Mission
The DrPH Health Policy Specialty Field is focused on understanding and learning to apply to complex and real world problems the policy framework of public health and health care. Particular emphasis is placed on areas of focus affecting medically underserved and vulnerable populations. The specialty field allows candidates to work at the nexus of health policy, public health practice, and health services research.

Goals
The goal of the health policy specialty field is to create doctoral-level public health professionals who are uniquely equipped to provide real-world leadership at the national and state levels in all phases of public health, health care, and health policy development and implementation. The objectives of this specialty field are to:

- Provide advanced training on cutting edge issues in health policy;
- Equip candidates with the research and analytic methods they need to conduct the types of advanced analysis that can make a real difference in health care and public health.

Competencies
The Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) Program prepares professionals to assume national and international leadership positions in environmental and occupational health, global health, health behavior, and health policy. The field of public health provides unique insights into the complex interrelationships between health, politics, and human development. It enables professionals to address public health issues by marshalling research and analytic skills to develop innovative approaches to understand health and to promote and advocate for improved health outcomes. Upon completion of the DrPH, students in all programs will demonstrate ability in the core competencies listed at the end of this document.

Program-Specific Competencies
Because the DrPH builds on knowledge and competencies already acquired in a master program, upon completion of the DrPH in Health Policy, students will be able to demonstrate strengthened functional competence on master-level competencies in health policy and additional doctoral-level competence required of the DrPH in Health Policy, which is designed to teach not only the substance of health policy (how public health and health services policy is developed and implemented in the U.S.) and the skills of policy analysis (including research, qualitative and quantitative, and written and oral communications skills), but also the substance and skills needed to apply theoretical frameworks and qualitative and quantitative research methods to real world problems in order to draw recommendations for policy change.

Upon completion of the DrPH in Health Policy, students will demonstrate functional competence to:

- **HPD-1.** Critically describe and comprehensively assess the political, legal, philosophical, economic, financial, and/or social framework of U.S. health policy and demonstrate high level proficiency in applying that understanding to the analysis of current health policy issues. Relevant Courses: PubH 6330 or 6335, 8401, 8402, 8404 (prereqs: 6315 or equivalent), 8405 (prereqs: basic microeconomics & 6340 or equivalent).
HPD-2. Rapidly locate, critically assess, appropriately use, and subtly synthesize policy-relevant qualitative and quantitative information relevant to key issues in U.S. health policy, including a full range of evidence related to the legislative, regulatory, and judicial processes, peer-reviewed literature, and "gray" literature produced by governments, policy analysis and research entities and other relevant organizations. Relevant Courses: PubH 6330 or 6335, 8404 (prereqs: 6315 or equivalent), 8413, 8414, 8417, 8420, 8422, 8423.

- HPD-3. Expertly apply the core elements of a policy analysis to key issues in U.S. health policy (health services and public health policy) through both short and long written papers, and in oral presentations of policy analyses. Relevant Courses: PubH 8404 (prereqs: 6315 or equivalent), 8413, 8414, 8415, 8422, 8423.

- HPD-4. Critically identify, appropriately assess and, expertly apply theoretical knowledge and conceptual models in support of health policy research, develop hypotheses that can be tested in a health policy research project, select appropriate health policy research designs and methodologies, including quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods, and understand and appropriately apply analytical strategies used in health policy research and analysis. Relevant Courses: PubH 8404 (prereqs: 6315 or equivalent), 8405 (prereqs: basic microeconomics & 6340 or equivalent), 8406, 8416, 8417, 8418, 8420, 8422, 8423.

- HPD-5. Acquire the ability and the expertise to write grant and contract proposals, prepare applications, and identify and address the ethical implications of research methods. Relevant Courses: PubH 8416, 8417, 8418, 8420, 8422, 8423.

- HPD-6. Acquire the ability and the skills to become a leader in the field of health policy (public health and health services policy). Relevant Courses: PubH 6330 or 6335, 8401, 8402, 8404 (prereqs: 6315 or equivalent), 8405 (prereqs: basic microeconomics & 6340 or equivalent), 8406, 8413, 8414, 8415, 8416, 8417, 8418, 8420, 8422, 8423.

