

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Department of Environmental and Occupational Health

Master of Public Health Environmental Health Science and Policy 2026 - 2027

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

Program Director

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Mission

The mission of the Environmental Health Science and Policy MPH program is to educate individuals who are committed to public health protection to apply critical analytic skills to the development, implementation and evaluation of practices and policies aimed at preventing or minimizing the adverse impact of environmental and occupational hazards on human health.

Goals

Our graduates will possess a multidisciplinary knowledge base and skill set that will provide them a framework for addressing environmental and occupational health (EOH) issues. They will understand three distinct scientific foundations of environmental health in order to:

- ◆ Assess and control environmental and occupational exposures;
- ◆ Understand the effects of these exposures on human health; and
- ◆ Interpret epidemiologic and other research findings related to environmental risks.

Furthermore, graduates will be prepared to build on this science base in order to:

- ◆ Analyze policy implications and participate in policy development, implementation and evaluation; and
- ◆ Assess and manage environmental and occupational risks.

Course Requirements

All Milken Institute School of Public Health (SPH) MPH students who select the Environmental Health Science and Policy program enroll in Core Courses (19 credits), Program-Specific Courses (18 credits), and Electives (8 credits). The Core Courses include an Applied Practice Experience (APEX; 2 credits) and a Culminating Experience (2 credits) where students apply their didactic education in a real-world setting.

Program-Specific Competencies

Upon completion of the MPH Program in Environmental Health Science and Policy, students should possess the following functional competencies.

- Identify the adverse human health effects of chemical, biological, and physical hazards
 - Courses: PUBH 6123, PUBH 6122
- Conduct and interpret data analyses of environmental or occupational exposures or health outcomes
 - Courses: PUBH 6131, PUBH 6121

- Assess environmental or occupational exposures to evaluate the severity of a chemical, physical, or biological hazard and potential for prevention and control strategies to reduce exposure
 - Courses: PUBH 6131, PUBH 6126
- Evaluate observational studies that examine the relationship between environmental or occupational exposures and health, including biases and study limitations
 - Courses: PUBH 6131, PUBH 6121
- Demonstrate knowledge of processes through which science-based policies are developed to address environmental or occupational health issues
 - Course: PUBH 6122
- Synthesize information to assess and manage environmental or occupational risks and engage in public health risk communication
 - Courses: PUBH 6123, PUBH 6124

Milken Institute School of Public Health		Master of Public Health Environmental Health Science and Policy 2026 - 2027 Program-at-a-Glance		
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY				
Begin Planning Your Culminating Project 11-12 Months Prior to Program Completion				
Required Core Courses 19 Credits				
Required Core Course		Credits	Semester Offered	Grade
PUBH 6000	MPH Applied Practice Experience	0	Fall, Spring, Summer	
PUBH 6002	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health	3	Fall, Spring, Summer	
PUBH 6003	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology	3	Fall, Spring, Summer	
PUBH 6007	Social and Behavioral Approaches to Public Health	2	Fall, Spring, Summer	
PUBH 6009	Fundamentals of Program Evaluation	2	Fall, Spring, Summer	
PUBH 6011	Environmental & Biological Fundamentals of Public Health	3	Fall, Spring, Summer	
PUBH 6012	Fundamentals of Health Policy	2	Fall, Spring, Summer	
PUBH 6021	Essentials of Public Health Leadership & Practice 1	1	Fall, Spring, Summer	
PUBH 6022	Essentials of Public Health Leadership & Practice 2	1	Fall, Spring, Summer	
PUBH 6023	Interprofessional Education Experience	0	Fall, Spring, Summer	
PUBH 6137	EOH Culminating Experience Part 1	1	Fall	
PUBH 6138	EOH Culminating Experience Part 2	1	Spring	
Total	Core Credits	19		
Required Program-Specific Courses 18 Credits				
Required Program Specific Course		Credits	Semester Offered	Grade
PUBH 6121	Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology	3	Fall	
PUBH 6122	Protecting Public Health and the Environment: Policies, Politics, and Programs	3	Spring	
PUBH 6123	Toxicology: Applications for Public Health Policy	3	Spring	
PUBH 6124	Risk Management and Communication	3	Spring	
PUBH 6126	Assessment and Control of Environmental Hazards	3	Fall	
PUBH 6131	Quantitative Methods in Environmental and Occupational Health	3	Spring	
Electives Select 8 Credits from graduate-level (6000 or higher) PUBH courses Recommended to take at least 4 of the 8 credits from the EOH department.				
PUBH 6xxx		8	Fall, Spring, Summer	
TOTAL PROGRAM	45 credits			

