

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



GWSPH Undergraduate Student Handbook

2025-2026

The GWSPH Undergraduate Student Handbook

The Undergraduate Student Handbook serves as a repository for policies and procedures that govern The Milken Institute School of Public Health (GWSPH) at The George Washington University (GW) and students' academic rights and responsibilities. This handbook applies to all undergraduate students in the GWSPH, including all majors and minors. Students are expected to be knowledgeable about these policies and procedures. In addition, the handbook provides information and references about GWSPH and its academic programs.

The Undergraduate Student Handbook is secondary to the [University Bulletin](#), a complete source of university-wide information. Information in this handbook is accurate as of August 25, 2025. The university and GWSPH reserve the right to change courses, programs, and fees, or to make other administrative and policy/procedure changes deemed necessary or desirable, giving advance notice of these changes when possible.

This handbook is updated on an annual basis and can be found on the [Milken Institute School of Public Health Website](#).

The George Washington University does not unlawfully discriminate against any person on any basis prohibited by federal law, the District of Columbia Human Rights Act, or other applicable law, including without limitation, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic information, pregnancy, or familial or marital status. This policy covers all programs, services, policies, and procedures of the university, including admission to education programs and employment.

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Glossary

AP	Advanced Placement
ASPPH	Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
BA	Bachelor of Arts
BS	Bachelor of Science
CAHME	Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education
CAP	GW Counseling and Psychological Services
CASCE	Council on Accreditation of Strength and Conditioning Education
CEPH	Council on Education for Public Health
CESA	Conflict Education and Student Accountability
CHES	Certified Health Education Specialist
CISNN	Certified Sports Nutritionist from the International Society of Sports Nutrition
CITI	Collaborative IRB Training Initiative
CPH	Certified Public Health
CSCS	Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist
CSPS	Certified Special Population Specialist
DBB	Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics
D.C.	Washington, D.C.; District of Columbia
DrPH	Doctor of Public Health
DrPH@GW	Online Doctor of Public Health
EOH	Department of Environmental and Occupational Health
EPI	Department of Epidemiology
EXNS	Department of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences
F	Fail grade
FACHCA	Fellow of the American College of Health Care Administrators
FACHE	Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives
GenEd	University General Education
GH	Department of Global Health
GPA	Grade-Point Average
GW or GWU	The George Washington University
GWPD	The George Washington University Policy Department
GWSPH	The Milken Institute School of Public Health
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996
HPM	Department of Health Policy and Management
I	Incomplete grade
IB	International Baccalaureate
IPG	In Progress grade
ISO	GW International Services Office
LOA	Leave of Absence

LSPA	Lifestyle, Sport, and Physical Activity
MCHES	Master Certified Health Education Specialist
MHA	Master of Health Administration
MHA@GW	Online Master of Health Administration
MPH	Master of Public Health
MPH@GW	Online Master of Public Health
MS	Master of Science
MSCHE	Middle States Commission on Higher Education
NSCA-CPT	Certified Personal Trainer
OAPH	Office of Applied Public Health
OIE	Office of Inclusive Excellence
ORE	Office of Research Excellence
OSA	Office of Student Affairs
OSS	Office of Student Success
PCH	Department of Prevention and Community Health
PE	Professional Enhancement
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
PHSA	Public Health Student Association
RTF Classic	Registration Transaction Form-Classic
RTF-EZ	Registration Transaction Form-EZ
SAP	Satisfactory Academic Progress
SELF	GWSPH Student Emergency Loan Fund
SIT	School for International Training
SOPHAS	Schools of Public Health Application Service
TSAC-F	Tactical Strength and Conditioning
UHP	Urban Health Program
VTSC	Virginia Science and Technology Campus
Z	Unauthorized withdrawal grade

The Milken Institute School of Public Health

The Milken Institute School of Public Health (GWSPH) is committed to excellence in scholarship to advance the health of the populations of our local, national, and global communities. Our mission is to advance population health, wellbeing, and social justice locally, nationally, and globally by applying public health knowledge to enhance policy, practice, and management; conducting rigorous, basic, applied, and translational research; and educating the next generation of public health leaders, policy makers, practitioners, scientists, advocates, and managers. Through our core values of scholarship, leadership, scientific rigor, and policy analysis, we aim to foster the next generation of thought leaders, practitioners, policy makers, and scientists who will transform public health worldwide especially for underserved populations. To learn about the school's history, mission and vision visit the school's [website](#).

Location

950 New Hampshire Avenue NW | Washington, D.C. 20052
Phone: 202-994-7400 | Fax: 202-994-3773

[Interactive Map](#) of GW Foggy Bottom Campus

School Leadership

950 New Hampshire Avenue NW | 7th Floor | Washington, D.C. 20052
Phone: 202-994-5179 | Fax: 202-994-3773

School Leadership	
Lynn R. Goldman , MD, MS, MPH Michael and Lori Milken Dean of Public Health goldmanl@gwu.edu 202-994-5179 <i>As of October 1, 2025</i> Kelly A. Gebo, MD, MPH Michael and Lori Milken Dean of Public Health	Natasha Kazeem , MBA Executive Associate Dean, Operations and Chief Operating Officer nnathan@gwu.edu 202-994-5667

School Leadership	
Jane Hyatt Thorpe , JD Senior Associate Dean for Academic, Student, and Faculty Affairs jthorpe@gwu.edu 202-994-4183	Christopher Mores , ScD, SM Interim Senior Associate Dean for Research and Innovation Professor, Department of Global Health cmores@gwu.edu 202-994-0981
Sara Wilensky , PhD, JD Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs wilensky@gwu.edu 202-994-4126	Lorien Abrams , ScD, MA Associate Dean for PhD/MS Programs lorien@gwu.edu 202-994-3518
George Gray , PhD, MS Associate Dean for MPH Programs gmgray@gwu.edu 202-994-7793	Gene Migliaccio , DrPH, MPH Associate Dean for Applied Public Health geno@gwu.edu
Sarah Crozier , MA Executive Director of Communications and Marketing sarah.crozier@gwu.edu 303-868-9600	Heather Renault Assistant Dean for Student Services hrenault@gwu.edu 202-994-0554
Monica Partsch Assistant Dean for Faculty Affairs and Program Development mpartsch@gwu.edu 202-994-7418	Andrew Wiss , PhD, EdM Assistant Dean for Academic Innovation awiss@gwu.edu
Diana Paulraj , MAM Managing Director of Finance and Administration dpaulraj@gwu.edu 202-994-2330	

Refer to the [leadership section](#) of the school's website for information on the GWSPH Deans. Information regarding GWSPH [faculty biographies and contact information](#) is available online. Any GW student or employee can be looked up by name in the [GW Directory](#).

Academic Departments & Programs

GWSPH offers Bachelor of Science degrees in four majors: Exercise Science, Health Data Science, Nutrition, and Public Health. Students in each major choose one of several concentrations. Additionally, the school offers several minors and dual degree programs.

