

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Milken Institute School of Public Health Bachelor of Science in Public Health 2026-2027

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

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BACKGROUND

Established in 1997, the George Washington University's Milken Institute School of Public Health (GWSPH) is fully accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). GWSPH offers several undergraduate degrees, minors, and dual degree programs, including, but not limited to, Bachelor of Science degrees in Public Health (with or without a Pre-Medical or Health Professional concentration), Exercise Science (with or without various concentrations), Nutrition (with or without various concentrations), and Health Data Science. To learn more about GWSPH, visit <http://publichealth.gwu.edu>.

MISSION STATEMENT

In the context of a liberal arts and sciences tradition that emphasizes critical thinking, analysis, and synthesis of information, students in the Bachelor of Science in Public Health program will acquire knowledge and skills in the critical components of public health. Students with a pre-medical professional (PMP) or pre-health professional (PHP) concentration will also develop knowledge and skills in areas critical to pursuing a future in healthcare delivery.

VISION

The Bachelor of Science in Public Health program strives to be a leader in the development of undergraduate public health education. The program hopes to matriculate students who will carry forward their public health knowledge and skills into diverse fields of professional practice, including the medical profession. Our students will bring an informed, evidence-based viewpoint to public health issues affecting medical practice and society.

VALUES

While nurturing students' capacity to think analytically and creatively, we strive to deepen their commitment to improving public health and bringing diverse public health viewpoints into their future professions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES IN THE LIBERAL ARTS TRADITION

The Bachelor of Science (BS) in Public Health, founded in the liberal arts tradition often associated with small private colleges, is a respected and proven model for teaching students to assume responsibility for their life-long learning. Liberal arts education has its foundation in both the arts (*trivium*, based on three disciplines: language, logic, and rhetoric) and the sciences (*quadrivium*, based on four disciplines of natural phenomena: arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, and music) as studied in medieval universities. While contemporary arts and sciences programs have expanded well beyond the imagination and expectations of medieval founders, it is within the context of this liberal arts tradition that the BS in Public Health strives to prepare students for progressive independence, maturity, knowledge of the world,

understanding of diverse inhabitants, and respect for differing points of view. Because we intend this degree to include technical detail and analytic skills grounded in a liberal arts philosophical base, it also has the educational objectives of nurturing critical thinking, analysis, and synthesis of information and recognizing the historical and societal associations of current trends in public health and health care delivery. We intend the BS in Public Health with a pre-medical or pre-health concentration to provide students with a major that both achieves the goals of a liberal arts education in public health and provides them with the requisite knowledge and skills to pursue a future in the healthcare delivery professions.

PUBLIC HEALTH CORE COURSE COMPETENCIES

All public health students will achieve competency in the following domains through satisfactory completion of the indicated courses. Upon completion of the Bachelor of Science in Public Health, students will be able to:

1. **Math/Quantitative Reasoning:** Identify and apply the concepts and applications of basic statistics (PUBH 2140, 2142, 3131)
2. **Science:** Address the foundations of biological and life sciences (PUBH 2110, 2112, 3132)
3. **Overview of Public Health:** Address the history and philosophy of public health as well as its core values, concepts, and functions across the globe and in society (PUBH 1010, 1101, 2110, 2112, 2142, 3132, 3133, 4140W)
4. **Role and Importance of Data in Public Health:** Address the basic concepts, methods, and tools of public health data collection, use, and analysis, and why evidence-based approaches are an essential part of public health practice (PUBH 1010, 1101, 2110, 2112, 2140, 2142, 3130, 3131, 3132, 3133, 3135W, 4140W)
5. **Identifying and Addressing Population Health Challenges:** Address the concepts of population health and the basic processes, approaches, and interventions that identify and address the major health-related needs and concerns of populations (PUBH 1010, 1101, 2110, 2112, 2140, 2142, 3130, 3131, 3132, 3133, 3135W, 4140W)
6. **Human Health:** Address the underlying science of human health and disease, including opportunities for promoting and protecting health across the life course (PUBH 1010, 1101, 2110, 2112, 3132, 3133)
7. **Determinants of Health:** Address the socio-economic, behavioral, biological, environmental, and other factors that impact human health and contribute to health disparities (PUBH 1010, 1101, 2110, 2112, 3130, 3132, 3133, 3135W, 4140W)
8. **Project Implementation:** Address the fundamental concepts and features of project implementation, including planning, assessment, and evaluation (PUBH 2112, 2140, 3130, 3133, 4140W)
9. **Overview of the Health System:** Address the fundamental characteristics and organizational structures of the US health system as well as the differences in systems in other countries (PUBH 1101, 3130, 3133, 3135W)
10. **Health Policy, Law, Ethics, and Economics:** Address the basic concepts of legal, ethical, economic, and regulatory dimensions of health care and public health policy and the roles, influences, and responsibilities of the different agencies and branches of government (PUBH 1101, 2112, 2140, 3130, 3132, 3133, 3135W, 4140W)
11. **Health Communications:** Address the basic concepts of public health-specific communication, including technical and professional writing and the use of mass media and electronic technology (PUBH 1010, 1101, 2110, 2112, 2140, 2142, 3130, 3131, 3133, 3135W, 4140W)