- HPD-7. Develop and/or teach part of a course (e.g., syllabus, guest lecture) in health policy (public health and health services policy) or related area. Relevant Courses: PubH 8415.

Program Policies and Procedures
For program policies and procedures, please refer to the Doctor of Public Health Handbook and other resources, located at http://www.gwu.edu/sphhs/academicprograms/drphForms.cfm
# School of Public Health and Health Services

## Doctor of Public Health

### Health Policy Program at A Glance

**Course Distribution Summary**

- Total Credits = Minimum 60
- Transfer Credit Maximum = 12
- Required Foundation Courses and Research Methods = 20 credits
- Required Specialty Field Courses = 9 credits
- Specialty Field Electives = 11 to 17 credits
- Professional Leadership = 6 credits
- Dissertation Preparation and Dissertation = 8 to 14 credits

### Required Foundational Courses and Research Methods
20 Credits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Semester Taken/Proposed</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Waive</th>
<th>Transferred</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PubH 8401</td>
<td>Foundations of Public Health Leadership and Practice – Doctoral Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fall Year 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 8402</td>
<td>Leadership in Public Health Practice and Policy</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Spring Year 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 8416</td>
<td>Doctoral Research Methods I: Study Design and Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fall Year 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 8417</td>
<td>Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis Prereq: PubH 8416</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Summer Year 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 8418</td>
<td>Doctoral Research Methods II: Statistical Analysis Prereq: PubH 8416</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring Year 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 8419</td>
<td>Measurement in Public Health and Health Services Research Prereq: PubH 8418</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 8420</td>
<td>Doctoral Research Methods III: Advanced Analysis and Dissemination Prereq: PubH 8417, PubH 8418</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fall Year 2</td>
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### Required Specialty Field Courses
9 Credits

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Semester Taken/Proposed</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Waive</th>
<th>Transferred</th>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 6330 or PubH 6335</td>
<td>Health Services and Law or Public Health and Law</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 8404</td>
<td>Advanced Topics- Health Systems and Health Policy Research – Doctoral Seminar (Prereq: PubH 6315 or approval by instructor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 8405</td>
<td>Advanced Topics – Advanced Health Economics Research – Doctoral Seminar (Basic microeconomics required; Prereq: PubH 6340 or approval by instructor)</td>
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*Updated August 2012*
**SPECIALTY FIELD ELECTIVE COURSES**

*11 CREDITS*

*(TAKE UP TO 6 ADDITIONAL ELECTIVE CREDITS IF DISSERTATION CREDITS TOTAL LESS THAN 12)*

**SAMPLE COURSES BELOW—OTHER COURSES MAY BE TAKEN WITH ADVISOR’S APPROVAL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Semester Taken/Proposed</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Waived</th>
<th>Transferred</th>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 6325</td>
<td>Federal Policy Making and Policy Advocacy (Prereq: 6305 or approval by instructor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 6360</td>
<td>Advanced Maternal and Child Health Policy (Prereq: PubH 6305 and 6315 or approval by instructor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 6362</td>
<td>Civil Rights Issues in Health Care (Prereq: PubH 6330)</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 6376</td>
<td>Primary Health Care Policy (Prereq: PubH 6315)</td>
<td>2</td>
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**PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP COURSES**

*6 CREDITS*

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PubH 8413</td>
<td>Research Leadership</td>
<td>Varies</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 8414</td>
<td>Policy/Management Leadership</td>
<td>Varies</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 8415</td>
<td>Instructional Leadership</td>
<td>Varies</td>
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**COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION**

**DISSERTATION PREPARATION AND DISSERTATION**

*8 TO 14 CREDITS*

<table>
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<th>Course</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
<th>Semester Taken/Proposed</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PubH 8422</td>
<td>Advanced Health Care and Public Health Research Design</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 8423</td>
<td>Dissertation Research</td>
<td>6 to 12 credits required</td>
<td>Multiple – may be taken in increments of 1 to 12 credits</td>
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Student ________________________________________        Date_________________
DrPH Program Director____________________________        Date_________________

I understand that any deviation from this Program of Study must be approved by the Program Director.

