

# Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

## Department of Prevention and Community Health

### Master of Public Health Community Health and Prevention Science 2025-2026

Note: All curriculum revisions will be updated immediately on the website  
<http://publichealth.gwu.edu>

#### Program Director

Ana Maria del Rio Gonzalez, PhD  
Associate Professor  
Department of Prevention and Community Health  
950 New Hampshire Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20052  
Phone: 202-994-3801  
Email: [amdelrio@gwu.edu](mailto:amdelrio@gwu.edu)

#### Mission Statement

The mission of the GWSPH MPH program in Community Health and Prevention Science is to train the next generation of public health scholars and practitioners to apply concepts, theories, and methods from the social and behavioral sciences to improve population and community health. Our multidisciplinary faculty train students on the processes by which social-ecological and behavioral factors affect health, and on the design, implementation, and evaluation of programs, policies, and other interventions to eliminate health inequities. Graduates of the program will be prepared to apply their knowledge and skills in leadership positions across a wide range of domestic and international settings.

#### Goals

The goals of the MPH program in Community Health and Prevention Science are:

- To attract applicants and enroll students who are passionate about improving individual, community, and population health and addressing health disparities, and who seek to do so using theory-based, evidence-informed strategies at multiple levels and in a wide range of practice settings.
- To provide students in the program with cohesive, comprehensive, and rigorous training in health-related social and behavioral science concepts and research methods, and in community-engaged approaches to assessing needs and assets and designing, planning, implementing, and evaluating interventions, as delineated in the program competencies.
- To assess students' attainment of the program competencies and provide a credential signaling their preparedness for careers in the social and behavioral aspects of public health at all levels of government and in a wide range of non-governmental organizations.

#### Competencies

Upon completion of the MPH program in Community Health and Prevention Science is, graduates shall possess the following six functional competencies:

1. Describe the multilevel processes by which social-ecological, psychosocial, and behavioral factors affect the health of individuals and populations and produce patterns of health inequity. (PUBH 6510)
2. Identify the procedures for conducting assessments of individual, organizational, and community concerns, assets, and resources, and for translating the results of such assessments into intervention strategies. (PUBH 6510, PUBH 6500)
3. Develop, adapt, and plan interventions at multiple levels that are community-informed and theory- and evidence-based to improve individual, community, and population health. (PUBH 6500)
4. Describe community-engaged approaches for building partnerships, managing health interventions, and disseminating findings across a variety of audiences and settings. (PUBH 6534)
5. Identify and apply evidence-based approaches to the design and conduct of formative, process, and outcome evaluations of health interventions. (PUBH 6501)
6. Apply qualitative, quantitative, or mixed social and behavioral science research methods to address inequities in population and community health. (PUBH 6504, PUBH 6530)

## Course Requirements

All Milken Institute School of Public Health (SPH) MPH students who select the Community Health and Prevention Science program enroll in MPH Core Courses (15 credits), Required Program-Specific Courses (16 credits), and Electives (12 credits). The 45 total credit requirement includes a 2-credit capstone experience (PUBH 6015- *Culminating Experience*) in which students demonstrate their mastery of their training in Community Health and Prevention Science.

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

### Interprofessional Education (IPE) Experience:

- Following (or simultaneous to) enrollment in PUBH 6021 *Essentials in Public Health Practice & Leadership 1: Leading Self and Teams* (1-credit), students will be required to select an IPE experience from a host of options provided throughout your enrollment as an MPH student to participate in a one-time, case-based or activity-based learning experience. The IPE experience is a way to experience working with people from other professions/programs outside of public health. Students will have many opportunities to register for this zero-credit (no fee) IPE 'class' (PUBH 6023- *Interprofessional Education Experience*) and will receive credit upon successful completion.

### Applied Practice Experience (Apex, Practicum):

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

**Master of Public Health  
Community Health and Prevention Science  
2025-2026  
Program-at-a-Glance**

**Semester Offered = on-campus courses, unless otherwise specified; students may take up to 15 credits online  
Plan your Applied Practice Experience by the end of Year 1 and Complete your Culminating Experience during Year 2**