CAREERS

The BS in Public Health strives to increase awareness and understanding of public health principles among students who are preparing for professional careers in fields such as:

- Allied Health (e.g., Physical Therapist, Physician Assistant, Dietitian, etc.)
- Government

- Business
- Health Education
- Health Services Administration
- Law
- Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, and Pharmacy
- Public Health (both those who plan to pursue graduate degrees in public health and students who intend to pursue entry-level jobs in specific sectors of public health, health services, or public policy for which a bachelor's level education is appropriate)

ADMISSIONS

Incoming first-year and external transfer students may apply directly to the major through the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

Students admitted to another GW school may apply to transfer to Milken in their second semester or after: <https://registrar.gwu.edu/undergraduate-internal-transfer>. To transfer, students must have a cumulative GW GPA of 2.5 or higher. Transfer requests are effective at the start of the following semester. Students must declare the Public Health major within two weeks of transferring to Milken here: <https://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/undergraduate-advising/transfer-students>

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

All students accepted to this major must follow the policies outlined in the [GW Bulletin](#) and the [GWSPH Student Handbook](#). This includes, but is not limited to:

- Minimum Grade Point Average (GPA)
- Minimum Course Grades
- Approved Guided Electives
- Maximum Credit Allowances
- University General Education
- Double Majors and Double Degrees
- Double Counting
- Continuous Enrollment
- Maximum Time to Degree
- Required Minimum Degree Credits
- Transfer Credit Policy
- Field Experience, Undergraduate Research, Independent Study, and Study Abroad
- CITI Training
- Integrity Quiz and Plagiarism
- Professional Enhancement (PE) Hours

There are four levels of requirements for this BS degree: University general education requirements, major core requirements, guided electives, and general electives. University general education requirements are taken by all University undergraduate students and form the liberal arts education component of the BS degree. Students with a declared concentration must meet the requirements for the concentration in addition to the four levels of requirements listed above.

Students should review the [GW Bulletin](#) to ascertain the prerequisite courses for the major core courses. Notes on policies related to specific courses will be documented in footnotes, but only on the first instance the course appears in this program guide.

**PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE
BACHELOR of SCIENCE in PUBLIC HEALTH
ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027**

Current GW students who apply to transfer to the BSPH program between May 9, 2026, and May 8, 2027, and incoming first-year and external transfer students who start taking GW classes in the Fall 2026 or Spring 2027 semesters will follow the curriculum described in this guide.

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS (22-23 CREDITS)

The BSPH program follows the University General Education Requirements (GPAC Tier One). See the [GW Bulletin](#) for current requirements.

University General Education Requirements (GenEd) Courses ¹		
<i>Category</i>	<i>Recommended Course</i>	<i>Credits</i>
University Writing	UW 1020	4
Critical Thinking in the Humanities	One course in the HUMANITIES	3
Quantitative Reasoning	One course in MATH OR ECON ²	3
Scientific Reasoning	BISC 1005, OR BISC 1006, OR BISC 1007, OR BISC 1008, OR BISC 1111, ³ OR BISC 1112, ³ OR HONR 1033 <i>Biology topic only</i>	3-4
Critical Thinking, Quantitative Reasoning, or Scientific Reasoning in the Social Sciences	Two courses in the SOCIAL SCIENCES ⁴	6
Oral Communications	One course with an approved ORAL COMMUNICATIONS COMPONENT	3
Total GenEd Credits		22-23

PUBLIC HEALTH CORE COURSES (34-35 CREDITS)

The public health major curriculum includes core credits offered through GWSPH. Prerequisites for public health core classes may also satisfy GenEd requirements. Students should work with their advisor to confirm all requirements are met.

¹ Courses required for any component of the public health major that also meet GenEd requirements may be double-counted. Students should work with their academic advisor to identify such applicable courses.

