

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Milken Institute School of Public Health GW Undergraduate Students

Minor in Public Health 2026-2027

Program Director

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Minor in Public Health

The George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health (GWSPH) offers a Minor in Public Health which introduces students to various public health topics, such as health epidemiology, health management, health policy, health behavior, environmental and occupational health, and global health. The Minor in Public Health is comprised of 18 credits (9 credits of required public health courses and 9 credits of public health guided elective courses). The minor provides a strong foundation in public health in preparation for professional schools, including law school, medical school, and graduate programs for physician assistants, allied health professionals, public health, and healthcare administration.

Admissions Requirements

Applicants must have a 2.5 cumulative GPA or above. To add the minor, students must complete a [declaration form](#). Prior to submitting the form, prospective students should speak with a GWSPH Undergraduate Advisor or the Minor Program Director to plan their course of study. GWSPH will not process requests to add a minor during the registration period.

Graduation Requirements

All students accepted to this minor must follow the policies and regulations outlined in the [GW Bulletin](#) and the [GWSPH Student Handbook](#). These include, but are not limited to:

- Minimum Grade Point Average (GPA)
- Minimum Course Grades
- Maximum Credit Allowances
- Minor Declaration
- 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

Prerequisite Coursework

Students should refer to the [GW Bulletin](#) for the latest in prerequisite courses.

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Required Courses (9 credits)

Course	Credits	Title
PUBH 1101	3	Introduction to Public Health and Health Services
PUBH 3131	3	Epidemiology
PUBH 3133	3	Global Health and Development

Elective Courses (9 credits)

Students may fulfill the elective requirement by taking any PUBH course (excluding PUBH 1010 First-Year Experience in Public Health and PUBH 4140W Senior Seminar) or any course on the Public Health Guided Electives List (Appendix A). Students in the Public Health Minor may apply **up to 3 elective credits** from approved Study Abroad and non-GW courses toward their minor if they comply with all applicable rules regarding courses taken at institutions outside of GW.

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Appendix A: Public Health Guided Electives, Academic Year 2026-2027

Students may petition the 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 (<i>same course as HIST 3301W and HONR 2047W</i>)	3
AMST 4702W	Race, American Medicine, and Public Health: African American Experiences (<i>same course as HIST 3301W and HONR 2047W</i>)	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 (<i>same course as SUST 3003</i>)	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 only	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 (<i>students can receive elective credit for either HSCI 4103 or PUBH 3136 but cannot receive elective credit for both</i>)	3
PUBH 3150	Sustainable Energy and Environmental Health	3
PUBH 3151/3151W	Current Issues in Bioethics (<i>students can receive elective credit for either HSCI 2105 or PUBH 3151/3151W but cannot receive elective credit for both</i>)	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 (<i>same course as PHIL 2125 and PHIL 2125W</i>)	3
WGSS 3170W	Writing/Righting Black Girls’ and Women’s Health	3