Milken Institute School of Public Health
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

BS in Public Health/MPH
Dual Degree Program
2025-2026

BSPH/MPH PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Elizabeth Gray
950 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Office 613
Washington, DC 20052 eagray@email.gwu.edu
202-994-4163

BACKGROUND
The George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health (SPH) offers a unique opportunity to a select group of students who not only demonstrate academic excellence, but also demonstrate a strong commitment to public health. The Milken Institute SPH will accept a small number of outstanding students each year to the BS in Public Health/MPH program. Applicants may apply to any of the MPH programs. As an incentive to move beyond the traditional undergraduate curriculum, SPH offers participants the opportunity to complete both the BS and MPH degrees more efficiently than if the degrees were completed separately. This dual degree program strives to matriculate public health leaders who are committed to life-long learning and to improving the health and well-being of our local, national, and international communities. This is an appropriate program for pre-professional students who are interested in public health issues.

The BS/MPH program is a multi-level, dual-degree program, meaning that students are concurrently enrolled in one undergraduate program and one graduate program, and that degrees will be awarded in different semesters.

ADMISSIONS
Office of Admissions and Recruitment
950 New Hampshire Avenue, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20052
Phone: 202-994-2160
Email: GWSPHadmit@gwu.edu

Admissions Requirements
Students apply directly to any residential MPH program of interest. Students may apply to the MPH programs the summer immediately after earning 60 credits toward their undergraduate degree (inclusive of AP/IB/Dual Enrollment and externally transferred credits), completing 4 full-time semesters of undergraduate education (not including semesters of college coursework taken prior to high school graduation), or both.

Applications are due June 1st. Incomplete or late applications will **not** be considered.

Students must have declared a major in Public Health before applying to the BS/MPH dual degree program. However, students do not have to declare Milken as their home school to apply to the BS/MPH dual degree program. To be considered for admission to the BS/MPH program, students must:

- Have completed PUBH 1101 with a grade of C- or better, and
- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.3

Students in the BS/MPH in Public Health program are **provisionally admitted**. Admission is conditional upon earning a grade of **B** or higher in PUBH 6002, 6003, 6007, and 6011 and earning a grade of **P** in PUBH 6021 (if the student takes these courses while still completing their BSPH degree). Students who take but do not obtain a grade of B or higher in PUBH 6002, 6003, 6007, and/or 6011 and/or a P in PUBH 6021 will remain a BSPH major, but may not be eligible to continue in the BS/MPH dual degree program. The decision whether the student may continue with the BS/MPH program resides with the MPH program that admitted the student. Departments may also rescind admission into the MPH program if a student is placed on probation or suspended before completing their BSPH degree. Students must remain a public health major and graduate with their bachelor's degree to remain a BS/MPH student.

It is **strongly** recommended that students receive guidance about the dual degree program before applying. Students may receive guidance from the BS/MPH Programs Academic Advisor. In the event the BS/MPH Programs Academic Advisor position is vacant or the advisor is on leave, students may receive guidance from the BSPH/MPH Program Director, Elizabeth Gray (eagray@gwu.edu). Please email Professor Gray to schedule an appointment to discuss the program.

The link to the online application form will open at least four weeks prior to the admission deadline on the Milken Undergraduate Resources Blackboard page. A complete application includes:

1. A personal statement (up to 1000 words);
    a. The personal statement should explain how you became interested in the MPH program to which you are applying; the contribution you hope to make to your field; and how you believe GW's program will help you reach your career goals. If there is anything unusual in your transcripts or resume that you wish to explain to the admissions committee, please include this information in your personal statement.
2. Two BS/MPH evaluation forms completed by faculty, internship supervisors, and/or research supervisors (the link to this form is included in the application materials but is completed and submitted separately);
3. Your resume;
4. Your unofficial transcript from Banner that must include all of the spring semester grades earned immediately prior to applying (Admissions will cross-check it against an official copy);
5. Students applying to the Department of Epidemiology **must** have completed MATH 1220 or higher **OR** STAT 1051, 1053, 1127 or higher;
6. Students applying to the Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics **must** have earned a B or better in Calculus I (MATH 1220 or 1231) or more advanced math.
7. GRE scores, if you choose to submit them. *(GRE or other standardized test scores are not required for admission. However, applicants may submit standardized test scores if they feel that including this information will enhance their application).*

No student is considered to have declared a BS/MPH until this process is completed and the student has received, and returned signed, the letter of acceptance from the GWSPH Office of Recruitment and Admissions. Thereafter, students receive guidance from the BS/MPH Programs Academic Advisor (or, in their absence, from the BSPH/MPH Program Director) **and their MPH program faculty advisor**. Students follow the MPH curriculum in effect the academic year that immediately follows their acceptance into the BS/MPH program (i.e., a student accepted into an MPH program in July 2023 is subject to the 2023-2024 program guide for that MPH program) while following the BSPH curriculum

effective the year they matriculated into the BSPH program. The student, with the assistance of the BSPH/MPH Program Director and the BS/MPH Programs Academic Advisor, is responsible for managing their undergraduate degree requirements and the five crossover graduate courses. The student will work with their MPH faculty advisor to plan their graduate degree coursework beyond the crossover courses.