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

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

- ◆ Required Core Courses (PUBH 6000, 6002, 6003, 6007, 6009, 6011, 6012, 6021, 6022, and 6023)
- ◆ Required Program-Specific Courses
- ◆ Electives
- ◆ Required Culminating Experience

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

Interprofessional Education (IPE) Experience (PUBH 6023):

MPH students are required to select an IPE experience from a host of options provided throughout enrollment to participate in a one-time, case-based or activity-based learning experience. The IPE experience is a way to actively participate in a supervised environment to work with people from other professions/programs outside of public health. Students are eligible to enroll in the IPE upon successful completion of most of the MPH core coursework including: PUBH 6002, 6003, 6007, 6011, 6012 and 6021. Students will have many opportunities to register for this zero-credit (no fee) IPE course (PUBH 6023 Interprofessional Education Experience) and will receive credit upon successful completion.

Applied Practice Experience (Practicum & EPR) (PUBH 6000):

The Applied Practice Experience (APEX) may be satisfied with either a practicum or, for experienced public health professionals, through an expedited portfolio review (EPR). The practicum is a planned, supervised, and evaluated practice experience that aims to provide students with an opportunity to synthesize, integrate, and apply practical skills, knowledge, and training learned through courses, to gain applied experience in a professional public health work environment, and to work on public health practice projects that are of particular interest to you. Information about the Practicum will be introduced through school-wide Practicum Information Sessions held by the Office of Applied Public Health and through meetings with your department practicum staff and faculty. During the practicum, you will work at least 120 hours in the field under the supervision of the site preceptor who has agreed to directly supervise the work you are conducting. Students are required to fulfill all requirements of the 120-hour practicum to receive credit for PUBH 6000. If you have had prior work experience, then you will find that the practicum provides the opportunity to hone skills or to gain new experience in a different area. However, if you have substantial public health experience relevant to your department/track, including 5+ years of full-time public health work for students after receiving your undergraduate degree, or 3+ years of full-time work for students who already have a graduate degree prior to beginning the MPH, then you may be able to satisfy the APEX requirement through an EPR instead of doing the practicum, with advanced approval by your department's practicum team.

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), with the exception of the Culminating Experience courses (PUBH 6137 and 6138).
- For Environmental Health Science and Policy MPH students who are full-time, it is important to take PUBH 6002 Biostatistical Applications for Public Health, 6003 Principles and Practice of Epidemiology, 6011 Environmental & Biological Fundamentals of Public Health, and 6021 Essentials of Public Health Practice & Leadership 1 in the first semester.

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 program-specific courses in subsequent years, but should consult with your academic advisor.

In order to help assure that all students 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 his or her academic advisor.

All students accepted to this MPH program must follow the policies and regulations 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
- Continuous Enrollment
- Maximum Time to Degree
- Required Minimum Degree Credits
- Transfer Credit Policy
- CITI Training
- Integrity Quiz and Plagiarism
- Professional Enhancement (PE) Hours
- Interprofessional Education (IPE) Experience
- Applied Practice Experience (Practicum)
- Culminating Experience (e.g., CE)

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

Tables 1 and 3 (full-time students) and **Table 2 (part-time students)** present sample course schedules that Environmental Health Science & Policy MPH students are required to take during their tenure at the Milken Institute SPH. It is noteworthy that fully 45 credits are required, including core courses (19 credits), program specific courses (18 credits), and electives (8 credits). See below.