- Academic departments
 - [Biostatistics and Bioinformatics](#)
 - [Environmental and Occupational Health](#)
 - [Epidemiology](#)
 - [Exercise and Nutrition Sciences](#)
 - [Global Health](#)
 - [Health Policy and Management](#)
 - [Prevention and Community Health](#)
- Undergraduate programs
 - Majors
 - [Exercise Science](#)
 - No Concentration
 - Pre-Athletic Training/Sports Medicine Concentration
 - Pre-Medical Concentration
 - Pre-Physical Therapy Concentration
 - Strength and Conditioning Concentration
 - [Health Data Science](#)
 - No Concentration
 - Pre-Medical Professional Concentration
 - [Nutrition](#)
 - No Concentration
 - Nutrition Science Concentration
 - Pre-Medical Professional Concentration
 - Applied Nutrition Concentration
 - [Public Health](#)
 - No Concentration
 - Pre-Medical Professional Concentration
 - Pre-Health Professional Concentration
 - Minors
 - [Bioinformatics](#)
 - [Exercise Science](#)
 - [Nutrition](#)
 - [Public Health](#)
 - Dual Degree
 - Open to GWSPH Students
 - [BS in Health Data Science to MS in Health Data Science](#)

- [BS in Nutrition to any Residential or Online MPH](#)
- [BS in Public Health to any Residential or Online MPH](#)
- Open to Non-GWSPH Students
 - [Any BS or BA to MPH in Global Environmental Health or Environmental Health Science and Policy](#)
 - [Any BS to MS in Health Data Science](#)

Accreditation

GW is accredited by the [Middle States Commission on Higher Education](#) (MSCHE). Its accreditation was reaffirmed in 2018. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2026-2027. The school is accredited by the [Council on Education for Public Health](#) (CEPH) until 2031. The Masters of Health Administration programs are accredited by the [Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education](#) (CAHME). The Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science with a concentration in Strength and Conditioning received its inaugural accreditation from the [Council on Accreditation of Strength and Conditioning Education](#) (CASCE) in 2025. GWSPH is a member of the [Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health](#) (ASPPH). For more information, students should visit the school's [website](#).

Administrative Offices

Visit [administrative offices](#) for more information.

Student Affairs

950 New Hampshire Avenue NW | 2nd floor | Washington, D.C. 20052
 Phone: 202-994-0822 | Email: gwsphosa@gwu.edu

The [Office of Student Affairs](#) (OSA) provides information and services to GWSPH students. The OSA staff strives to promote quality services by being available, resourceful, respectful of students' needs, fair and consistent with GWSPH policies and procedures, culturally competent, and responsive to faculty and student feedback. Official petitions and other administrative activities are finalized in the OSA (including any administrative action indicating the need for "Dean's office" sign-off). The OSA is the first stop for students needing support, assistance, and advice on GWSPH matters. The OSA includes Admissions, Career Development, Student Financial Services, and Student Records. Although email documentation is preferred, there is a physical OSA mailbox located on the second-floor reception area.

The OSA handles a variety of administrative functions for students including, but not limited to:

- Student services and advisement on GWSPH policies and procedures
- GWSPH forms and publications

- GWSPH international student forms and requirements
- Registration for restricted courses
- Course evaluations
- Questions regarding GWSPH special events (e.g., orientations, Public Health Week, career fairs, Commencement, and school celebration ceremony)
- GWSPH course schedules, course caps, rooms, etc.
- GWSPH listserv subscriptions and questions
- Student organizations' needs such as classroom reservations

Admissions

Undergraduate Admissions

University Student Center | 800 21st Street NW | Suite 100 | Washington, D.C. 20052
Phone: 202-994-6040 | Email: gwadm@gwu.edu

First-year admissions is processed through the [GW Office of Undergraduate Admissions](#). Students may be admitted directly into the GWSPH undergraduate programs. Students may also apply to change majors and enter GWSPH after acceptance to the university. Admission to GWSPH minors varies by program; more information on admission to the minors can be found [here](#).

Dual Degree Program Admissions

950 New Hampshire Avenue NW | 2nd floor | Washington, D.C. 20052
Phone: 202-994-2160 | Email: gwsphadmit@gwu.edu

The [GWSPH Office of Admissions and Enrollment](#) manages enrollment for the dual degree programs. Dual degree programs allow students to earn their undergraduate and master's degree in a compressed time frame, with some credit sharing.

Students interested in dual degree programs apply while they are still earning their undergraduate degrees.¹ For more information on the dual degree opportunities, students should review the [dual degree page](#) and speak with their academic advisors.

¹ Timeline for application varies by graduate degree program. At the earliest, students may apply at the end of the spring semester of their sophomore year.

Student Financial Services

University Student Center | 800 21st Street NW | Ground Floor | Washington, D.C. 20052
Phone: 202-994-6620 | Fax: 202-994-0906 | Email: finaid@gwu.edu

The [GW Office of Student Financial Assistance](#) handles all inquiries related to undergraduate student financial assistance. Policies related to financial assistance can be found [here](#).

The [GW Student Accounts Office](#) provides detailed information about student bills, payment options, and tuition rates. Students may request an itemized statement for employer reimbursement from the GW Student Accounts Office.

Emergency Loan Funding

The [University Student Emergency Loan Fund](#) (USELF) is available to qualified students managing unexpected expenses. Funding from the fund has a zero percent interest rate if repaid within 45 days. Students may borrow only once per semester. Students should contact the [GWSPH Student Financial Services](#) for more information.

Career Services

University Student Center | 800 21st Street NW | Suite 505 | Washington, D.C. 20052
Phone: 202-994-6495 | Email: gwcareercenter@gwu.edu

The [GW Center for Career Services](#) is dedicated to providing the tools, resources, and recommendations needed to help students and alumni confidently navigate the career management life cycle. The Center for Career Services empowers students and alumni to translate their world-class academic and co-curricular experiences at GW to a lifetime of productive and engaged citizenship. The Center for Career Services provides specialized career coaching and resources for undergraduate degree-seeking students, undergraduate alumni, and international exchange students.

The Center for Career Services provides exceptional services and resources for all GW students including:

- Immediate and long-term career goal setting
- Career exploration and assessment
- Resume and cover letter revisions
- Personal statement revisions
- Job search and networking strategies
- Mock interviews (e.g., jobs, academic admissions)
- Compensation package negotiation
- Employer and alumni networking events

[Handshake](#) is GW's virtual career platform. On Handshake, students and alumni schedule career counseling appointments, seek jobs and internships, and register for career services events.

Student Records

950 New Hampshire Avenue NW | 2nd floor | Washington, D.C. 20052
Phone: 202-994-7400 | Email: gwsphrecords@gwu.edu

The essential role of the [GWSPH Office of Student Records](#) is to provide students and faculty with guidance and administrative support as it pertains to students' academic records. In addition, the GWSPH office acts as a liaison on behalf of students with offices across the university.