BS/MPH GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

1. **Total Credit Requirement**. 120 credits are required for the BSPH degree, which includes 12 crossover credits from the MPH core; an additional 33 graduate credits are required for the MPH degree. At least 51% of the credits students enroll in each semester during their undergraduate studies **must be undergraduate credits (i.e., courses numbered 1000-4999)**. This is a requirement for undergraduate tuition, financial aid (merit and need-based loans and scholarships), undergraduate housing, and undergraduate status at the university.
2. **Course Requirements**. Successful completion of the undergraduate public health program is required for the BS degree, and completion of the remaining MPH core courses and the program-specific courses are required for the MPH degree.
3. **Grade Point Requirement**. A 3.0 (B average) overall grade point average is required for graduate courses. This is separate from the requirement that BS/MPH students must earn a B or better in their MPH crossover coursework (PUBH 6002, 6003, 6007, 6011, and 6021 for BSPH/MPH students) to remain in the BS/MPH program.
4. **Time Limit Requirement**. The MPH portion of the degree must be completed within 5 years of acceptance into the MPH program.
5. **Leave of Absence Policy:** BS/MPH students may take a one semester (fall or spring) leave of absence upon graduating from the undergraduate program and before fully matriculating into the MPH portion of the program. Students must contact their academic advisor in order to take a leave of absence.
6. **Transfer Credit Policy**. In accordance with undergraduate and graduate established policies.
7. **Comply with policies and procedures** as outlined in the University and SPH requirements. After completing the BSPH degree, students will follow all graduate policies outlined in the University Bulletin and the SPH Student Handbook. Pay particular attention to:
    a. The SPH requirements to complete human research training (CITI training) and maintain that certification through both the BSPH degree and the MPH degree programs; and
    b. To complete 16 total hours of advisor-approved, public health-related professional enhancement activities (8 hours ***before*** completing the BSPH and ***another*** 8 hours before completing the MPH), and to pass the Academic Integrity Quiz.

PREREQUISITE REQUIREMENTS

Please note that these are prerequisites for required core courses, rather than prerequisites to apply to the program.

Required Course	**Prerequisite (s) – Must earn a C- or better in each prerequisite before taking the Required Course**
PUBH 2110	BISC 1005*, 1006*, 1007*, 1008*, 1111*, 1112*, or HONR 1033: Biology-related topic*
PUBH 6007	PUBH 1101 – Introduction to Public Health and Health Services
PUBH 3130	• PUBH 1101 – Introduction to Public Health and Health Services, AND • ECON 1011 – Principles of Economics I* (Microeconomics) or ACCY 2001 – Introduction to Financial Accounting or BADM 3501 – Financial Management and Markets ***Restricted to Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors***
PUBH 3133	***Restricted to Juniors and Seniors***

PUBH 3135W	PUBH 1101 – Introduction to Public Health and Health Services ***Restricted to Juniors and Seniors***
PUBH 4140W	• PUBH 2110, • PUBH 6007 (or PUBH 2112), • PUBH 6002 (or PUBH 2142), • Research Methods Selective course (1 course from a list pre-approved by the BSPH Program Director) • PUBH 6003 (or PUBH 3131), • PUBH 3130, • PUBH 3135W, AND • PUBH 6011 (or PUBH 3132), AND/OR PUBH 3133. • ***Restricted to Seniors in their last semester only***
PUBH 6003	While not a pre-requisite, it is **strongly** recommended that students take PUBH 6002 (or PUBH 2142) ***prior*** to enrolling in PUBH 6003

*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.

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION

BS in Public Health/MPH Credit Distribution Chart	
Category	**Credits**
BS General Education Requirements	22-24
BS Public Health Core Course Requirements (includes 12 graduate crossover credits)	34
BSPH Guided Electives	12
BS Additional Electives	51-52
BS Total Credits	120
MPH Total Credits (does not include 12 graduate crossover credits taken during BSPH)	33
BS/MPH Total Credits (120 BSPH credits plus 33 MPH credits = 153 total credits)	**153**

BS Public Health Core Course Requirements and Graduate Substitutions		
Public Health Core Courses (22 credits)		
Required Courses	**Credits**	**Title**
PUBH 1010	1	First-Year Experience in Public Health
PUBH 1101	3	Introduction to Public Health and Health Services
PUBH 2110	3	Public Health Biology
PUBH 2140^	3	Research Methods Foundations
PUBH 3130	3	Health Services Management and Economics
PUBH 3133	3	Global Health and Development
PUBH 3135W	3	Health Policy
PUBH 4140W	3	Senior Seminar
^Additional research methods courses approved in advance by the BSPH Program Director		
	22	***Total Undergraduate Core Credits***
Graduate Substitutions/Crossover Credits from the MPH Core (12 credits)		
MPH Core Course	**Credits**	**Course Title/Explanation for Substitution**
PUBH 6007	2	Social and Behavioral Approaches to Public Health (replaces

