Milken Institute School of Public Health
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Department of Environmental & Occupational Health
Department of Global Health

Master of Public Health
Global Environmental Health
2026 – 2027

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

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Mission

The mission of the Global Environmental Health MPH program – a joint program between the Departments of Environmental and Occupational Health and Global Health – is to educate individuals who are committed to working in resource-poor settings and applying analytic skills to prevent or mitigate the adverse impacts of environmental hazards on human health. The program blends foundational knowledge in both environmental and global health, along with advanced skills and training, to prepare students for tackling ongoing global environmental challenges: lack of access to clean water, inadequate sanitation, poor hygiene, household air pollution, solid waste disposal, vector-borne diseases such as malaria, and climate change.

Goals

Our graduates will hold a multidisciplinary knowledge base and skill set that will provide them with a framework for addressing environmental health issues from environmentally mediated disease in the poorest performing regions of the world. They will understand the scientific and cultural foundations of environmental health in order to:

- Assess environmental exposures and understand the effects of these exposures on human health;
- Interpret epidemiologic and other research findings related to global environmental health risks; and
- Assume leadership roles in designing, implementing, and evaluating programs that focus on modification of environmental health-related behaviors at local, regional, national and/or global levels.

Course Requirements

All Milken Institute School of Public Health (SPH) MPH students who select the Global Environmental Health program enroll in Core Courses (19 credits), Program-Specific Courses

(17 credits), and Electives (9 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 Global Environmental Health, students should possess the following functional competencies.

- Evaluate observational studies that examine the relationship between environmental or occupational exposures and health, including biases and study limitations
    - Course: PUBH 6121, PUBH 6131
- Conduct and interpret data analyses of environmental or occupational exposures or health outcomes.
    - Course: 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.
    - Course: PUBH 6131, PUBH 6126
- Apply multidisciplinary perspectives to identify, analyze, and address global health challenges.
    - Course PUBH 6400, PUBH 6411, PUBH 6435
- Synthesize scientific evidence to inform global environmental health policy and reduce and prevent environmental health related disease and injury.
    - Course: PUBH 6128
- Utilize frameworks for the design of culturally acceptable and contextually feasible global health interventions.
    - Course: PUBH 6435

Potential Culminating Experiences *(actual projects completed and underway, as well as illustrative examples)*

- Exploring Changes in Open Defecation Rates in Sub-Saharan Africa based on National Level Indices
- Cookstoves, Greenhouse Gasses, and Global Climate Change: A Case Study in sub-Saharan Africa
- Water Collection in Rural Sub-Saharan Africa: Do Increases in Access to Protected Sources Lead to a Decrease in Water Collection Times? A Study of 19 Sub-Saharan African Countries
- Examining Household Barriers to Latrine Access in Rural Tanzania
- Integration of WASH Interventions into HIV Treatment Programs in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Changes in Access to Sanitation and Water Supply in 31 Cities of Sub-Saharan Africa: A Study of Contributing Factors
- Evaluation of a Clean Cookstove Intervention in Nigeria
- Examining the Role of the Health Sector in Reducing Time and Energy Spent Collecting Solid Fuel and Mitigating Health Outcomes Associated with Indoor Air Pollution
- Factors Determining Success or Failure of Market-based Technologies for Environmental Health Hazards in Low- Income Countries.

- The Economics of Collecting, Transporting, and Treating Human Excreta from On-site Sanitation Systems in Urban Settings
- Assessing the Microbial Risks Associated with Animal Wastes from Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations
- Water Quality Assessment of Streams Impacted by Large-scale Poultry Operations

Graduation Requirements

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)

Advising Notes

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.

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). 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.

For Global Environmental Health MPH students who are full-time, it is important to take PUBH 6002 *Biostatistical Applications for Public Health,* 6003 *Principles and Practices of Epidemiology,* 6011 *Environmental and Biological Fundamentals of Public Health,* and 6021 *Essentials in 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 their second and third years.

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Program-at-a-Glance

Begin Planning Your Culminating Project 11-12 Months Prior to Program Completion

Required Core Course and Culminating Experience (19 credits)		**Credits**	**Semester Offered**
PUBH 6000	MPH Applied Practice Experience	0	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6002	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6003	Principles & Practice of Epidemiology	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6007	Social & 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
Required EOH Specific Courses (11 credits)		**Credits**	**Semester Offered**
PUBH 6121	Environmental & Occupational Epidemiology	3	Fall
PUBH 6126	Assessment & Control of Environmental Hazards	3	Fall
PUBH 6128	Global Environmental & Occupational Health	2	Online Spring I, Summer
PUBH 6131	Quantitative Methods in Environmental & Occupational Health	3	Spring
Required GH Specific Courses (6 credits)		**Credits**	**Semester Offered**
PUBH 6400	Global Health Frameworks	2	Fall
PUBH 6411	Global Health Qualitative Research Methods	2	Spring, Summer
PUBH 6435	Global Health Program Development & Implementation	2	
Electives (9 credits) – Select from graduate-level PUBH courses		**Credits**	**Semester Offered**
PUBH 6xxx	Electives	9	Fall, Spring, Summer
Total		**45**	

Course descriptions and registration information can be found on the website:
http://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/

Tables 1 (full-time students) and **2 (part-time students)** present sample course schedules for full-time Global Environmental Health MPH students. It is noteworthy that 45 credits are required including core courses (17 credits) and required program specific courses, including 11 EOH and 6 GH credits, 9 elective credits, and the Culminating Experience (2 credits).