The Office of Student Records assists students with the following:

- Assisting with course registration (e.g., adding, dropping, withdrawing, restricted courses) and [GWeb Information System](#)
- Clearing students for graduation
- Filing a [records petition](#)
- Registering for a [leave of absence or Continuous Enrollment](#)
- Documenting the completion of [Academic Integrity Quiz](#), [CITI Training](#), and [Professional Enhancement hours](#)
- Processing [half-time/full-time certification](#) requests
- Updating [DegreeMAP](#)
- Processing [academic forms](#)

Academic Advising

950 New Hampshire Avenue NW | 2nd floor | Washington, D.C. 20052
Email: sphundergrad@gwu.edu

Each undergraduate student is assigned an [academic advisor](#) who assists with academic counseling in areas ranging from understanding university requirements to finding campus resources to help individual students connect with the GW community. It is important for students to communicate with their advisor for many reasons including, but not limited to:

- Curriculum changes
- Selection of electives
- Academic progress
- Preparation for graduation

Effective Fall 2025, all undergraduate students will be assigned to one of two advising teams, Team Buff or Team Blue. Advising team assignments are typically determined by last name,

with some exceptions for students in special programs. Each team is supported by two professional advisors, and students may book appointments with either advisor on their team. Assigned team and advisors are also available in [DegreeMAP](#).

Team Blue	Team Buff
Last name of A to J Dual degree students	Last name of K to Z
Adam Greczkowski agreczkowski@gwu.edu Malika Hook Muhammad mahmuhammad@gwu.edu	Kyle Strobel kylestobel@gwu.edu Ann Rich richa@gwu.edu

[DegreeMAP](#) is GW's online advising tool for use by students, advisors, and the Office of the Registrar to clear students for graduation. Students are responsible for meeting all degree requirements and may use DegreeMAP for planning and verifying these graduation requirements. DegreeMAP is available through the [GWeb Information System](#).

For the most current advising and scheduling information, students should refer to the Milken Undergraduate Student Resources page in [Blackboard](#) (under the Organizations tab).

If at any time, program requirements or expectations are unclear, students should contact their academic advisor and review the [University Bulletin](#).

Office of Applied Public Health

950 New Hampshire Avenue NW | 7th floor | Washington, D.C. 20052
Email: sphprac@gwu.edu

The [Office of Applied Public Health](#) (OAPH) is the central and dedicated resource that facilitates student access to practice-based education, research, and service to strategically enhance and develop professional skills and competencies in contribution to the public health workforce. The office supports academic public health practice by building mutually beneficial relationships with communities, non-profit organizations, and healthcare and government agencies. OAPH is dedicated to practice-based education that convenes faculty, staff, students, and communities to advance social justice through reciprocal partnerships to influence local, national, and global health practice.

Through student practicums and programs such as [D.C. Metro Urban Health Program](#), OAPH:

- Provides a dedicated environment for school-wide public health practice where students enhance their skills and competencies through experiential-learning and community engagement, informing their sense of responsibility to contribute to the public health workforce.
- Trains students to be influential leaders through opportunities that enhance practice, scholarship and service-learning to address the public health needs of the local, national and global communities.

- Affords students the opportunity to translate skills learned in their coursework into real-world practice through meaningful and reciprocal service-learning partnerships with communities in the nation's capital.

Office of Inclusive Excellence

950 New Hampshire Avenue NW | 7th floor | Washington, D.C. 20052

The [Office of Inclusive Excellence](#) (OIE) leads the charge in fostering a diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible community for students, faculty, and staff. At GWSPH, inclusion means creating a working and learning environment where each person can participate fully to achieve success and is valued for their distinctive skills and capabilities. OIE aims to create and nurture an environment in which all members of the school community are treated equitably, contribute fully to the mission, and embrace and model the school's values.

Grounded in a commitment to addressing health disparities and systemic inequities, OIE strives to create a culture of belonging where all voices are heard, respected, and valued. Building and sustaining healthier communities through a diverse public health workforce is crucial, and rigorous research and diverse perspectives create the next generation of public health leaders. Through education, advocacy, and innovation, GWSPH empowers individuals to thrive and equips public health leaders to advance equity on a global scale.

Office of Research Excellence

950 New Hampshire Avenue NW | 7th floor | Washington, D.C. 20052

Email: GWSPHResearch@gwu.edu

The [Office of Research Excellence](#) (ORE) is dedicated to supporting the research efforts of faculty, staff, and students within GWSPH. The ORE serves the school and its departments in different ways by offering strategic research expertise and support for various research-related functions while catalyzing research productivity. It is responsible for research coordination, compliance with applicable regulations and institutional policies, research integrity and training, research communication, contracting and enhancement, and providing service to advance research and discovery by faculty, students, staff, and individuals affiliated with GWSPH.

Policies & Procedures

This section summarizes many important policies and procedures that will help students successfully navigate their way while enrolled in a GWSPH program. Students should also review all GWSPH and university policies listed in the [University Bulletin](#).

Academic Calendar

Current [on-campus academic calendar](#)

Credits & Courses

Adding, Dropping, & Withdrawing from Courses

The [GW Office of the Registrar](#) helps to facilitate the registration process by providing a variety of resources for students such as instructions on how to register for classes through the [GWeb Information System](#), the registration schedule for each upcoming semester, information on waitlists, instructions for resolving holds, withdrawal and refund information, and details on ROTC and Consortium registration.

Students should meet with their academic advisor before registering. Students are encouraged to register as early as possible, as some courses fill quickly. Students may apply up to 3 credits of Lifestyle, Sport, and Physical Activity (LSPA) courses towards their 120 academic credits.

For course registration purposes, an undergraduate student becomes a sophomore upon completion of 30 credits, a junior upon completion of 60 credits, and a senior upon completion of 90 credits.

A [Registration Step-by-Step guide](#) is available to assist students with the [GWeb Information System](#). Students should regularly check the [University Schedule of Classes](#) to ensure they have the most up-to-date list of available courses.

The Registrar sets [deadlines](#) by which students can add, drop, and withdraw from classes. The [course refund policy](#) is available through the GW Student Accounts Office.

Some courses require advisor approval, and a [Registration Transaction Form](#) to register. If a student has difficulty contacting their advisor or has other questions prior to enrollment, they may contact the [OSA](#). Students may add, drop, or withdraw courses:

- Online through the [GWeb Information System](#).
- Using the [Registration Transaction Form-EZ](#) (RTF-EZ) which requires the signature of the course instructor.

- Using the [Registration Transaction Form-Classic](#) (RTF Classic) which requires the approval of an academic advisor.
- Submitting a [petition](#), along with substantial supporting documentation, to their academic advisor for course withdrawal consideration. Submission of a petition does not guarantee approval.

Failure to withdraw by the stated deadlines can result in an extended financial obligation and the recording of a grade of *F* (Fail) or a notation of *Z* (Unauthorized Withdrawal). Students wishing to withdraw from all courses in a semester/term should see the policy and procedure on the [Student Accounts Office website](#). In circumstances that make satisfactory academic progress difficult or impossible, students may request a [late withdrawal](#).

If a student wishes to withdraw from the university entirely, they should follow the [undergraduate withdrawal process](#). The university is authorized to award the degree of Associate in General Studies under designated circumstances. This degree may be awarded to students in good standing who must leave GW after completing 60 credits in residence in a degree-granting GW school; students should consult their academic advisor about additional requirements for awarding of the Associate in General Studies.