		PUBH 2112: Principles of Health Education and Health Promotion [3 credits] in the BS Public Health core)
PUBH 6002**, □	3	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health (replaces *PUBH 2142: Introduction to Biostatistics for Public Health* [3 credits] in the BS Public Health core)
PUBH 6003	3	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology (replaces *PUBH 3131: Epidemiology* [3 credits] in the BS Public Health core)
PUBH 6011	3	Principles of Environmental Health Sciences (replaces *PUBH 3132: Health and Environment* [3 credits] in the BS Public Health core)
PUBH 6021	1	Essentials of Public Health Practice and Leadership 1 (applies as a BS Public Health elective credit)
	12	***Total Graduate Crossover Credits***
	34	**TOTAL CORE PUBLIC HEALTH CREDITS**

**Students should, but are not required to, take PUBH 6002 before taking PUBH 6003.

□ Students in the MPH – Biostatistics Program DO NOT take PUBH 6002. Instead, these students will take PUBH 6850: Introduction to SAS for Public Health Research (1 cr), PUBH 6851: Introduction to R for Public Health Research (1 cr), and PUBH 6852: Introduction to Python for Public Health Research (1 cr) in a Fall semester. These three courses replace PUBH 2142 only for MPH – Biostatistics students.

MPH Core Course Requirements (beyond the crossover courses)*			
Begin Planning Your Practicum after Completing the First Half of Your Program (i.e., 22-23 MPH credits completed)			
Required Core Course		**Credits**	**Semester Offered**
PUBH 6000	MPH Applied Practice Experience (Practicum)	0	Summer, Fall, Spring
PUBH 6009**	Fundamentals of Program Evaluation	2	Summer I, Fall, Spring
PUBH 6012	Fundamentals of Health Policy	2	Summer, Fall, Spring
PUBH 6022	Essentials of Public Health Practice and Leadership 2	1	Summer I, Fall, Spring
PUBH 6023	Interprofessional Education Experience (IPE)	0	Summer, Fall, Spring
PUBH 6XXX	Culminating Experience/Capstone	2	See Advisor
Total		**7**	

*Students cannot take PUBH 6000, 6023, or the Culminating Experience/Capstone course before completing the BSPH degree and matriculating to the MPH program. Students can and are encouraged to take any other courses in the MPH core, program core, or program electives once admitted to the BSPH/MPH program and while still completing undergraduate requirements. However, graduate-level credits beyond the 12 credits of specified crossover BSPH/MPH coursework will be counted toward EITHER the undergraduate 120-credit requirement for graduation or the 33-credit requirement for the MPH degree, but CANNOT be counted toward both.

** Students in the following MPH programs take PUBH 6501 instead of PUBH 6009: Community-Oriented Primary Care; Global Health Program Design, Monitoring & Evaluation; Health Promotion; Maternal & Child Health; and Public Health Communication & Marketing only.

WAIVE AND REPLACE AND COURSE SUBSTITUTION POLICIES

- BSPH/MPH students should take PUBH 6007. If a BS/MPH student takes PUBH 2112, they will also need to take PUBH 6007 at some point during their MPH program, but would not be able to earn BSPH credit for it.
- BSPH/MPH students should take PUBH 6011. If a BS/MPH student takes PUBH 3132, they will also need to take PUBH 6011 at some point during their MPH program, but would not be able to earn

BSPH credit for it.

- BSPH/MPH students who receive an A or A- in PUBH 3135W (Health Policy) may, with their MPH faculty advisor's approval, waive PUBH 6012. Students MUST replace PUBH 6012 with 2 credits of pre-approved graduate elective (note that neither of these 2 elective credits may be counted toward the BSPH degree).
- BSPH/MPH students who take PUBH 3131 (Epidemiology) and receive a B or better in it may, with their MPH faculty advisor's approval, waive PUBH 6003. Students MUST replace PUBH 6003 with 3 credits of pre-approved graduate electives.
- BSPH/MPH students who take PUBH 2142 (Introduction to Biostatistics) and receive an A or A- in it may, with their MPH faculty advisor's approval, waive PUBH 6002. Students MUST replace PUBH 6002 with 3 credits of pre-approved graduate electives.

To waive and replace a course, students must work with their MPH faculty advisor to complete a graduate records petition (found here: https://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/forms under "Graduate Degree Forms") AFTER they have fully matriculated into the MPH program. **This form cannot be processed until after the student has graduated from the BSPH program.**

For MPH program guides and course descriptions, please go to this website: https://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/programs/masters. Please refer to the relevant MPH Program Guide for your program-specific curricular and graduation requirements.
Students are responsible for reviewing and understanding the policies and requirements as outlined in the Undergraduate and Graduate Handbooks available under "Undergraduate Resources" and "Graduate Resources" (respectively) here: https://publichealth.gwu.edu/content/services-students and in the University Bulletin, available here: www.gwu.edu/~bulletin/.