² Students should NOT take STAT 1051, 1053, 1111, or 1127 to fulfill the Quantitative Reasoning GenEd requirement. These courses are equivalent to PUBH 2142 Introduction to Biostatistics for Public Health, which is required for all BSPH students but is not a Quantitative Reasoning GenEd course.

³ Students who receive AP or IB credit for BISC 1111 or BISC 1112 do not need to repeat them at GW. Most medical schools expect students to have at least 8 undergraduate credit hours of upper-level BISC coursework with lab components.

⁴ ECON 1011 Principles of Microeconomics I is a Social Science GenEd and one of the prerequisite selective options for PUBH 3130 Health Services Management and Economics.

BS Public Health Core Courses			
<i>Core Course</i>	<i>Core Course Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Prerequisites</i> ⁵
PUBH 1010 ⁶	First-Year Experience in Public Health	1	First-year students in the fall
PUBH 1101	Introduction to Public Health and Health Services	3	
PUBH 2000 ⁷	Navigating Internships: Strategies for Professional Development	1	Restricted to Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors
PUBH 2110	Public Health Biology	3	BISC 1005, ⁸ OR BISC 1006, ⁸ OR BISC 1007, ⁸ OR BISC 1008, ⁸ OR BISC 1111, ^{3,8} OR BISC 1112, ^{3,8} OR HONR 1033 <i>Biology-related topic</i> ⁸ , OR HONR 1014 <i>Biology-related topic</i> ⁸
PUBH 2112	Principles of Health Education and Health Promotion	3	PUBH 1101
PUBH 2140 ⁹	Foundations of Research Methods	3	
PUBH 2142	Introduction to Biostatistics for Public Health	3	
PUBH 3000	Field Experience in Public Health	0	PUBH 1010, ⁶ AND PUBH 1101 PUBH 2000 ¹⁰ Must have completed at least 2 full-time undergraduate semesters
PUBH 3130	Health Services Management and Economics	3	PUBH 1101; AND ACCY 2001, OR ECON 1011 ⁸ Restricted to Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors

⁵ Prerequisite courses are subject to the minimum grade policy, as described in the [GW Bulletin](#).

⁶ PUBH 1010 may be waived for external and internal transfer students. See program director or academic advisor for more information. Minimum grade policy does not apply to PUBH 1010 as it is a P/NP course.

⁷ This course is only required for students who intend to complete an internship to satisfy the PUBH 3000 Field Experience requirement; all other students are not required to complete PUBH 2000. Minimum grade policy does not apply to PUBH 2000 as it is a P/NP course.

⁸ This course satisfies GenEd requirements.

⁹ Students who are required to take a research methods course for another major, minor, or concentration may be eligible to substitute that course for PUBH 2140 with the BSPH Program Director's permission.

¹⁰ PUBH 2000 is only required for students completing internships.

PUBH 3131	Epidemiology	3	PUBH 2142 ¹¹
PUBH 3132	Health and Environment	3	Restricted to Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors
PUBH 3133	Global Health and Development	3	PUBH 1101 Restricted to Juniors, and Seniors
PUBH 3135W	Health Policy	3	PUBH 1101 Restricted to Juniors, and Seniors ¹²
PUBH 4140W	Senior Seminar (<i>topics vary</i>)	3	PUBH 2112, AND PUBH 2140, AND PUBH 2142, AND PUBH 3130, AND PUBH 3131, AND PUBH 3135W Restricted to Seniors
Total Public Health Core Credits		34-35	

Students with a declared major in public health are required to complete a 0-credit field experience course (PUBH 3000) after their first two full-time semesters of college and prior to graduation. Students should register for PUBH 3000 in the semester in which they complete their field experience. The field experience may be satisfied through one of the following options:

1. One year commitment to the [Urban Health Program](#);
2. A C- or better in an approved, 3+ credit Service Learning course (may be outside GWSPH but must be completed at GW and community partnerships must be related to public health); or
3. A 60-hour practical experience (internship or volunteer experience). This placement must be related to public health, secured by the student, and be approved in advance by the BSPH Program Director. The placement cannot be used to fulfill a requirement for another course or program. Students pursuing either the volunteer or internship option will submit regular reflections on their experience and how they applied their public health knowledge and skills.

PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDED ELECTIVES (12-13 CREDITS)

Guided electives are those listed in [Appendix A](#). Students are **required to take at least 6 credits from the GWSPH** (i.e., courses must have PUBH, HLWL, HSML, or EXNS prefixes). Study abroad courses (e.g., PUBH 1299 and PUBH 3299) do not count towards the 6 guided elective credits from the GWSPH. Students may request that the BSPH Program Director review a course not on the pre-approved list to determine whether it can serve as a guided elective. Students may take no more than 6 guided elective credits at another university (domestic or international) and/or through a study abroad program (even if the course is approved as a GWSPH equivalent). Students must obtain approval from the BSPH Program Director for a course to count as a guided elective before enrolling in it.

¹¹ Students who have already taken and earned a C- or better in STAT 1051, 1053, 1111, or 1127, DNSC 1001 or 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 1001 or 2001, or APSC 3115 unless they took one of these courses before declaring the public health major.

¹² PUBH 3130 is *strongly* recommended prior to taking PUBH 3135W.

Students who take PUBH 1010 but do not earn a P in it may not retake the course; students who earn an NP in PUBH 1010 must take 13 public health guided elective credits. Students who earn a P in PUBH 1010 and transfer students who did not take PUBH 1010 must complete 12 guided elective credits.

CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS

No Concentration

BS Public Health, No Concentration	
University General Education Requirements (GenEd)	22-23 Credits
Public Health Core	34-35 Credits
Public Health Guided Electives (see Appendix A)	12-13 Credits
General Electives	49-52 Credits
Total Public Health, No Concentration Credits	120

Pre-Medical Professional (PMP) Concentration

The pre-medical professional (PMP) concentration includes two components: (1) a set of required core courses and (2) a set of recommended courses. Medical school admission requirements vary, so please review school-specific requirements and consult with the pre-health advisor (prehealth@gwu.edu) as soon as possible. Talk with your academic advisor about how these courses can fit into your four-year plan.

Pre-Medical Professional (PMP) Concentration Required Courses		
<i>Course</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>
BISC 1111 ^{3,8}	Introductory Biology: Cells and Molecules	4
BISC 1112 ^{3,8}	Introductory Biology: Biology of Organisms	4
BISC 3165, OR BISC 3261, OR BIOC 3261, OR CHEM 3165	Biochemistry I OR Introductory Medical Biochemistry	3-4
CHEM 1111 ^{8,13}	General Chemistry I	4
CHEM 1112 ^{8,13}	General Chemistry II	4
CHEM 2151 & 2153	Organic Chemistry I & Lab	4
CHEM 2152 & 2154	Organic Chemistry II & Lab	4
MATH 1221, ⁸ OR MATH 1231, ^{8,14} OR MATH 1232 ^{8,14}	Calculus with Precalculus II (or higher-level MATH) OR Single-Variable Calculus I OR Single-Variable Calculus II	3
PHYS 1011, ^{8,15} OR PHYS 1021, ^{8,15} OR PHYS 1025 ^{8,15}	General Physics I, OR University Physics I, OR University Physics with Biological Applications I	4

¹³ Students who receive AP or IB credit for CHEM 1111 or CHEM 1112 do not need to repeat it at GW. Some medical schools may expect students to have a specific number of undergraduate semesters/credits of CHEM coursework. Students are encouraged to meet with the pre-health advisor.

¹⁴ Students who receive AP or IB credit for MATH 1231 or MATH 1232 do not need to repeat them at GW.

¹⁵ Students who receive AP or IB credit for PHYS 1011, PHYS 1021, or PHYS 1025 do not need to repeat them at GW. Medical schools may expect students to have a specific number of undergraduate semesters/credits of advanced PHYS coursework. Students are encouraged to meet with the pre-health advisor.

PHYS 1012, ¹⁶ OR PHYS 1022, ^{8,16} OR PHYS 1026 ^{8,16}	General Physics II, OR University Physics II, OR University Physics with Biological Applications II	4
PSYC 1001, ¹⁷ OR SOC 1001	General Psychology or Introduction to Sociology	3
Total Public Health, Pre-Medical Professional (PMP) Concentration Credits¹⁸		34-35

Pre-Medical Professional (PMP) Recommended Courses		
<i>Course</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>
BISC 2202	Cell Biology	3
BISC 2207 & 2208	Genetics & Lab	4
BISC 2322	Human Physiology	3
BISC 2336 & 2337, OR BISC 2337W	Introductory Microbiology & Laboratory	4
Total Pre-Medical Professional (PMP) Recommended Credits		13-14

BS Public Health, PMP Concentration	
University General Education Requirements (GenEd)	23 Credits
Public Health Core	34-35 Credits
Pre-Medical Professional (PMP) Concentration ¹⁸	34-35 Credits
Public Health Guided Electives (see Appendix A)	12-13 Credits
General Electives	15-17 Credits
Total Public Health, PMP Concentration Credits	120

Pre-Health Professional (PHP) Concentration

The pre-health professional (PHP) concentrations are available for students interested in a career as a healthcare delivery professional (other than a physician). Students may select a pre-health professional track in Nursing, Physician Assistant, Physical Therapy, or Dentistry. The PHP concentrations have two components: (1) a set of required core courses applicable to all pre-health professional tracks and (2) track-specific required courses.