Continuous Enrollment

Continuous Enrollment² (0 credits) is used when a student is engaged in and appropriately registered for activities with the prior approval of the school in which the student is enrolled. These activities include: cooperative work semester, study away program, attendance at another institution with prior approval to have work transferred back to the GW program, completion of outstanding work in courses in which a grade of *I* or *IPG* was received, or non-course instructional activities unique to the particular school. During summer session, a student only needs to register for Continuous Enrollment if planning to meet their final graduation requirements in the summer (and therefore graduate). All other students are not required to maintain enrollment during the summer session. This status is generally limited to one year.

Double Counting

Students pursuing a second major can double-count up to three courses for a maximum of 10 credits toward their BS core requirements or guided electives. Students with a declared GWSPH major who pursue a minor can double-count up to two courses for a maximum of 7 credits. Students can also double-count GWSPH 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:

² UNIV 0981 Continuous Enrollment (0 credits)

- Double-counting across GWSPH programs—Students who pursue a double major in two GWSPH programs can double-count one additional course, for a maximum of 13 credits. GWSPH majors can similarly share three courses for a maximum of 10 credits with a GWSPH minor.
- BS in nutrition, minor in food leadership—Students pursuing a minor in food leadership can 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 can be double-counted.

Electives

Guided electives are pre-approved electives specific to each major. Students may only take guided electives from the list of pre-approved courses, unless advanced written approval has been obtained. To seek approval for a course, students should complete an Undergraduate Course Petition, available in [Blackboard](#). Students can access the most up-to-date list of approved guided electives in their program guide.

General electives can be any GW undergraduate course (including up to 3 credits of LSPA courses).

General Education Requirements

Undergraduate students are required to enroll in approved [University General Education](#) (GenEd) courses in the areas of written communication, critical or creative analysis in the humanities, critical or quantitative analysis in the social sciences, quantitative reasoning, and scientific reasoning. Students should refer to their program guides for recommended and required GenEd courses.

Transferring Credits

GWSPH students follow the Registrar's centralized [undergraduate transfer credit policies](#). Students should carefully review these policies as transfer approval is not guaranteed. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with their academic advisor to discuss any planned transfers and determine which courses fulfill degree requirements. This is particularly important for students seeking to register for any coursework outside of the program of study.

Generally, undergraduate students may transfer credits that meet the equivalency of prerequisite courses, guided electives, and general electives. Students may not transfer in credits as core course equivalents in any GWSPH major or minor. Any course eligible for transfer must be reviewed and approved by the equivalent courses' department. Students seeking to transfer credits equivalent to ECON 1011 or other economics course must follow the [process outlined by the Department of Economics](#).

Field Experience

Field experience is an opportunity for students to observe professionals and apply what they are learning in the classroom to professional settings. Students in the Exercise Science major are required to complete a minimum of 2 credits of EXNS 3110 Field Experience.³ This [practice experience](#) requires 50 hours of on-site work per enrolled credit, with a minimum of 100 hours and a maximum of 200 hours completed at each site. All experiences must be approved prior to hours being counted. Eligibility for field experience begins once a student is in junior standing, has started EXNS 3311 Exercise Physiology I, and has attended an information meeting. Students should reach out to the Field Experience Director, Michelle Stevens, at mmstevens@gwu.edu for more information.

Independent Study

Independent studies provide students with opportunities to gain or enhance field-specific knowledge. To enroll in an independent study course, a student must first develop an independent study project plan, which details the project, timeline, and grading elements. Independent study plans must be approved *prior* to the beginning of the semester by the faculty instructor (supervisor), the student's program director, the instructor's department chair, and dean of student affairs. Absent exceptional circumstances, independent study projects may not be used as a substitute for an available required or elective course and may not cover substantially the same subject matter that is available in a required or elective course. To register for an independent study, the student must submit their approved independent study project plan, contractual agreement for course completion, and [petition](#) to [Student Records](#). Additional information, including credit limitations, is available in the [University Bulletin](#).

Study Abroad & Study Away

GWSPH students interested in studying abroad must adhere to all university rules, available on the [GW Global website](#) and [University Bulletin](#). The distinction between study abroad and study away is available on the [GW Global website](#).

Eligibility criteria include, but are not limited to: having a 2.0 GPA at the time of application and having completed 45 credits prior to departure. Some restrictions exist in terms of how study abroad credits apply to a GWSPH major or minor:

- Majors may apply no more than 9 guided elective credits from an approved study abroad or non-GW programs.

³ Students in the Strength and Conditioning concentration are required to complete more than 2 credits.

- Minors may apply no more than 3 guided elective credits from approved study abroad or non-GW programs.

Students may apply any additional study abroad credits towards another program or their general electives. In general, no major core requirements are permitted to be taken abroad, as all major core requirements must be completed at GW. At the discretion of the program director, Public Health majors pursuing study abroad through the School for International Training (SIT) may be eligible to complete their Research Methods and/or their Global Health and Development requirements while abroad. Eligible students may only count a total of 9 credits of study abroad coursework towards their major, and should factor this into their academic planning.

Undergraduate Research

Students who are interested in signing up for an undergraduate research class should reach out to their academic advisor for course requirements and process. Additional information, including credit limitations, is available in the [University Bulletin](#).

Degree Completion

Students who fail to make adequate and timely progress toward the completion of their degree (including declared major), through repeated leaves of absence or repeated failure to complete an appropriate number of credits per semester may be suspended or required to pursue an alternative major. Students suspended on these grounds can apply for [readmission](#) after supplying sufficient evidence of academic promise.

Students who pursue an alternative major within GWSPH are required to meet with their academic advisor and develop a plan to complete degree and major requirements in a timely manner. Students who pursue an alternative major outside of GWSPH, must transfer majors and speak with advisors of the new major. Additional information is available in the [University Bulletin](#).

The chart below outlines the maximum time to degree completion for each degree level.

Degree Level	Maximum Time to Degree
Bachelor (BS)	6 years
Graduate Certificate	2 years
Masters (MS, MPH, MHA)	5 years
Doctoral (DrPH, PhD)	7 years

Dual Degrees

Students interested in any of the dual degree programs offered at GWSPH should speak to their academic advisor to learn more. By enrolling in a dual degree program, undergraduate students are able to take graduate coursework and have it applied to their undergraduate and graduate degree requirements. Once enrolled students complete their undergraduate degree requirements, they earn their BS and transition into a graduate student to finish their graduate degree requirements. It is important to note that these dual degree programs are not five-year programs. The time it takes to complete the graduate degree requirements depends on a student's course load and sequencing, and when the student is admitted.

Financing

Prior to the award of an undergraduate degree, dual degree students are eligible only for undergraduate financial assistance. Undergraduate tuition terms remain in effect for full-time dual degree students while completing their undergraduate degree. To retain eligibility for undergraduate federal and institutional financial aid, the number of graduate courses for which an undergraduate student is registered in any given semester or summer session must be less than half of their total course load. Students must be enrolled in 51% undergraduate credits each term of the undergraduate degree.