MPH in Environmental Health Science and Policy (45 credits)

Table 1. Sample Schedule for 5-semester Completion (Fall start / May completion) - All course times are tentative

Semester	Cr	Course #	Course Name	Time (subject to change)
Fall 1 st year 12 credits	3	PUBH 6002	Biostatistical Applications for PH	Mon 3:10 – 6:00 pm or Wed 6:10 – 9:00 pm
	3	PUBH 6003	Principles & Practice of Epidemiology	Tues 6:10 – 9:00 pm or Wed 3:10 – 6:00 pm
	2	PUBH 6007	Social & Behavioral Approaches to PH	Mon 6:10 – 8:00 pm
	3	PUBH 6011	Environmental & Biological Fundamentals of PH	Tues 3:10 – 6:00 pm
	1	PUBH 6021	Essentials of PH Leadership & Practice 1	Online, many times offered
Spring 1 st year 11 credits	2	PUBH 6012	Fundamentals of Health Policy	Tues 4:10-5:25 or Wed 4:10-5:25 pm (hybrid class)
	1	PUBH 6022	Essentials of PH Leadership & Practice 2	Online
	3	PUBH 6123	Toxicology: Applications for Public Health Policy	Mon 3:10 – 6:00 pm
	3	PUBH 6131	Quantitative Methods in Environmental & Occupational Health	Thurs 3:10 – 6:00 pm, Lab Thurs 6:30 – 8:00 pm
	2	Electives	Electives	
Summer 1 st year 4 credits	2	PUBH 6009	Fundamentals of Program Evaluation	Wed 6:10-8:40pm
	2	Electives	Electives	
		PUBH 6000	MPH Applied Practice Experience	
Fall 2 nd year 9 credits	3	PUBH 6121	Environmental & Occupational Epidemiology	Wed 5:10 – 8:00 pm
	3	PUBH 6126	Assessment & Control of Environmental Hazards	Mon 6:10 – 9:00 pm
	1	PUBH 6137	EOH Culminating Experience Part 1	Wed 3:10 - 5:00 pm
	2	Electives	Electives	
Spring 2 nd year 9 Credits	3	PUBH 6122	Policies, Politics & Programs	Thurs 6:10 – 9:00 pm
	3	PUBH 6124	Risk Management & Communication	Wed 5:10 – 8:00 pm
	1	PUBH 6138	EOH Culminating Experience Part 2	Wed 3:10 - 5:00 pm
	2	Electives	Electives	
TOTAL	45			

PUBH 6000-Typically, the 120 hours of the practicum are completed during the summer months.

PUBH 6022-Typically, take toward the end of taking the core courses.

PUBH 6023- Interprofessional Education Experience (0)-register any time after completing the Core Curriculum or after completing at least 20 credits of the MPH degree.

A total of 8 credits of electives from graduate courses are required, preferably during the last three semesters. Students are recommended to take at least 4 credits from EOH focused courses. EOH Electives include:

PUBH 6128 Global Environmental and Occupational Health 2 Online Spring I and Summer

PUBH 6130 Sustainable Energy and the Environment 2 Fall, Tues 4:10 - 6:00 pm, Online Summer and Spring I

PUBH 6132 Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in Low-Income Countries 2 credits Online Fall and Spring II

PUBH 6135 Researching Climate Change and Public Health 3 Online Fall and Spring II

PUBH 6140 Global Climate Change & Air Pollution 2 Online Fall and Spring II (hybrid)

PUBH 6146 Microbiomes & Microbial Ecology in Public Health 2 Online, Fall and Spring II

PUBH 6199 TOPICS: Veterans Deployment and Environmental Issues 2 Summer (times may change each year)

PUBH 6199 TOPICS: Practical Applications of Environmental Justice Science: Tools for Public Health Leaders 1 Summer (times may change each year)