If interested in a healthcare profession outside these tracks, students should work with a pre-health advisor (prehealth@gwu.edu) to identify the courses most applicable to the student's health discipline of interest. Graduate program requirements vary; please review program-specific admissions requirements and consult with the pre-health advisor as soon as possible. Talk with your academic advisor about how these courses can fit into your four-year plan.

Pre-Health Professional (PHP) Concentration Required Courses		
<i>Course</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>
BISC 1111 ^{3,8}	Introductory Biology: Cells and Molecules	4
BISC 1112 ^{3,8}	Introductory Biology: The Biology of Organisms	4

¹⁶ Students who receive AP or IB credit for PHYS 1012, PHYS 1022, or PHYS 1026 do not need to repeat them at GW. Medical schools may expect students to have a specific number of undergraduate semesters/credits of advanced PHYS coursework. Students are encouraged to meet with the pre-health advisor.

¹⁷ Students who receive AP or IB credit for PSYC 1001 do not need to repeat it at GW.

¹⁸ Stated credits reflect the unique concentration credit requirements. Courses that satisfy GenEd requirements (7 credits) reduce PMP concentration credits needed. In other words, these credits as "counted" as GenEd credits.

BISC 2336 & 2337, OR BISC 2337W	Introductory Microbiology & Lab OR Introductory Microbiology	4
CHEM 1111 ^{8,13}	General Chemistry I	4
CHEM 1112 ^{8,13}	General Chemistry II	4
EXNS 2210	Applied Anatomy & Physiology I	4
EXNS 2211	Applied Anatomy & Physiology II	4
MATH 1221, ^{8, 14} OR MATH 1231, ^{8,14} OR MATH 1232 ^{8,14}	Calculus with Precalculus II (or higher-level MATH) OR Single-Variable Calculus I OR Single-Variable Calculus II	3
PSYC 1001 ¹⁷	General Psychology	3
Total Public Health, Pre-Health Professional (PHP) Concentration Credits ¹⁹		27

Students in the Pre-Health Professional Concentration choose one of four tracks: Pre-Nursing, Pre-Physical Therapy, Pre-Physician Assistant, or Pre-Dentistry. Track courses are taken in addition to the PHP Concentration courses.

Pre-Nursing Track (9 credits) ²⁰		
<i>Course</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>
EXNS 2119	Introduction to Nutrition Science	3
HSCI 2105, OR PUBH 3151, OR PUBH 3151W	Current Issues in Bioethics	3
PSYC 2013 ⁸	Developmental Psychology	3
SOC 1001	Introduction to Sociology	3
Pre-Physical Therapy (PT) Track (8 credits) ²⁰		
<i>Course</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>
PHYS 1011, ^{8,15} OR PHYS 1021, ^{8,15} OR PHYS 1025, ^{8,15}	General Physics I, OR University Physics I, OR University Physics with Biological Applications I	4
PHYS 1012, ^{8,16} OR PHYS 1022, ^{8,16} OR PHYS 1026 ^{8,16}	General Physics II, OR University Physics II, OR University Physics with Biological Applications II	4
PSYC 2013 ⁸	Developmental Psychology	3
Pre-Physician Assistant (PA) Track (15-16 Credits)		
<i>Course</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>
BISC 2207 & 2208	Genetics & Lab	4

¹⁹ Stated credits reflect the unique concentration credit requirements. Courses that satisfy GenEd requirements (7 credits) reduce PHP concentration credits needed. In other words, these credits as “counted” as GenEd credits.

²⁰ Stated credits reflect the unique track credit requirements. Courses that satisfy GenEd requirements (3 credits) reduce PHP Pre-Nursing and Pre-Physical Therapy track credits needed. In other words, these credits as “counted” as GenEd credits.