Signatures:

Student__________________________________________     Date________________
Advisor__________________________________________     Date________________
DrPH Program Director _____________________________     Date________________
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
<th>Terms</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PubH 6325</td>
<td>Federal Policy Making and Policy Advocacy</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Focuses on how the Congressional budget and administrative regulatory processes shape the funding and design of federal health care programs, ranging from entitlement programs like Medicare to appropriated programs like community health centers. Prerequisite: PubH 6305 or approval by instructor. Fall, Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 6330</td>
<td>Health Services and Law</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>This course addresses the relationship of law and the legal system in the United States to the individual health care delivery system. It examines how various sources of law embody health policy and affect the organization, delivery, and financing of health care, as well as the regulation of health care quality and patient rights. Summer, Fall, Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 6335</td>
<td>Public Health and Law</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Examines how law can both promote and impede the public’s health. Introduces students to the legal concepts that underlie the public health system and that inform public health policymaking in the United States. Topics to be covered include the role of law in public health care and policy (e.g., governmental powers vs. civil liberties, regulation of public health, tobacco regulation), managed care and public health, the role of public health officials in shaping law and policy, and public health law reform. Summer, Fall, Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 6360</td>
<td>Advanced Maternal and Child Health Policy</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>In-depth exploration of maternal and child health policy in the U.S., with a particular emphasis on the role of personal and public health services for women, children, youth and their families in the context of health and human services system change. Prerequisite: PubH 6305 and 6315 or approval by instructor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 6362</td>
<td>Civil Rights Issues in Health Care</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Examines the intersection of health care and civil rights law in the United States: the history and legacy of health care discrimination in the U.S.; the various forms of health care discrimination; legislative and regulatory interventions to combat discrimination and create/enforce/restore health care civil rights; and the unique place that abortion rights holds in U.S. law and society. Prereq: PubH 6330.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 6376</td>
<td>Primary Health Care Policy</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Explores the politics and policy of the provision of primary health care in the U.S. Covers the rise of the field of primary care and how it is supported and financed, and the role of insurers and government in regulation and oversight in the areas of access, cost, and quality. Prereq: PubH 6315</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 8401</td>
<td>Foundations of Public Health Leadership and Practice–Doctoral Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>This interactive seminar course provides doctoral students with fundamental understanding of the history and current issues associated with the four principal program areas: Health Policy, Health Behavior, Global Health and Environmental and Occupational Health. Fall Year 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 8402</td>
<td>Leadership in Public Health Practice and Policy</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Principles of public health practice and policy with a focus on the interdisciplinary and strategic application of skills, knowledge and competencies necessary both to perform public health core functions and to enhance the capacity to perform these functions. Spring Year 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 8404</td>
<td>Advanced Topics - Health Systems and Health Policy Research</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Examination and assessment of issues related to the intersection of healthcare systems and health policy, and how health policy and health services research can inform the development and evaluation of healthcare systems and health policy. Prerequisite: PubH 6315, PubH 6320. Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 8405</td>
<td>Advanced Topics - Advanced Health Economics Research</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Examines a range of critical financing issues for U.S. public health and health care services/systems. Considers the role of health services research in (1) understanding the effects of these issues and (2) informing the deliberations and decisions of policymakers. Prerequisite: PubH 6340. Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Code</td>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 8413</td>
<td>Research Leadership</td>
<td>1 to 6</td>
<td>Students participate in a range of activities designed to develop and enhance their research methods and analytic skills. These activities include participating in the development and submission of sponsored research proposals; being formally affiliated with a research project, assuming responsibility for completing a real-world research project; engaging in empirical data collection and analysis efforts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 8414</td>
<td>Policy/Management Leadership</td>
<td>1 to 6</td>
<td>Students participate in a range of activities designed to develop and enhance their management, leadership and policymaking skills as applied to problem solving in real-world settings, such as public health departments, community health centers, legislative settings, and public or teaching hospitals.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 8415</td>
<td>Instructional Leadership</td>
<td>1 to 6</td>
<td>Students participate in a range of activities designed to develop and enhance their teaching skills. These activities include course development, teaching masters level courses, acting as TA for undergraduate courses, advising students about their class performance, evaluating student performance, and developing remedial programs for students.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 8416</td>
<td>Doctoral Research Methods I: Study Design and Evaluation Research</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Prepares doctoral students to design and conduct program and policy evaluation in public health. Intensive introduction to the principles of study program design and evaluation research emphasizing the ability to synthesize the population-based intervention literature, apply planning and management methods, describe and apply research methods from a range of disciplines, and prepare a program research proposal. Prerequisite: DrPH student or instructor permission. Fall, Year 1.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 8417</td>
<td>Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Techniques for designing and conducting qualitative research and for analyzing and reporting qualitative data relevant to program development and implementation, community assessment, and policy analysis. Prerequisite: PubH 8416, Summer, Year 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 8418</td>
<td>Doctoral Research Methods II: Statistical Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Intensive course in data management and data analysis using STATA. Database management system techniques and data analytical strategies for the appropriate analysis of data sets obtained from a variety of studies will be presented. The student will manipulate national data sets from epidemiological studies as well as Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data. Pre-requisite: PubH 8416. Spring, Year 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 8419</td>
<td>Measurement in Public Health and Health Services Research</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>In this course students review principles of measurement and assessment as they apply to public health and health services research constructs, review existing state-of-the-art measures of individual and population health status (e.g., morbidity, mortality, functioning and health-related quality of life) and of individual and community health behavior, and explore current measurement issues in health research. Prerequisite: PubH 8418, Spring Year 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 8422</td>
<td>Advanced Health Care and Public Health Research Design</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Design of protocol suitable for implementation as part of Doctor of Public Health dissertation requirement. Prerequisites: Passing Comprehensive Exams, Approval of the Program Director, and a page-long abstract that includes the following: Student Name, Program Director, Faculty Advisor if different from the Program Director, Title, Objective (including population), Research Methods and Analysis Methods, Anticipated Results/Hypotheses. Grade = Credit/No Credit. Fall, Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubH 8423</td>
<td>Dissertation Research</td>
<td>1 to 12</td>
<td>Dissertation Research for DrPH. Prerequisite: PubH 8422. Note: 6 to 12 total credits of dissertation research are required. Students may register in increments of 1 to 12 credits.</td>
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DrPH Core Competencies
2012