After completion of their undergraduate degree, dual degree students will pay the graduate rate on a per-credit basis. Once matriculated into the graduate program, dual degree students are eligible to apply for need-based graduate support and tuition discounts through the [Grad2Grad program](#). Dual degree students are not eligible for graduate merit scholarships through GWSPH.

For assistance with financing dual degrees, students should reach out to [Student Financial Services](#).

Exceptions

A student who wishes to request an exception to university or school policies and procedures, or a change in program of study, must file a petition and be approved. All required forms and petitions can be accessed via the [GWSPH Undergraduate Advising Blackboard Resource page](#) and submitted via the [Undergraduate Box Submission page](#). The petition will be processed electronically by appropriate faculty and/or staff before being returned to the student with a decision. These petitions may be used to:

- [Waive and replace](#) a required course
- Register for [Continuous Enrollment](#)
- [Transfer credits](#)

- Extend the [time limit](#) for graduation
- Request a [leave of absence](#)
- [Withdraw](#) from a course after the deadline

Grades

The undergraduate grading system is available on the [University Bulletin](#).

Students in all GWSPH majors and minors must earn a minimum grade of C- in all major and minor courses, including prerequisites for core and elective courses. No more than four courses may be taken *Pass/No Pass*. Some classes are not eligible to be taken *Pass/No Pass*.

Grade of I

At the discretion of the instructor, the symbol I (Incomplete) may be recorded if a student, for reasons beyond their control, is unable to complete the work of the course during the term of enrollment. The student must provide the instructor with a satisfactory explanation for their inability to complete the required work of the course during the semester of enrollment. The instructor must be informed of and accept such reasons before the date when final grades are reported. A grade of I should be considered only if the following are true:

- The student has kept up with the class and has substantially completed the coursework for the class.
- The student is passing the course at the time of the request (e.g., satisfactory in terms of coursework completed and attendance).
- The student has adequate reasons for asking for a grade of I.
- The student would not need to essentially re-take the course (e.g., student would not need to "sit in" in the course in future terms).
- The faculty for the course is able to see the student through the remaining coursework or a representative from the department is willing to oversee the work.

To finalize the approval of the I grade, both the instructor and student must complete the [Incomplete Grade Contract](#) before the last day of the semester/term. Incomplete work must be completed by a date agreed upon by the student and the instructor, which should be no more than one calendar year from the end of the term in which the student registered for the course. It is recommended that work be completed by the end of the term following the term in which the incomplete grade was issued. The final grade earned will replace the symbol of I on the official transcript. An incomplete that is not changed by the deadline noted in the contract will convert to an F and the GPA and academic standing recalculated accordingly.

A grade of *I* cannot be changed by reregistering for the course at GW or by taking its equivalent elsewhere. Students should meet with their academic advisor to discuss registration while working to finish an incomplete.

Additional information about incompletes is described in the [University Bulletin](#).

Grade of IPG

Students may be assigned the symbol *IPG* (In Progress) for independent study and internship/practicum courses until the course requirements are completely fulfilled. Upon satisfactory completion, the *IPG* grade is replaced by the grade earned; the *IPG* no longer remains on the transcript.

Grade-Point Average

All courses taken for credit after matriculation as a GWSPH student, excluding those audited or taken for the grade of *Pass/No Pass*, are used to calculate the GPA. Courses marked *AU*, *I*, *IPG*, *P*, *NP*, *R*, *RP*, *W*, or *Z* are not considered in determining the GPA. With the exception of Consortium courses, grades in courses taken at other institutions are not considered in computing the GPA.

To graduate from the university, GWSPH undergraduate students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.⁴ Students in the BS in Exercise Science program must earn a minimum GPA of 2.5 in the core curriculum to graduate. Additionally, students must attain grades no lower than *C–* in required major and minor courses (including core courses, elective courses, and any prerequisites for core courses). If a student receives a grade of *D+* or below in any of these courses, they are subject to [repeating courses](#), described below. Students should review the eligibility criteria for graduation, available on the [University Bulletin](#).

Repeating Courses

Undergraduate students may be eligible under the [Academic Forgiveness Policy](#) to repeat courses for which they received a grade of *D+* (1.3) or below. Students should review the policy carefully to understand the eligibility criteria and limitations.

Some courses (e.g., EXNS 3110) specifically state that students may repeat for credit, up to a maximum. In such cases, students may enroll in the course multiple times and count the credits towards their 120-credit requirement. For courses that do not specifically state that repetition for credit is permitted, an undergraduate student may, with permission of the instructor teaching the course in question, repeat for-credit a course in which a grade of *B–* (2.75) or lower

⁴ Students earning a BS in Exercise Science or a BS in Nutrition must earn a minimum GPA of 2.5 to graduate.

was received. For these courses, only one attempt applies to a student's 120-credit requirements. For example, if a student earns a C- in CHEM 1111 and wishes to retake the course, they may do so with the instructor's approval. However, the original attempt remains on the transcript and moved to the "Not Counted" section of DegreeMAP. Students should review the complete policy on the [University Bulletin](#).

Grievances

All students have the right to file a grievance or appeal a decision. The process varies depending on the type of grievance:

- Accessibility – The university is committed to making its physical and digital spaces accessible and usable to everyone, including people with disabilities. Barriers experienced that affect someone's ability to access GW facilities, services, websites, or other digital content should be [reported](#).
- Disability Policy Grievance Procedure – The [procedures](#) for when an individual wishes to grieve any determination under the [Disability Policy](#).
- Discrimination or Harassment – Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against or harassed based on a protected characteristic(s) defined in and covered by the [Equal Opportunity, Nondiscrimination, Anti-Harassment, and Non-Retaliation Policy](#) may submit reports via a centralized [Discrimination and Harassment Reporting Form](#).
- Academic Decision (including grades) – Each school has an appeal process. The GWSPH policy is described below.
- Privacy – The GW Privacy Office provides online forms to report [data incidents](#) or [privacy concerns](#).
- Research Misconduct – Reports of observed, suspected, or apparent misconduct in research should be submitted to the [Research Integrity Officer](#).
- Sexual Harassment – The [Title IX Office](#) responds to reports of sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, dating and/or domestic violence, and provides supportive measures to individuals affected by these issues.
- Student Behavior – [Reports of alleged student misconduct](#) (including academic dishonesty but excluding Title IX-related matters) can be submitted to Conflict Education and Student Accountability.

Academic Grievance

A student may appeal an academic decision if they have cause to believe there has been an error in grading, inequity in the application of policies stated in the course syllabus, or arbitrary or capricious academic evaluation. Dissatisfaction with a grade is not grounds for an appeal.

Phase I: Informal Resolution

The student should first seek an acceptable resolution on an informal basis, prior to filing a formal appeal. This informal resolution discussion must occur within the first 30 calendar days of the start of the next term.

To begin the process, the student should seek an acceptable resolution with the instructor/course director. If a satisfactory result has not been reached after the student has discussed the academic issue with the instructor/course director, the student should consult with the student's program director. If no resolution is reached with the program director, the student should contact the associate dean for undergraduate education. In cases where the course instructor is the program director or the program director is the associate dean for undergraduate education, the student may contact the next level in the program leadership, up to and including the senior associate dean for academic, student, and faculty affairs. If no resolution has been reached with the program director and/or department chair, the student may consult with the senior associate dean for academic, student, and faculty affairs (senior associate dean, *hereafter*).