BISC 3165, OR BISC 3261, OR BIOC 3261, OR CHEM 3165	Biochemistry I OR Introductory Medical Biochemistry	3-4
CHEM 2151 & 2153	Organic Chemistry I & Lab	4
CHEM 2152 & 2154	Organic Chemistry II & Lab	4
Pre-Dentistry Track (22-24 Credits)		
<i>Course</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>
BISC 2207 & 2208, OR BISC 2202, OR BISC 3212	Genetics & Lab OR Cell Biology OR Immunology	3-4
BISC 3165, OR BISC 3261, OR BIOC 3261, OR CHEM 3165	Biochemistry I OR Introductory Medical Biochemistry	3-4
CHEM 2151 & 2153	Organic Chemistry I & Lab	4
CHEM 2152 & 2154	Organic Chemistry II & Lab	4
PHYS 1011, ^{8,15} OR PHYS 1021, ^{8,15} OR PHYS 1025 ^{8,15}	General Physics I, OR University Physics I, OR University Physics with Biological Applications I	4
PHYS 1012, ^{8,16} OR PHYS 1022, ^{8,16} OR PHYS 1026, ^{8,16}	General Physics II, OR University Physics II, OR University Physics with Biological Applications II	4

As a reminder, PHP concentration and track-specific courses may also satisfy GenEd requirements, thus reducing the total additional unique concentration and track-specific credits.

BS Public Health, Pre-Nursing Professional Concentration	
University General Education Requirements (GenEd)	23 Credits
Public Health Core	34-35 Credits
Pre-Health Professional Concentration + Pre-Nursing Track ^{19,20}	36 Credits
Public Health Guided Electives (see Appendix A)	12-13 Credits
General Electives	13-15 Credits
Total Public Health, Pre-Nursing Professional Concentration Credits	120

BS Public Health, Pre-Physical Therapy Professional Concentration	
University General Education Requirements (GenEd)	23 Credits
Public Health Core	34-35 Credits
Pre-Health Professional Concentration + Pre-Physical Therapy Track ^{19,20}	35 Credits
Public Health Guided Electives (see Appendix A)	12-13 Credits
General Electives	14-16 Credits
Total Public Health, Pre-Physical Therapy Concentration Credits	120

BS Public Health, Pre-Physician Assistant Professional Concentration	
University General Education Requirements (GenEd)	23 Credits
Public Health Core	34-35 Credits
Pre-Health Professional Concentration + Pre-Physician Assistant Track ¹⁹	42-43 Credits

Public Health Guided Electives (see Appendix A)	12-13 Credits
General Electives	6-9 Credits
Total Public Health, Pre-Assistant Professional Concentration Credits	120

BS Public Health, Pre-Dentistry Professional Concentration	
University General Education Requirements (GenEd)	23 Credits
Public Health Core	34-35 Credits
Pre-Health Professional Concentration + Pre-Dentistry Track ¹⁹	49-51 Credits
Public Health Guided Electives (see Appendix A)	12-13 Credits
General Electives	0-2 Credits
Total Public Health, Pre-Dentistry Concentration Credits	120

EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

Students are expected to:

1. Consult their GWSPH Undergraduate Academic Advisor before registration for their first semester in the program and future semesters as needed. Students must consult an advisor in all matters affecting the program of study, such as substitutions or withdrawals.
2. Consult the pre-health advising team (<https://prehealth.gwu.edu/>) for pre-health expectations and procedures, if they are pursuing a pre-medical or pre-health professional concentration.
3. Take all BSPH core, guided electives, and prerequisite courses for a letter grade (except PUBH 1010 and PUBH 3000).
4. Complete a 0-credit field experience course (PUBH 3000) after two full-time semesters. This may include taking PUBH 2000. Additional information is available on the [BSPH website](#).
5. Meet all minimum grade requirements.
6. Review and follow the policies and requirements as outlined in the [GWSPH Student Handbook](#) and the [GW Bulletin](#).
7. Earn a minimum of 120 total credits and satisfy all course requirements in their major (and concentration/tracks, if applicable).
8. Complete all BSPH core courses at GW or through a study abroad program (in compliance with applicable rules). Students may be subject to GW's [transfer credit policy](#). Students must obtain the BSPH Program Director's approval of the coursework before enrolling at an institution outside of GW.
9. Take only residential courses during the spring and fall terms. Students may only take courses offered online during the summer term, even if the course is an approved guided elective and not offered residentially in the fall or spring term.
10. Adhere to the [policies](#) regarding Undergraduate Research (EXNS 3995 and/or PUBH 3995) and Independent Study (PUBH 4199) if applying these credits towards their guided electives requirement.

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

APPENDIX A: PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDED ELECTIVES, ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027

Students may petition the BSPH Program Director to approve a GW elective not listed below (student must provide the syllabus when petitioning for guided elective approval).