PUBH 6199 TOPIC: Visualizing Data: From Principles to Interactive Dashboards with R, 2 Summer (times may change each year)PUBH 6199 Any 6199 TOPICS course

Table 2. Sample Schedule for 8-semester Completion (Fall start / May completion) - All course times are tentative

Semester	Cr	Course #	Course Name	Time (subject to change)
Fall 1 st year	3	PUBH 6002	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health	Mon 3:10-6:00 pm or Wed 6:10-9:00 pm
7 credits	3	PUBH 6011	Environmental & Biological Fundamentals of PH	Tues 3:10-6:00 pm
	1	PUBH 6021	Essentials of PH Practice & Leadership 1	Online, many times offered
Spring 1 st year	3	PUBH 6003	Principles & Practice of Epidemiology	Thurs 3:10-6:00 pm
5 credits	2	PUBH 6007	Social & Behavioral Approaches to Public Health	Mon 6:10-8:00 pm
Summer 1 st year	2	PUBH 6012	Fundamentals of Health Policy	TBD
3 credits	1	PUBH 6022	Essentials of Public Health Leadership & Practice 2	Online
Fall 2 nd year	3	PUBH 6126	Assessment & Control of Environmental Hazards	Mon 6:10 – 9:00 pm
7 credits	2	PUBH 6009	Fundamentals of Program Evaluation	Tues 2:10-4:00 pm or Online
	2	Electives	Electives	
Spring 2 nd year	3	PUBH 6123	Toxicology: Applications for Public Health Policy	Mon 3:10 – 6:00 pm
8 Credits	3	PUBH 6131	Quantitative Methods in Environmental & Occupational Health	Thurs 3:10 – 6:00 pm, Lab Thurs 6:30-8:30pm
	2	Electives	Electives	
Summer 2nd year	2	Electives	Electives	
2 Credits		PUBH 6000	MPH Applied Practice Experience	
Fall 3 rd Year	3	PUBH 6121	Environmental & Occupational Epidemiology	Wed 5:10 – 8:00 pm
6 Credits	1	PUBH 6137	EOH Culminating Experience Part 1	Wed 3:10 – 5:00 pm
	2	Electives	Electives	
Spring 3 rd Year	3	PUBH 6122	Policies, Politics & Programs	Thurs 6:10 – 9:00 pm
7 Credits	3	PUBH 6124	Risk Management & Communication	Wed 5:10 – 8:00 pm
	1	PUBH 6138	EOH Culminating Experience Part 2	Wed 3:10 – 5:00 pm
Total	45			

PUBH 6000-Typically, the 120 hours of the practicum are completed during the summer months.

PUBH 6022-Typically, take toward the end of taking the core courses.

PUBH 6023- Interprofessional Education Experience (0)-register anytime after completing the Core Curriculum or after completing at least 20 credits of the MPH degree.

A total of 8 credits of electives from graduate courses are required, preferably during the last three semesters. Students are recommended to take at least 4 credits from EOH focused courses. EOH Electives include:

PUBH 6128 Global Environmental and Occupational Health 2 Online Spring I and Summer
PUBH 6130 Sustainable Energy and the Environment 2 Fall, Tues 4:10 - 6:00 pm, Online Summer and Spring I
PUBH 6132 Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in Low-Income Countries 2 credits Online Fall and Spring II
PUBH 6135 Researching Climate Change and Public Health 3 Online Fall and Spring II
PUBH 6140 Global Climate Change & Air Pollution 2 Summer Online Fall and Spring II (hybrid)
PUBH 6146 Microbiomes & Microbial Ecology in Public Health 2 Online, Fall and Spring II
PUBH 6199 TOPICS: Veterans Deployment and Environmental Issues 2 Summer (times may change each year)
PUBH 6199 TOPICS: Practical Applications of Environmental Justice Science: Tools for Public Health Leaders 1 Summer (times may change each year)
PUBH 6199 TOPIC: Visualizing Data: From Principles to Interactive Dashboards with R, 2 Summer (times may change each year)
PUBH 6199 Any 6199 TOPICS course