Milken Institute School of Public Health
MPH in Global Environmental Health (45 credits)

Sample Schedule for 2-Year completion (Fall start / May completion^{+}). All course times are tentative.

Semester	Credit	Course #	Course Name	Time (subject to change)
Fall 1st year 12 credits	3	PUBH 6002	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health	Mon 3:10 – 6:00 pm or Wed 6:10 – 9:00 pm
	3	PUBH 6003	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology	Tues 6:10 – 9:00 pm or Weds 3:10 – 6:00 pm
	3	PUBH 6011	Environmental & Biological Fundamentals of Public Health	Tues 3:10 – 6:00 pm
	1	PUBH 6021	Essentials of Public Health Leadership & Practice 1	Online, times vary
	2	PUBH 6400	Global Health Frameworks	Thurs 4:10 – 6:00 pm
Spring 1st year 10 credits	2	PUBH 6007	Social & Behavioral Approaches to Public Health	Mon 6:10 – 8:00 pm
	2	PUBH 6009	Fundamentals of Program Evaluation	Online, times vary
	2	PUBH 6012	Fundamentals of Health Policy	Tues or Wed, 4:10 – 5:25 pm, (hybrid class)
	1	PUBH 6022	Essentials of Public Health Leadership & Practice 2	Online, times vary
	2	PUBH 6128	Global Environmental and Occupational Health	Online, times vary
	3	PUBH 6131	Quantitative Methods in EOH + Plan Practicum +	Thurs 3:10 – 6:00 pm / Lab Thurs 6:30 – 8:00 pm
Summer 1st year 0 credits	0	PUBH 6000	MPH Applied Practice Experience	
Fall 2nd year 10 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 Course Part 1	Wed 3:10 – 5:00 pm
	3	Electives*	Electives	

Spring 2nd year	2	PUBH 6411	Global Health Qualitative Research Methods	Mon 4:10 – 6:00 pm
9 credits	2	PUBH 6435	Global Health Program Development & Implementation	Tues 6:10 – 8:00 pm
	1	PUBH 6138	EOH Culminating Experience Course Part 2	Wed 3:10 – 5:00 pm
	0	PUBH 6023	Interprofessional Education Experience	TBD**
	6	Electives*	Electives	

*Your program includes 9 credits of graduate-level electives (PUBH 6xxx). With guidance from your advisor, complete these 9 credits in any combination during your second year.

+ Make sure that you complete Practicum training and start planning your Practicum the semester before you wish to conduct it.

**Can be completed any time after 1st year of program but before graduation

Sample Schedule for 3-Year completion (Fall start / May completion+). All course times are tentative.

Semester	Credit	Course#	Course Name	Time (subject to change)
Fall 1st year 7 credits	3 3 1	PUBH 6002 PUBH 6011 PUBH 6021	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health Environmental & Biological Fundamentals of Public Health Essentials of Public Health Leadership & Practice I	Mon 3:10 – 6:00 pm or Wed 6:10 – 9:00 pm Tues 3:10 – 6:00 pm Online, times vary
Spring 1st year 7 credits	3 2 2	PUBH 6003 PUBH 6007 PUBH 6128	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology Social & Behavioral Approaches to Public Health Global Environmental and Occupational Health	Thurs 3:10-6:00 pm Mon 6:10-8:00 pm Online, times vary
Summer 1st year 4 credits	2 2	PUBH 6009 PUBH 6012	Fundamentals of Program Evaluation Fundamentals of Health Policy	TBD TBD
Fall 2nd year 5 credits	3 2	PUBH 6126 PUBH 6400	Assessment and Control of Environmental Hazards Global Health Frameworks	Mon 6:10 – 9:00 pm Thurs 4:10 – 6:00 pm
Spring 2nd year 6 credits	1 3 2	PUBH 6022 PUBH 6131 Electives*	Essentials of Public Health Leadership & Practice 2 Quantitative Methods in EOH Electives + Plan Practicum +	Online Thurs 3:10 – 6:00 pm, Lab Thurs 6:30-8:30pm
Summer 2nd year 3 credits	3	Electives*	Electives	
Fall 3rd year 8 credits	0 3 1 4	PUBH 6023 PUBH 6121 PUBH 6137 Electives*	Interprofessional Education Experience ** Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology EOH Culminating Experience Course Part 1 Electives	 Wed 5:10 – 8:00 pm Wed 3:10 – 5:00 pm
Spring 3rd year 5 credits	1 2 2	PUBH 6138 PUBH 6411 PUBH 6435	EOH Culminating Experience Course Part 2 Global Health Qualitative Research Methods Global Health Program Development & Implementation	Wed 3:10 – 5:00 pm Mon 4:10 – 6:00 pm Tues 6:10 – 8:00 pm

* Your program includes 9 credits of graduate-level electives (PUBH 6xxx). With guidance from your advisor, complete these 9 credits in any combination during your second year.

+ Make sure that you complete Practicum training and start planning your Practicum the semester before you wish to conduct it.

**Can be completed any time after 1st year of program but before graduation