If no resolution is reached as a result of these informal attempts, the student may consider filing a formal appeal with the senior associate dean.

Phase II: Initiating a Formal Appeal

A formal academic appeal will trigger a thorough review and could result in the student's grade remaining the same, being raised, or being lowered in the event the review determines that an error benefited the student.

1. To initiate the appeal process, the student must submit, in writing, a formal appeal letter with the following information to the dean within the first 60 calendar days from the start of the next term:
 - a. Description of the reason(s) for requesting an appeal
 - b. Detailed description of the timeline of events
 - c. Statement explaining the resolution sought by the student
 - d. The course syllabus and any documents relevant to the appeal
2. The senior associate dean will convene a group of three impartial faculty members from the GWSPH Student Academic Appeals Committee to review the student's appeal. This group will not include committee members from the instructor's department.

3. The senior associate dean must then notify the instructor of the appeal and provide a copy of the formal request. The committee will have two weeks to review the materials before meeting separately with the instructor and the student. The instructor and student will have the opportunity to make additional comments and answer questions from the committee.
4. The committee will deliberate and communicate its decision to the senior associate dean in a written report. The senior associate dean will convey the outcome to the student and the faculty member. **The committee's decision is final.**
5. If the committee finds in favor of the instructor's initial decision, there is no further appeal, except on procedural grounds. The student may request the senior associate dean to review the procedural aspects of the case, if applicable. Requests for review must be submitted in writing, including an explanation of the basis for the appeal, within 10 days after the committee report has been provided to the student.
6. If the senior associate dean concludes that procedural violations have occurred, then they may remand the case to the department or program for a re-hearing or may take other steps to afford the student an appropriate remedy.
7. All appeals must be resolved no later than the end of the term following the term in which the course was taken and the original grade was awarded. If the committee has not reported the outcome of the appeal process by the end of the semester/term, then the appeal will go directly to the senior associate dean to settle.

Honors & Awards

Students may be eligible for a number of university honors or awards, such as Dean's List, Latin Honors, and Special Honors. Complete descriptions of these are available in the [University Bulletin](#).

Honors awarded at the school level are described below:

- Distinguished Scholar for the Milken Institute School of Public Health – Each year, this award is given to a GWSPH graduating senior who has excelled academically and shown commitment to scholarship through participation in research or other academic leadership activities.
- Program-Specific Awards – Each year, these awards are given to GWSPH graduating students who have excelled in their programs.

Undergraduate students may be eligible for entry into national honors societies with local GW chapters including:

- Delta Omega - Public Health majors may be eligible for admission to [Delta Omega](#), the national honors society for studies in public health. Eligibility criteria⁵ and application instructions are available on the [GW chapter webpage](#).
- Phi Beta Kappa - All undergraduate students at GWSPH may be eligible for admission to [Phi Beta Kappa](#), a prestigious national honors society for students in the liberal arts and sciences. Information about eligibility is available on the [GW chapter webpage](#).

Student Rights & Responsibilities

[Conflict Education and Student Accountability](#) (CESA) engages across GW to foster equitable and restorative accountability to community standards through the promotion of individual rights and communal responsibilities, support of community members to identify and repair harm, and growth of community capacity for conflict management.

All students, upon enrolling in and while attending GW, are subject to the [Code of Student Conduct](#), which includes a Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities. This code is the primary document governing non-academic student behavior. It defines prohibited conduct for students and student organizations and sets up a conduct system to address reported violations and preserve student rights.

GWSPH takes academic integrity issues seriously. It is the student's responsibility to review, understand, and comply with GW's [Code of Academic Integrity](#). This code sets the minimum standards for academic student conduct, defines the rights of students charged with an academic disciplinary violation, lists the procedures for resolving academic disciplinary matters, provides guidance for academic disciplinary sanctions, and addresses other issues regarding academic student conduct.

Generative artificial intelligence may only be used in accordance with [university guidelines](#) and course-specific policies.

Student Status

For the purpose of defining student status, undergraduates taking:

- 12 or more credits per semester are considered to be full-time
- 6 to 11 credits per semester are considered to be half-time
- Less than 6 credits per semester are considered to be part-time

⁵ Only Public Health majors are eligible. Students in the Exercise Science, Health Data Science, and Nutrition programs are not eligible.

Undergraduate students are recommended to enroll in 14 to 16 credits each semester to stay on track for graduation. Students should consult with their academic advisor regarding per semester credit registrations to ensure that requirements for financial aid, housing, and scholarships are being met.

Continuous Enrollment Status

Once enrolled in a degree program, students are expected to be registered continuously during all fall and spring semesters, and actively engaged in [fulfilling the requirements of the degree](#). During the summer session, students do not have to be enrolled unless they are graduating during the summer.⁶ Some activities, such as [Study Abroad](#), allow a student to maintain their continuous enrollment status.

Dropping or withdrawing from a course may result in changes to a student's enrollment status. Falling below full-time status may affect financial aid and scholarships, on-campus housing, and academic status. All students, especially international students, athletes, student veterans, and students receiving financial aid, should consult with their academic advisor before adjusting their course load.

Students who fail to maintain their enrollment status will fall out of status; students who fall out of status must apply for [readmission](#) to the applicable program.

Federal and institutional financial aid resources may have separate enrollment requirements. Students should contact [GWSPH Student Financial Services](#) if they have questions.

Leave of Absence

Students who need to interrupt the active pursuit of the degree can petition to take a [Leave of Absence \(LOA\)](#) for a period of no more than one calendar year during the program. Students who discontinue active enrollment in degree studies without being granted a leave of absence, or students who are granted a leave but do not return to active study at the close of the period of approved absence, are no longer considered in active status. Requests are managed on a case-by-case basis. Students registering for a LOA will incur the prevailing registration fee, if applicable, per university policy.

In some cases, students may need to register for Continuous Enrollment⁷ (0 credits) in order to maintain their active enrollment status. Continuous Enrollment differs from LOA in that Continuous Enrollment implies that the student is still studying and making progress towards

⁶ Students graduating during the summer term must register for UNIV 0981 Continuous Enrollment (0 credits) to maintain enrollment status and qualify for graduation.

⁷ UNIV 0981 Continuous Enrollment (0 credits)

their degree completion while LOA means that the student is stepping away momentarily from their studies. Therefore, students on LOA do not have access to school resources (e.g., library, on-campus housing, student loan deferrals, financial aid). Students on LOA have had their [maximum time to degree completion](#) paused (delayed) until they return.

Enrolling at Another School or Institution

Once enrolled at GWSPH, undergraduate students are expected to complete course requirements at GWSPH. However, under limited circumstances, it is permissible to [transfer in credits](#) for coursework completed at another institution. If a student wishes to register concurrently at GW and another institution from which they wish to apply credit toward their GW degree, they must receive approval from their academic advisor in advance and submit a [petition](#). The student and any courses completed are subject to the [GWSPH transfer credit policy](#).

