

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Milken Institute School of Public Health GW Undergraduate Students

Minor in Public Health 2025-2026

Program Director

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Minor in Public Health

The George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health (GWSPH) offers a Minor in Public Health. The Public Health Minor introduces students to various public health topics, such as health epidemiology, health management, health policy, health behavior, environmental and occupational health, and global health. The Public Health Minor comprises 18 credits (9 credits of required public health courses and 9 credits of public health guided elective courses). The minor provides a strong foundation in public health in preparation for professional schools, including law school, medical school, and graduate programs for physician assistants, allied health professionals, public health, and healthcare administration.

Admissions Requirements: 2.75 cumulative GPA or higher

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

Please see an Undergraduate Academic Advisor for information, assistance selecting elective courses, and to amend the planned coursework listed on the original program of study submitted to the student's home school (*note: students whose home school is GWSPH are not required to submit a planned program of study to declare the public health minor*). GWSPH will not process requests to add a minor in November or April. To declare the Public Health minor, complete the declaration form found [here](#).

Prerequisite Coursework

<u>Required Course</u>	<u>Prerequisite(s)</u>
PUBH 3131	PUBH 2142 – Introduction to Biostatistics for Public Health (<i>preferred – will count as a public health minor elective</i>) OR STAT 1051, 1053, 1111, or 1127, DNSC 2001, or APSC 3115

Required Courses (9 credits)

Course	Credits	Title
PUBH 1101	3	Introduction to Public Health and Health Services
PUBH 3131	3	Epidemiology – <i>see prerequisites</i>
PUBH 3133	3	Global Health and Development (<i>Juniors and Seniors only</i>)

Elective Courses – 9 credits

Students may fulfill the elective requirement by taking any PUBH course (excluding PUBH 1010: First-Year Experience in Public Health and PUBH 4140W: Senior Seminar) or any course on the Public Health Guided Electives List (Appendix A). Students in the Public Health Minor may apply **up to 3 elective**

credits from approved Study Abroad and non-GW courses toward their minor if they comply with all applicable rules regarding courses taken at institutions outside of GW.

Policies

1. Public health minors may not double-count any required or elective course for another major, minor, or concentration as a public health minor elective course.
2. Public health minors may double-count required courses toward another major, minor, or concentration if the other program allows it.
3. EXNS/PUBH 3995/PUBH 4199: BSPH minors may apply up to 3 total credits of Undergraduate Research (PUBH 3995 and EXNS 3995) and/or Independent Study (PUBH 4199) toward their minor elective requirement. Students must take these courses for a letter grade.
4. Students must earn a C- or higher in all courses required for the minor (core and elective) to graduate with a Public Health minor.
5. Students are responsible for reviewing and understanding the policies and requirements as outlined in the Undergraduate Handbook, available under “Undergraduate Resources” here: <https://publichealth.gwu.edu/content/services-students> and in the University Bulletin, available here: www.gwu.edu/~bulletin/.

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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: Twenty-First Century Brave New Worlds	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)	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
ECON 3148	Health Economics	3

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 2048W</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
HONR 2048W	Self and Society Seminar – Epidemics in American History topic <i>only</i> (<i>same course as HIST 3301W and AMST 4701W</i>)	3

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

IAFF 3190	Special Topics in International Affairs (Global Mental Health: Policy, Practice, and Research <i>only</i>)	3
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MANAGEMENT

MGT 4085	Social Entrepreneurship	3
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MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE

MLS 4085	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	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	Proseminar: Political Science (Healthcare Policy)	3

PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC 3126/3126W	Multicultural Psychology	3
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PSYC 3128	Health Psychology	3
PSYC 3173	Community Psychology	3
PSYC 3199	Substance Abuse and Addictions	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 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	1-6
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 3093	Topics in Sustainability (Gender and Sustainable Development <i>only</i>)	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 Public Health Minors may apply up to 3 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 public health minor guided elective requirement.