

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Department of Global Health PhD in Global Public Health Sciences 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 multidisciplinary Global Public Health Sciences PhD program is to educate individuals in global health focused on developing new knowledge in the methods or applications of global health sciences from the molecular to the community setting. Our scholars will be rigorously trained in science, including the use of sound methodological approaches and innovative thinking that can be translated into real-world applications of global health, with specific focus in the areas of population health, health systems, and infectious diseases and OneHealth.

Program Requirements

All Milken Institute School of Public Health (GWSPH) Department of Global Health PhD students are required to have completed a master's degree in a relevant field for entry into the PhD program. Comprising a total of 48 credits, students are required to complete specific Schoolwide Foundational Courses, Global Health Sciences Core Courses, Specialization Area Courses (electives) and Dissertation Preparation and Research.

Competencies

Students in the Department of Global Health PhD program will be able to:

1. Critique and analyze specialized concepts in global health research.
PUBH 8406 Advanced Topics in Global Health
2. Apply rigorous quantitative methodologies to global health research.
PUBH 6862 Applied Linear Regression, PUBH 6865 Applied Categorical Data Analysis, PUBH 6247 Epidemiologic Methods I, Design of Health Studies, PUBH 6445 Impact Evaluation PUBH 8472 Survey Research Methods, PUBH 8877 Generalized Linear Models in Biostatistics
3. Conduct independent global health research and disseminate research findings to scientific or lay audiences.
PUBH 8406 Advanced Topics in Global Health
4. Integrate ethical guidelines in the conduct of global health research.
PUBH 8475 Ethics in Domestic and International Research
5. Illustrate the ability to conduct global health research in multidisciplinary settings.
PUBH 8406 Advanced Topics in Global Health

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Course Distribution Summary			
• Total Credits = Minimum 48 • Required Schoolwide Foundational and Research Methods = 8 credits • Required Global Health Sciences Core Courses = 11 credits • Specialization Electives = 15 credits minimum • Dissertation Preparation and Dissertation = 11-14 credits			
Required Schoolwide PhD Foundational and Research Methods Courses 8 Credits			
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Semester(s) offered
PUBH 6080^	Pathways to Public Health	0	Fall (Year 1)
PUBH 8001	PhD Seminar: Cross Cutting Concepts in Public Health <i>Basis for PhD Comprehensive Exam</i>	1	Fall (Year 1)
PUBH 8475	Research Ethics and Integrity in Domestic and International Research <i>Basis for PhD Comprehensive Exam</i>	1	Spring (Year 1)
Select TWO (6 credits) of the below courses <i>Basis for PhD Comprehensive Exam</i>			
PUBH 6247	Epidemiologic Methods I: Design of Health Studies	3	Spring
PUBH 6252	Epidemiologic Methods II: Advanced Epidemiologic Methods	3	Fall, Spring
PUBH 6445	Quantitative Methods for Impact Evaluation	3	Spring
Required Global Health Sciences Core Courses 11 Credits			
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Semester(s) offered
PUBH 6400	Global Health Frameworks <i>May be waived and replaced with specialization credits if prior coursework or experience in global health</i>	2	Fall (Year 1)
PUBH 6862 OR PUBH 6865	Applied Linear Regression Analysis for Public Health Research OR Applied Categorical Data Analysis for Public Health Research	3	Spring Fall
PUBH 8406	Advanced Topics in Global Health Doctoral Seminar I <i>Basis for PhD Comprehensive Exam</i>	3	Spring (odd years)
PUBH 8472	Survey Research Design	3	Fall (odd years)
Specialization Areas (Electives) 15 Credits Minimum Examples below. Additional tailoring courses may be approved in advance by advisor. All plans must be approved in advance by advisor.			
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Semester(s) offered