Academic Standing

Students should maintain good academic standing. Undergraduate students are considered in good academic standing if they have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher, and are not suspended or on academic probation.

Alternatives to good academic standing may include academic probation or suspension for poor scholarship. Criteria for academic probation and suspension for poor scholarship are available on the [University Bulletin](#). Students on academic probation must fulfill all probation-related requirements to register for courses. These requirements include, but are not limited to regular meetings with the student's academic advisor and a representative from the [Office of Student Success](#) (OSS). A full-time undergraduate student on academic probation can register for up to 13 credits.

Students who are not in good academic standing will be notified by email, typically at the end of each academic term. Any student seeking to appeal academic decisions with respect to maintenance of good academic standing may do so through the appropriate academic dean (e.g., associate dean of undergraduate education) or program director. Requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Students who have been suspended for poor scholarship or fallen out of active continuous enrollment status (e.g., not registered in a fall or spring semester) may apply for readmission to their program. To be readmitted, the student must submit evidence that suggests the probability of academic success. Students should refer to the [University Bulletin](#) and speak with their academic advisor for more information regarding readmission.

Students suspended twice for poor scholarship will not be readmitted to the university.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Students receiving federal student aid are subject to federal [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#) (SAP) requirements.

Readmission

Students who have been suspended for poor performance or fallen out of active (continuous enrollment) status may apply for readmission to their program. The readmission process varies depending on if the student has been [suspended for poor performance](#) or [fallen out of active \(continuous enrollment\)](#). Regardless, to be readmitted, the student must submit evidence that suggests the probability of academic success.

The deadline for readmission varies by term and is set by the university. Earlier submissions are strongly recommended. Students should not apply for readmission until all account holds have been rectified. If accepted for readmission, students are subject to the regulations and program requirements in effect of the time of re-enrollment.

International Student Status

International students on F-1 or J-1 visas are responsible for enrolling as full-time students (minimum 12 credits for undergraduates) in the spring and fall semesters according to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization rules governing registration requirements for international students.

In certain situations, a reduced workload can be allowed. To request approval for this, students should submit the F-1/J-1 [Request for Reduced Course Load Form](#) to the [GW International Services Office](#) (ISO).

University Policies

The university has a number of [policies](#) and [regulations](#) that students should review on a regular basis.

GWSPH Student Responsibilities

Students are responsible for a number of pre-and post-enrollment activities. The following items require action on the part of the student and should be considered essential in the orientation and acclimation process. To access GW systems, the student should set up their [GW Identity](#).

Once a student has access to the GW system, they should:

Register for Classes

Prior to [registering for classes](#), students should reach out to their [academic advisor](#) and explore the [GWSPH website](#), paying particular attention to their program page and the school's [resource page](#).

Read the Internal Transfer Guide (if applicable)

Students who transition from another college or school at GW to GWSPH will receive a welcome email from the Office of Undergraduate Advising. This message includes instructions for accessing the [Milken Undergraduate Student Resources page](#) in Blackboard, as well as the Internal Transfer Guide. This guide is intended to support internal transfer students as they navigate changes in their degree requirements, policies, and resources.

Students entering GWSPH as a new internal transfer are listed as *Undeclared*. To officially declare a major, students must draft an updated four-year plan and review it with an academic advisor to confirm appropriate course sequencing, prerequisite knowledge, and long-term planning. Failure to declare a major before registration opens will result in a student being ineligible for priority registration, resulting in delays in registration for important core courses. To avoid scheduling issues, students are strongly encouraged to meet with an advisor and process their major declaration as soon as possible.

Explore GW Blackboard

All enrolled undergraduate students at GWSPH have access to [Blackboard](#), the school's learning management system. In addition to courses being accessible on Blackboard, students should also have access to the Milken Undergraduate Student Resources page, which includes information related to policies and procedures. These resources include academic forms and contact information for academic advisors.

Complete Academic Integrity Requirements

All GWSPH students are required to complete the online [GW Academic Integrity Activity](#). This requirement must be completed **within two weeks of starting coursework** at GWSPH.⁸

Read the Weekly Student Newsletter

All enrolled GWSPH students receive a weekly newsletter, sent to their @gwu.edu email address. The Monday newsletter compiles all the important deadlines, events, and announcements for the coming weeks. It is advised that all students read the student newsletter each week to be aware of current events, activities, and updates.

Students may receive additional newsletters from their program and/or department. Students are also welcome to join the GWSPH community listserv, which distributes information on seminars, internships, fellowships, and professional conferences. To join this listserv, students should email Robin Delk (robin3@gwu.edu) from their GW email with "Subscribe to Listserv" in the subject field of the email. In the body of the email, students should write "Please add me to the student listserv."

Complete Human Subjects Research Training Requirements

All GWSPH students are required to complete training regarding human subjects protection regulation and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). To fulfill this requirement, a student must complete the [Collaborative IRB Training Initiative](#) (CITI) course in the protection of human research subjects. All GWSPH students are required to complete the Social and Behavioral Research or the Biomedical Investigator course, which can be found under Human Subjects Research Training. CITI coursework must be completed before the end of their first semester and is a requirement for graduation.

Documentation of completion (certificate) should be emailed to the [GWSPH Office of Student Records](#). Additional training requirements may be required for students who plan to conduct some types of research (e.g., clinical research).

⁸ Students enrolled in PUBH 1010 First-Year Experience in Public Health will complete the GW Academic Integrity Activity during the course as an assignment.

Participate in Professional Enhancement Activities

All degree-seeking students at GWSPH are required to attend a minimum of 8 hours of [professional enhancement](#) (PE) activities during their program.⁹ These activities supplement the academic curriculum and help prepare students to actively participate in the professional community. They also enhance practical knowledge and awareness of public health issues—either in general or in a student’s specific area of study.

Students fulfill this requirement by attending workshops, seminars, live webinars (recorded webinars or meetings do not fulfill this requirement), or other relevant professional meetings. If a student is unsure of whether an activity is appropriate as a PE activity, they should reach out to an advisor to obtain approval at least 48 hours prior to the PE activity. In the inquiry, the student should include information such as the name of the conference and objectives of the activity, so the advisor can determine if the activity is valid for PE credit. Once PE hours are complete, the student should submit their [documentation](#) to the [GWSPH Office of Student Records](#).

Prepare to Graduate

Degrees are awarded three times per year, at the end of spring, summer, and fall semesters. The formal commencement ceremonies occur annually in May and include the Undergraduate Luncheon (on campus), the Milken Institute School of Public Health Celebration (on campus), and University Commencement (on the National Mall).

Students are eligible to graduate after they have completed all degree and non-academic requirements (e.g., CITI training, PE hours), have no financial obligations to the university, and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.¹⁰ The degree designation (i.e., BS, MS, MPH, MHA, DrPH, or PhD) can be used after the student’s name when all degree requirements are completed.

To ensure a smooth graduation process, students should maintain regular communications with their academic advisors, review and complete program requirements in a timely manner, and be responsive to emailed alerts. For more information, students should visit the [GWSPH Graduation website](#). Instructions for the online application for graduation can be found on the [university website](#).