Table 3. Sample Schedule for 5-semester Completion (Spring start / Summer completion) - All course times are tentative

Semester	Cr	Course #	Course Name	Time (subject to change)
Spring 1 st year 12 credits	3	PUBH 6002	Biostatistical Applications for PH	Mon 3:10 – 6:00 pm or Wed 6:10 – 9:00 pm
	3	PUBH 6003	Principles & Practice of Epidemiology	Tues 6:10 – 9:00 pm or Wed 3:10 – 6:00 pm
	2	PUBH 6007	Social & Behavioral Approaches to PH	Mon 6:10 – 8:00 pm
	3	PUBH 6011	Environmental & Biological Fundamentals of PH	Tues 3:10 – 6:00 pm
	1	PUBH 6021	Essentials of PH Leadership & Practice 1	Online, many times offered
Summer 1 st year 3-4 credits	1	PUBH 6022	Essentials of PH Leadership & Practice 2	Online
	2-3		Take a substitute course for PUBH 6131 OR take PUBH 6012 Fundamentals of Health Policy (2)	TBD
Fall 2 nd year 11-12 Credits	3	PUBH 6121	Environmental & Occupational Epidemiology	Wed 5:10 – 8:00 pm
	3	PUBH 6126	Assessment and Control of Environmental Hazards	Mon 6:10 – 9:00 pm
	1	PUBH 6137	EOH Culminating Experience Part 1	Wed 3:10 - 5:00 pm
	2-3		Take a substitute course for PUBH 6131 OR take PUBH 6012 Fundamentals of Health Policy (2)	TBD
	0	PUBH 6000	MPH Applied Practice Experience	
	2	PUBH 6009	Fundamentals of Program Evaluation	TBD
Spring 2 nd year 12 Credits	3	PUBH 6122	Policies, Politics & Programs	Thurs 6:10 – 9:00 pm
	3	PUBH 6124	Risk Management & Communication	Wed 5:10 – 8:00 pm
	1	PUBH 6138	EOH Culminating Experience Part 2	Wed 3:10 - 5:00 pm
	3	PUBH 6123	Toxicology: Applications for Public Health Policy	Mon 3:10 – 6:00 pm
	2	Electives	Electives	
Summer 2 nd year 6 credits	6	Electives	Electives	
TOTAL	45			

PUBH 6000-Typically, the 120 hours of the practicum are completed during the summer months.

PUBH 6022-Typically, take toward the end of taking the core courses.

PUBH 6023- Interprofessional Education Experience (0)-register anytime after completing the Core Curriculum or after completing at least 20 credits of the MPH degree.

A total of 8 credits of electives from graduate courses are required, preferably during the last three semesters. Students are recommended to take at least 4 credits from EOH focused courses. EOH Electives include:

PUBH 6128 Global Environmental and Occupational Health 2 Online Spring I and Summer
PUBH 6130 Sustainable Energy and the Environment 2 Fall, Tues 4:10 - 6:00 pm, Online Summer and Spring I
PUBH 6132 Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in Low-Income Countries 2 credits Online Fall and Spring II
PUBH 6135 Researching Climate Change and Public Health 3 Online Fall and Spring II
PUBH 6140 Global Climate Change & Air Pollution 2 Summer Online Fall and Spring II (hybrid)
PUBH 6146 Microbiomes & Microbial Ecology in Public Health 2 Online, Fall and Spring II
PUBH 6199 TOPICS: Veterans Deployment and Environmental Issues 2 Summer (times may change each year)
PUBH 6199 TOPICS: Practical Applications of Environmental Justice Science: Tools for Public Health Leaders 1 Summer (times may change each year)
PUBH 6199 TOPIC: Visualizing Data: From Principles to Interactive Dashboards with R, 2 Summer (times may change each year)
PUBH 6199 Any 6199 TOPICS course