATH 3553 | 3 | Introduction to Numerical Analysis |
| MATH 3613 | 3 | Introduction to Combinatorics |
| MATH 3730 | 3 | Computability Theory |
| MATH 3740 | 3 | Computational Complexity |
| PUBH 3131 | 3 | Epidemiology: Measuring Health and Disease |
| PUBH 3151(W) | 3 | Current Issues in Bioethics |
| PUBH 4199 | 1-3 | Undergraduate Independent Study |
| PUBH 6859 | 3 | High Performance and Cloud Computing |
| PUBH 3242 | 3 | Health Data Visualization |
| STAT 2183W | 3 | Intermediate Statistics Lab/Packages |
| STAT 3119 | 3 | Analysis of Variance |
| STAT 3187 | 3 | Introduction to Sampling |
| STAT 4157 | 3 | Introduction to Mathematical Statistics I |

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|-----------|-----------------|---|
| STAT 4188 | 3 | Nonparametric Statistics Inference |
| STAT 4189 | 3 | Mathematical Probability and Applications I |
| PUBH 3995 | Up to 3 credits | Undergraduate Research |
| CSCI 4366 | 3 | Neural Networks and Deep Learning |
| CSCI 4511 | 3 | Artificial Intelligence Algorithms |
| BISC 4234 | 3 | Microbial Genomics Laboratory |
| STAT 4158 | 3 | Introduction to Mathematical Statistics II |
| STAT 4181 | 3 | Applied Time Series Analysis |