⁹ Programs that require more than 8 hours of PE will detail this requirement on their program guide.

¹⁰ Students earning a BS in Exercise Science or a BS in Nutrition must earn a minimum GPA of 2.5 to graduate.

To earn a bachelor's degree from GWSPH, students must complete a minimum of 120 academic credits and earn a minimum GPA of 2.0.¹¹

University requirements such as residence and university general education are posted to the [University Bulletin](#). School-specific requirements such as [PE hours](#), [Academic Integrity Quiz](#), and [CITI training](#) are detailed in this handbook.

Policies related to double majors, minor(s), and double degrees are available in the [University Bulletin](#).

Prepare for Graduate School

An undergraduate degree from GWSPH prepares students for a wide range of careers and graduate school experiences. GWSPH faculty, advisors, and career counselors are ready to speak with students regarding a variety of graduate school options, such as public health, medicine, nursing, physical therapy, law, policy, international affairs, and business.

Prepare for Medical Professions

The [Pre-Health Advising team](#) assists and supports students as they explore graduate and professional programs in health care. Individuals interested in pursuing a health profession are encouraged to meet with a pre-health advisor to determine prerequisites, consider strengths and areas for opportunity, reflect on readiness to apply, and discuss application timeline, preparation for professional exams, and program choices. Pre-health advisors are well-equipped to offer guidance on the nation's leading medical, dental, physician assistant, nursing, optometry, veterinary, podiatry, chiropractic, pharmacy, physical therapy, and occupational therapy programs.

Prepare for Law School

The [Pre-Law Advising unit](#) assists and supports students as they explore the decision to attend law school and enter a legal career. Individuals interested in pursuing a legal profession are encouraged to meet with a pre-law advisor to determine prerequisites, consider strengths and areas for opportunity, reflect on readiness to apply, and discuss application timeline, preparation for professional exams, and program choices.

¹¹ Students earning a BS in Exercise Science or a BS in Nutrition must earn a minimum GPA of 2.5 to graduate.

Become an Alum

Upon graduation, students join the ranks of accomplished GW alumni. Alumni are automatically granted membership to the [GWSPH Alumni Association](#) and [GW Alumni](#) (university association).

Alumni are encouraged to stay up-to-date on GWSPH events, job opportunities, featured alumni, and other information through the Alumni Newsletter and [GW Public Health LinkedIn page](#). To subscribe to the Alumni Newsletter, students should make sure their [preferred email address](#) is up-to-date. Students will automatically start receiving the Alumni Newsletter after graduation to their listed preferred email address.

GW alumni have lifetime access to career services, discounts and special offers, and learning opportunities. The [Alumni Course Audit Program](#) allows GW alumni the opportunity to attend a wide selection of GW residential courses on a not-for-credit basis for a reduced price. See all benefits and perks on the [university website](#).

Earn Certifications (optional)

The table below highlights some of the accrediting bodies and recommended certifications that may complement students' academic degrees. Students interested in becoming members or certified are encouraged to speak with an academic advisor.

Organization	Certifications
National Board of Public Health Examiners	Certified Public Health (CPH)
National Commission for Health Education Credentialing Inc.	Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES)
American College of Health Care Administrators	Fellow of the American College of Health Care Administrators (FACHCA)
American College of Healthcare Executives	Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE)
National Strength and Conditioning Association	Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS) Certified Special Population Specialist (CSPS) Certified Personal Trainer (NSCA-CPT) Tactical Strength and Conditioning (TSAC-F)

Organization	Certifications
<u>American Council on Exercise</u>	Multiple
<u>International Society of Sports Nutrition</u>	Certified Sports Nutritionist from the International Society of Sports Nutrition (CISSN)
<u>American College of Sports Medicine</u>	Multiple
<u>National Environmental Health Association</u>	Multiple
<u>Board of Certified Safety Professionals</u>	Multiple

Student Life & Other Resources

Counseling & Psychological Services

University Student Center | 800 21st Street, NW | Ground Floor | Washington, D.C. 20052
Phone: 202-994-5300 | Email: counsel@gwu.edu

The [GW Counseling and Psychological Services](#) (CAP) works collaboratively with students to provide compassionate, comprehensive, and inclusive mental health services that foster emotional and personal development. Through counseling, outreach, campus partnerships, and education and training, CAP engages with the entire GW community to promote a campus culture of holistic well-being. CAP counselors provide a safe, non-judgmental and confidential environment for students to discuss concerns, and are committed to respecting and promoting the value of diversity at the university, as well as providing culturally sensitive counseling and psychological services to the GW community.

Student Organizations

[Student organizations](#) provide students with an opportunity to explore interests, sharpen skills, and learn about themselves and others while enhancing the academic mission of the university. GW's 500+ student organizations offer students opportunities to get involved and create community.

T.E.A.M. Milken

Through a variety of programs and opportunities to establish relationships with faculty, staff, and peers, [T.E.A.M. Milken](#) aims to help students succeed personally, professionally, and academically. T.E.A.M. Milken is open to all GWSPH undergraduate majors. T.E.A.M. stands for Transition to GW, Engagement at GW, Academic Success, and Mentoring. All GWSPH students may take part in T.E.A.M. Milken activities, such as the Milken Cookies Social and the Peer Mentoring Program. GWSPH students are encouraged to join the Student Engagement Committee to help plan T.E.A.M. Milken events throughout the year.

Public Health Student Association

The [GW Public Health Student Association](#) (PHSA) comprises current GWSPH graduate and undergraduate students. PHSA organizes community service, networking, social, educational, and professional events. Joining the PHSA is an excellent opportunity for students to develop their interests in public health and to get involved in the D.C. and GW public health communities.

Safety & Security

Academic Center | 801 22nd Street, NW | Washington, D.C. 20052

Emergency Phone: 202-994-6111 | Non-Emergency Phone: 202-994-6110

GWSPH Security Desk | Phone: 202-994-8800

The [GW Police Department](#) (GWPD) provides residential hall security and patrol services to the Foggy Bottom and Mount Vernon campuses and oversees security at the Virginia Science and Technology Campus (VTSC). GWPD also coordinates safety and security for a variety of on-campus special events, including Commencement, Alumni and Families Weekend, and dignitary visits.

For up-to-date safety, security, and university operating status, students should visit the [campus advisories website](#).

University Student Services Offices

Students have access to the following services offered by the university.

- [Academic Resources for Athletes](#)
- [Academic Technologies](#)
- [Center for Interfaith and Spiritual Life](#)
- [GW Center for Career Services](#)
- [Disability Support Services](#)
- [First-Generation Students](#)
- [Gelman Library](#)
- [GW Bookstore](#)
- [GWorld Card Services](#)
- [Himmelfarb Library](#)
- [Information Technology Services](#)
- [International Services Office](#)
- [Multicultural Services](#)
- [Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service](#)
- [Office of Military and Veteran Student Services](#)
- [Printing Services](#)
- [GW Student Financial Assistance](#)
- [Student Health Services](#)
- [Writing Center](#)