- Analyze a public health problem and determine appropriate sources of data and methods for problem identification, program planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Relevant courses: PubH 6249, 6260, 8417, 8419, 8422.
- Develop and analyze hypotheses that can be tested by appropriate quantitative or qualitative research designs and methodologies. Relevant courses: PubH 6247, 6252, 8416, 8417, 8422.
- Synthesize and evaluate research conducted by others. Relevant courses: PubH 8402, 8416, 8417, 8422.
- Design strategies to accurately and effectively describe public health, economic, administrative, legal, social, political, and cultural implications of different health policy options. Relevant courses: PubH 6247, 8402, 8417, 8419.
- Design grant proposals to address public health problems. Relevant courses: PubH 48416, 8422.
- Present public health data and research syntheses to scientific and professional audiences and the public. Relevant courses: PubH 8407, 8422.
- Defend the feasibility and expected outcomes of different policy options and transform them into organizations, plans, processes, and programs. Relevant courses: PubH 6247, 8402, 8417, 8422.
- Appraise the dynamic forces that contribute to cultural diversity and develop responsive plans and programs. Relevant courses: PubH 6247, 6252, 8402, 8417.
- Assess the determinants of health and illness, factors that contribute to health promotion and disease prevention, and factors that influence the use and cost of public health services in a population. Relevant courses: 6249, 6252, 6260, 8419, 8422.
- Develop and defend a budget statement that presents programmatic fiscal requirements to achieve stated objectives. Relevant courses: PubH 8402.
- Support a culture of ethical standards of conduct in the research process and within organizations and communities. Relevant courses: PubH 8402, 8416, 8422.
- Lead a team of diverse professionals reflecting shared values and vision to achieve specific objectives. Relevant courses: PubH 8402.