<b>Required Core Course (15 credits)</b>		<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester Offered</b>
PUBH 6000	MPH Applied Practice Experience	0	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6002*	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health	3	Fall, Spring, Summer 10wk
PUBH 6003*	Principles & Practice of Epidemiology	3	Fall, Spring, Summer 10wk
PUBH 6007*	Social & Behavioral Approaches to Public Health	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6011*	Environmental & Biological Foundations of Public Health	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6012*	Fundamentals of Health Policy	2	Fall, Spring, Summer 10wk
PUBH 6021	Essentials of Public Health Practice & Leadership 1	1	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6022	Essentials of Public Health Practice & Leadership 2	1	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6023	Interprofessional Education Experience	0	Fall, Spring, Summer
<b>Required Program-Specific Courses (16 Credits)</b>		<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester Offered</b>
PUBH 6510	Community Health Principles & Practice	3	Fall
PUBH 6500	Planning & Implementation of Health Promotion Programs (Prerequisite: PUBH 6007)	3	Fall, Spring
PUBH 6501	Program Evaluation (Prerequisites: PUBH 6007 and PUBH 6500)	3	Fall, Spring
PUBH 6504	Social & Behavioral Science Research Methods (Prerequisites: PUBH 6002 and PUBH 6007)	3	Fall, Spring
PUBH 6530	Qualitative Methods in Health Promotion	2	Spring
PUBH 6534	Community-Based Participatory Research	2	Spring
<b>Electives (12 credits) – examples below; any graduate-level PUBH course</b>		<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester Offered</b>
PUBH 6503*	Introduction to Public Health Communication and Marketing	3	Fall, Spring
PUBH 6508	Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of HP Interventions	3	Fall, Spring
PUBH 6513	Community Health Leadership and Management	2	Spring
PUBH 6514	Preventing Health Disparities	2	Spring
PUBH 6535	Promotion of Mental Health	2	Fall
PUBH 6560	School Health and Safety	2	Summer
PUBH 6573	Media Advocacy for Public Health	3	Fall
PUBH 6599	Dissemination and Implementation Science	3	Spring
<b>Culminating Experience (2 credits)</b>		<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester Offered</b>
PUBH 6015.XX	Culminating Experience	2	See Advisor
<b>Course Distribution</b>		<b>Credits</b>	
MPH Core		15	
Required Program-Specific Courses		16	
Electives		12	
Culminating Experience		2	
<b>Total Degree Credits</b>		<b>45</b>	

\*Courses offered on campus (residential) and online; students may take up to 15 credits online

Course Descriptions and Registration information can be found on the website: <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/>.

## MPH Graduation Requirements

1. **Graduate Credit Requirement:** 45 graduate credits are required.
2. **Course Requirements:** Successful completion of the Core Courses and the Required Program-Specific Courses are required.
3. **Practicum Requirement:** Students are required to fulfill all requirements of the Applied Practice Experience (Apex, Practicum).
4. **Interprofessional Education Experience:** Students are required to enroll and participate in an authorized IPE activity (PUBH 6023).
5. **Grade Point Requirement:** A 3.0 (B average) program grade point average is required.
6. **Time Limit Requirement:** The degree must be completed within five years.
7. **Transfer Credit Policy:** Up to 12 graduate credits that have not been applied to a previous degree may be transferred to the MPH upon approval. Credits must have been earned from an accredited institution in the last 3 years with a grade point of 3.0 or better.
8. **CITI Training requirement:** All students are required to complete training regarding human subject protection regulation and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). To fulfill this requirement, you must complete the Collaborative IRB Training Initiative (CITI) Course in The Protection of Human Research Subjects.
9. **Integrity Quiz & Plagiarism requirement:** All students are required to review the George Washington University Code of Academic Integrity and take the quiz within their first semester of study. The Code of Integrity and step-by-step instructions can be found here: <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/integrity>
10. **Professional Enhancement Requirement:** Students must participate in 8 hours per degree program of advisor pre-approved Public Health-related lectures, seminars, and symposia, related to your field of study. Professional Enhancement activities supplement the academic curriculum and help prepare students to participate actively in the professional community. Opportunities for professional enhancement are regularly publicized via the Milken Institute SPH Listserv and through your department or advisor. Students must submit documentation of Professional Enhancement activities to the Office of Student Records. The documentation consists of the Professional Enhancement Form <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/forms> (which includes a prior approval signature from the student's advisor, a description of the program agenda, and proof of attendance). Remember to submit your documentation before you apply to graduate.
11. **Online Courses for Community Health and Prevention Science Students:** Students in the Community Health and Prevention Science MPH program are residential students. As such, they may take up to 15 credits from online course offerings during their program. Please plan accordingly so you do not exceed this 15 credit limit. Note, online courses are offered through the 2GW platform (<https://2gw.publichealthonline.gwu.edu/login>) and have different start and end semester dates from residential/on campus courses.

**NOTE: Always see your advisor for course scheduling and sequencing strategies, but remember that proper course selection, fulfilling requirements, and on-time graduation are your responsibilities.**

The Master of Public Health (MPH) curriculum consists of four types of courses:

- Required MPH Core Courses
- Required Program-Specific Courses
- Elective credits
- Required Applied Practice Experience and Culminating Experience

The MPH core courses are designed to provide students with a broad public health context as well as a critical foundation for subsequent coursework. Early completion of these core courses ensures that students will have the base of knowledge to successfully complete the program specific courses and to get as much as possible out of them. As such, entering students are expected to enroll in MPH core courses in accordance with the following guidelines:

- We expect MPH students to complete the MPH core courses in their first year of graduate study (fall/spring/summer) if they are on a schedule to complete their studies in two years.
- Students may take core courses in any order.

Part-time students (who generally take 5 to 7 credits per semester) will typically concentrate on taking just core courses in their first year, and then take required program-specific courses in their second and third years.

In order to help ensure that all students can complete core courses in the first year of study, Milken Institute SPH will offer all core courses during all three semesters (fall, spring, and summer). This will allow students who wish to complete their MPH degree within two years to do so, and will allow every student to make steady progress toward completing the MPH degree.

We recognize that there may be exceptional circumstances that make it difficult for a student to complete core courses in the first year as outlined above. Any such student should discuss this situation with their academic advisor.

For additional information and resources regarding registration, course descriptions, schedule of classes, etc. follow this link: <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics>.