Methods Courses Recommended for all Specialization Areas			
PUBH 6259 + PUBH 8259	Epidemiologic Surveillance in Public Health + Doctoral Topics: Epidemiologic Surveillance in Public Health	2 + 1	Spring
PUBH 6260	Applied Epidemiologic Data Analysis <i>Strongly encouraged</i>	3	Fall
PUBH 6445	Quantitative Methods for Impact Evaluation	3	Fall, Spring
PUBH 6495	Field Trial Methods and Applications	2	Spring (even years)
PUBH 6864	Applied Survival Analysis for Public Health Research	3	Spring
PUBH 6866	Principles of Clinical Trials	3	Spring
PUBH 6887	Applied Longitudinal Data Analysis for Public Health Research	3	Spring
PUBH 8116	Communicating Research Results	2	TBD
PUBH 8417	Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis	3	Spring
PUBH 8419	Measurement in Public Health and Health Services	3	Spring
PUBH 8470	Global Health Demographic Methods	3	Fall (even years)
Population Health Sciences Focus			
EXNS 6242	Nutrition through the Life Cycle	2	Fall
PUBH 6481	Global Mental Health	2	Spring
PUBH 6486	Global Health Programs and Approaches to the Control of Infectious Diseases	2	Fall, Spring (online)
PUBH 6492	Global Health Programs and Approaches to the Control of Chronic Diseases	2	Fall
PUBH 6499	Injury and Global Public Health	1	Summer
PUBH 6552	Women's Health	2	
PUBH 6553	Adolescent Health	2	Spring
PUBH 6555	Reproductive Health: U.S. and Global Perspectives	2	Spring
PUBH 6563 + PUBH 8473	Global Child Health + Advanced Topics Global Child Health	2 + 1	Fall
Health Systems Focus			
PUBH 6476	Theory-Driven Evaluation	2	Fall
PUBH 6478	Health System Quality Measurement in Global Health	2	Fall
PUBH 8404	Advanced Topics: Health Systems and Health Policy Research	3	Spring
PUBH 8476	Realist Evaluation in Health Policy and Systems	1	Fall
PUBH 8622	Healthcare Payments, Systems, and Delivery Models	2	Fall
EDUC 8131	Case Study Research Methods	3	Spring
EDUC 8140	Ethnographic Research Methods	3	Spring
EDUC 8142	Phenomenological Research Methods	3	Spring
EMSE 6020	Decision Making with Uncertainty	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
EMSE 6740	Systems Thinking and Policy Modeling I	3	Fall
EMSE 6745	Systems Thinking and Policy Modeling II	3	Spring
PPPA 6016	Public and Nonprofit Program Evaluation	3	Fall

PPPA 8023	Mixed Methods in Research Design	3	Summer
PPPA 8190	Philosophical Foundations of Policy and Administrative Research	3	Fall
PSC 8132	Network Analysis	3	
SOC 6240	Field Research in Organizational Settings	3	
Global Infectious Disease and One Health Focus			
PUBH 6133	Social Dimensions of Climate Change and Health	2	
PUBH 6136	Introduction to Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology	3	
PUBH 6140	Global Climate Change and Air Pollution	2	
PUBH 6245	Infectious Disease Epidemiology	2	Spring
+	+	+	
PUBH 8245	Doctoral Topics: Infectious Disease Epidemiology	1	
PUBH 6250	Epidemiology of HIV/AIDS	2	Fall
+	+	+	
PUBH 8250	Doctoral Topics: Epidemiology of HIV/AIDS	1	
PUBH 6275	Essential Public Health Laboratory Skills	2	Summer, Fall
PUBH 6278	Public Health Virology	3	Spring
PUBH 6455	Global Vaccinology	3	Summer
PUBH 6468	Preparation and Response to Epidemics, Pandemics, Mass Health Emergencies, and Disasters	2	
PUBH 6484	Prevention and Control of Vector Borne Diseases	2	Spring
PUBH 6486	Global Health Programs and Approaches to the	2	Fall
+	Control of Infectious Diseases +	+	
PUBH 8486	Global Infectious Diseases	1	
PUBH 6861	Public Health Genomics	3	Spring
MICR 8210	Infection and Immunity	3	Spring
Dissertation Research 11-14 Credits			
Course #	Course Name	Credits	Semester(s) offered
PUBH 8435	PhD Dissertation Proposal Development	2	Fall, Spring
PUBH 8999	Dissertation Research: Global Health Sciences	9-12	All
Total credits		48	

^Pathways to Public Health course (PUBH 6080). As an accredited School of Public Health, curriculum in all graduate academic programs must provide a foundation in public health. If a student already holds a degree from a CEPH-accredited program or school of public health, this requirement will be waived. Otherwise, this zero-credit, free, online course should be completed within one year of matriculation.

Graduation Requirements

All students accepted to this PhD 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
- PUBH 6080 Pathways to Public Health
- Graduate Teaching Assistantship Program
- Comprehensive Examination
- Culminating Experience (Dissertation)

Advising Notes

1. **Teaching Assistantship:** All PhD students in the Department of Global Health, regardless of funding, are encouraged to serve as Teaching Assistants a minimum of two times. Successful completion of the University Graduate Training Assistantship Certification (UNIV 0250) is required prior to serving as a Teaching Assistant. This online certification is paid for by GW. The 1-credit received for this certification is not counted toward the 48-credit PhD program.
2. **Comprehensive Examination:** After successfully completing all course requirements (as indicated by the note “*Basis for PhD Comprehensive Exam*” in the table above), students must pass a written comprehensive exam in the summer following their first or second year. The exam will be offered in alternating years.
3. **Dissertation Proposal Defense:** A written dissertation proposal must be defended orally after the successful completion of the comprehensive exam and required coursework.
4. **Dissertation:** Completion of at least 9 credits of dissertation research is required. Once the proposal has been successfully defended and the dissertation research credit requirement has been met, the oral defense may be scheduled.
5. **Weekly seminars:** Students are expected to attend weekly department research seminars.