AMERICAN STUDIES

AMST 4701W	Epidemics in American History (same course as HIST 3301W and HONR 2047W)	3
AMST 4702W	Race, American Medicine, and Public Health: African American Experiences (same course as HIST 3301W and HONR 2047W)	3

ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTH 2502	Anthropology of Science and Technology: Twenty-First Century Brave New Worlds	3
ANTH 3503	Psychological Anthropology	3
ANTH 3504	Illness, Healing, and Culture	3
ANTH 3513/3513W	Anthropology of Human Rights	3

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

BADM 1004	The Age of Globalization	3
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BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

BISC 2339	Parasitology	3
BISC 2450	Organic Evolution	3

COMMUNICATION

COMM 3172	Health Communication	3
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ECONOMICS

ECON 2151/2151W	Economic Development	3
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EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES

EHS 2109	Infectious Disease and Bioterrorism	3
EHS 3174	Foundations of Emergency Health Services Systems	3
EHS 3175	Community Risk Management and Safety in EHS	3
EHS 4112	Special Operations and Disaster Management	3

EXERCISE & NUTRITION SCIENCES

EXNS 1114	Community Nutrition	3
EXNS 2116	Exercise and Health Psychology	3
EXNS 2119	Introduction to Nutrition Science	3
EXNS 2122	Food Systems in Public Health	3

EXNS 2123	Nutrition and Chronic Disease	3
EXNS 2126W	International Nutrition	3
EXNS 2127	Introduction to Food Policy	3
EXNS 3114W	Cultivating Food Justice in Urban Food Systems	3
EXNS 3120	Experiences in Community Nutrition	1
EXNS 3995	Undergraduate Research	0-6
EXNS 4199	Advanced Topics in Exercise and Nutrition Sciences – Multi-level Determinants of Childhood Obesity & Prevention Strategies	2

GEOGRAPHY

GEOG 1003	Society and Environment	3
GEOG 2104	Introduction to Cartography and GIS	3
GEOG 2127	Population Geography	3
GEOG 2137	Environmental Hazards	3
GEOG 3105	Techniques of Spatial Analysis	3
GEOG 3106	Intermediate Geographic Information Systems	3
GEOG 3143/3143W	Urban Sustainability	3
GEOG 3275	Sustainable Food Systems	3

GLOBAL FOOD INSTITUTE

GFI 3003	World on a Plate (same course as SUST 3003)	3
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HEALTH & WELLNESS

HLWL 1106	Drug Awareness	3
HLWL 1109	Human Sexuality	3

HEALTH SCIENCES

HSCI 2050	Foundations of Health Equity	3
HSCI 2101	Psychosocial Aspects of Health and Illness	3
HSCI 2107	Healthcare in Literature	3
HSCI 2118	Global Women's Health	1

HISTORY

HIST 3301W	Topics: US History – Epidemics in American History (<i>same course as AMST 4701W and HONR 2047W</i>)	3
HIST 3301W	Topics: US History – Race, American Medicine, and Public Health: African American Experiences (<i>same course as AMST 4702W and HONR 2047W</i>) topics <i>only</i>	3

HONORS

HONR 2047	Self and Society Seminar – Pediatric Ethics	3
HONR 2047	Self and Society Seminar – Ethics in Public Health	3
HONR 2047	Self and Society Seminar – Applied Health Equity	3
HONR 2047	Self and Society Seminar – Leading Social Change	3
HONR 2047	Self and Society Seminar – Food and Cities	3
HONR 2047W	Self and Society Seminar – Epidemics in American History (<i>same course as HIST 3301W and AMST 4701W</i>)	3

HONR 2047W	Self and Society Seminar – Race, American Medicine, and Public Health: African American Experiences (<i>same course as HIST 3301W and AMST 4702W</i>)	3
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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

IAFF 3190	Special Topics in International Affairs – Global Mental Health Policy, Practice, and Research	3
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MANAGEMENT

MGT 4085	Social Entrepreneurship	3
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MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES

MLS 2005	Plagues, Pandemics, and Epidemics	3
MLS 2007W	Microbes and Society	3

PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 2124W	Philosophies of Disability	3
PHIL 2125/2125W	Philosophy of Race and Gender (<i>same course as WGSS 2225</i>)	3
PHIL 2134	Philosophy of Human Rights	3
PHIL 2136	Contemporary Issues in Ethics	3
PHIL 2281	Philosophy of the Environment	3

POLITICAL SCIENCE

PSC 2224	Issues in Domestic Public Policy	3
PSC 2240	Poverty, Welfare, and Work	3
PSC 2367	Human Rights	3
PSC 2454	Humanitarianism	3
PSC 3192W	Proseminar: Political Science – Health Care Policy	3

PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC 3126/3126W	Multicultural Psychology	3
PSYC 3128	Health Psychology	3
PSYC 3173	Community Psychology	3

PUBLIC HEALTH

PUBH 1102	History of Public Health	3
PUBH 1299	Undergraduate Public Health Study Abroad (introductory courses)	1-6
PUBH 2117	Service Learning in Public Health	3
PUBH 3115	Global Health and Human Rights	3
PUBH 3136	Health Law (students can receive BSPH elective credit for either HSCI 4103 or PUBH 3136 but cannot receive BSPH elective credit for both)	3
PUBH 3150	Sustainable Energy and Environmental Health	3
PUBH 3151/3151W	Current Issues in Bioethics (students can receive BSPH elective credit for either HSCI 2105 or PUBH 3151/3151W but cannot receive BSPH elective credit for both)	3
PUBH 3199	Topics in Public Health (repeatable)	1-3
PUBH 3299	Undergraduate Public Health Study Abroad (advanced courses)	1-6
PUBH 3995	Undergraduate Research (repeatable)	1-9

PUBH 4199	Independent Study	1-6
PUBH 6021	Essentials of Public Health Practice and Leadership I (<i>restricted to Dual Degree Program students</i>)	1
PUBH 6242	Clinical Epidemiology and Public Health: Reading the Research	2
PUBH 6243	Topics in Clinical Epidemiology and Public Health: Reading the Research	1
PUBH 6378	HIV Policy in the US	2

SOCIOLOGY

SOC 2102	Techniques of Data Analysis	3
SOC 2181	Special Topics in Sociology – Food and Workers of the World	3
SOC 2181	Special Topics in Sociology – Health, Illness, and Society	3

STATISTICS

STAT 2118	Regression Analysis	3
STAT 2183W	Intermediate Statistical Laboratory: Statistical Computing Packages	3

SUSTAINABILITY

SUST 1001	Introduction to Sustainability	3
SUST 2004	Introduction to Sustainability Communication	3
SUST 3003	World on a Plate (same course as GFI 3003)	3

UNIVERSITY WRITING

UW 2020W	Advanced Topics in Writing – Black Girls’ and Women’s Health	3
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WOMEN’S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

WGSS 2225	Philosophy of Race and Gender (same course as PHIL 2125 and PHIL 2125W)	3
WGSS 3170W	Writing/Righting Black Girls’ and Women’s Health	3

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APPENDIX B: ORAL COMMUNICATIONS GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES APPROVED FOR BSPH STUDENTS

Note: BSPH students MUST take a course from this list to satisfy their GPAC Tier One Oral Communication requirement

- [AMST 2450](#) History and Meaning of Higher Education in the United States
- [AMST 2620](#) Human Mind and Artificial Intelligence
- [ANTH 1004](#) Language in Culture and Society
- [ANTH 2502](#) Anthropology of Science and Technology: Twenty-First Century Brave New Worlds – *double counts as a BSPH guided elective*
- [CHEM 2118W](#) Practicing Science Communications
- [COMM 1040](#) Public Communication
- [COMM 1041](#) Interpersonal Communication
- [EAP 1010](#) Oral Academic Communication for International Students - *restricted to international students*
- [ENGL 1365](#) Literature and the Environment
- [ENGL 3918](#) Literature and Medicine
- [FREN 2500](#) Cultural Politics of Food in France
- [GTCH 2003](#) Step 1 and 2 Hybrid: Inquiry Approaches to Teaching and Lesson Design
- [GTCH 3101](#) Knowing and Learning in Mathematics and Science
- [HSSJ 4195](#) Senior Capstone - *restricted to HSSJ double-majors*
- [ITAL 2600](#) Culture and Conflict in Italian Foodways
- [ITAL 3330](#) Pandemics in Italian Literature and Culture
- [PHIL 2124/PHIL 2124W](#) Philosophies of Disability – *double counts as a BSPH guided elective*
- [PHIL 2134](#) Philosophy of Human Rights – *double counts as a BSPH guided elective*
- [PSTD 1010](#) Introduction to Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution
- [RGSS 3400](#) Food and Society in Europe and the Americas
- [SLHS 1011](#) Voice and Diction (*same as* [SPHR 1011](#))
- [SUST 2004](#) Introduction to Sustainability Communication - *double counts as a BSPH guided elective*
- [WLP 1020](#) Writing, Literature, and Society - *restricted to WLP students*