

# Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

## Milken Institute School of Public Health Bachelor of Science in Public Health 2016-2017

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

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### BACKGROUND

The George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health (SPH) first offered the BS Public Health in the fall semester of 2003. The GW SPH was established in July 1997, bringing together three long-standing University programs. It is fully accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). Since its inception, the GW SPH has offered several undergraduate degrees and programs, including the Bachelor of Science in Public Health, Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science (with various concentrations), and Minors in Public Health, Exercise Science, or Nutrition. To learn more about the Milken Institute SPH, visit <http://publichealth.gwu.edu>.

### MISSION STATEMENT

In the context of a liberal arts and sciences tradition that emphasizes critical thinking, analysis, and synthesis of information, students in the Bachelor of Science in Public Health program will acquire knowledge and skills in the critical component elements of public health.

### VISION

The Bachelor of Science in Public Health program strives to be an intellectual leader in the development of undergraduate public health education. The program hopes to matriculate students who will take their public health voice into diverse fields of professional practice, bringing an informed and evidence-based viewpoint to public health issues affecting society at large.

### VALUES

While nurturing students' capacity to think analytically and creatively, we strive to deepen their commitment to improving the public's health.

## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES in the LIBERAL ARTS TRADITION**

The BS in Public Health, founded in the liberal arts tradition often associated with small private colleges, is a respected and proven model for teaching students to assume responsibility for their own life-long learning. Liberal arts education has its foundation in both the arts (*trivium*, based on three disciplines: language, logic, and rhetoric) and the sciences (*quadrivium*, based on four disciplines of natural phenomena: arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, and music) as studied in medieval universities. While contemporary arts and sciences programs have expanded beyond the imagination and expectations of the medieval founders, it is within the context of this liberal arts tradition that the BS in Public Health strives to prepare students for progressive independence, maturity, knowledge of the world, understanding of diverse inhabitants, and respect for their differing points of view. Because this degree is intended to convey technical detail and analytic skills, grounded in a liberal arts philosophical base, it also has the educational objectives of nurturing critical thinking, analysis, and synthesis of information, and recognizing the historical and societal associations of current trends in public health and health care delivery.

## **CORE COURSE COMPETENCIES**

The following competencies are designed to be achieved by all public health majors through the indicated courses:

Upon completion of the Bachelor of Science in Public Health, students will be able to:

1. Assess the impact of historical, cultural, political, environmental, behavioral, and socio-economic factors on population/community health and health status (courses: 1101, 1102, 2112, 3132, 3133, 3135W).
2. Describe the organization, financing, and delivery of health services and public health systems (courses: 1101, 3130, 3133, 3135W, 4140W).
3. Describe the underlying biological factors relating to public health issues and discuss how these factors inform interventions to improve population health (courses: 1101, 2112, 2110, 3131, 3132, 3133, 4140W).
4. Critically review multiple types of research, develop an understanding of data and research, and develop and evaluate public health interventions based on available evidence (courses: 3131, 3133, 4140W).
5. Evaluate policy, behavioral, environmental, and systems options for addressing current public health and health care concerns (courses: 2112, 3130, 3132, 3133, 3135W, 4140W).
6. Prepare written and oral communication to convey public health concepts and analysis clearly and persuasively (all courses).
7. Use an interdisciplinary approach to develop and evaluate public-health research interventions based on current evidence (course: 4140W).

## CAREERS

The BS in Public Health strives to increase awareness and understanding of public health principles among students who are preparing for professional careers in fields such as:

- Allied Health
- Business
- Health Education
- Health Services Administration
- Law
- Medicine (or another of the health professions)
- Public Health (both those who plan to pursue graduate degrees in public health or students who intend to pursue entry-level jobs in specific sectors of public health, health services, or public policy for which bachelor's level education is appropriate)

## ADMISSIONS

Students can apply to the BS in Public Health as early as the fall or spring semester of their sophomore year. **Students must have a GPA of at least 3.0 to be considered for admission to the program.** Students accepted into the program matriculate in the semester following admission, upon completion of a minimum of 45 credits in residence in the fall and 60 credits in residence in the spring. Transfer students must be admitted and have a minimum of 12 credits in residence at GW before they will be considered for admission to the BS in Public Health program.

It is recommended that students receive guidance about the program before submitting an application. Students may receive guidance from the Student Advisor, Meaghan Wilson (meaghanwilson@email.gwu.edu). Please email the Advisor to schedule an appointment to discuss the program.

The application should be submitted using the digital submission link provided by Admissions and include the following materials:

1. A completed *Transfer Application from Within GW*  
*Form:* [https://registrar.gwu.edu/sites/registrar.gwu.edu/files/downloads/internal\\_transfer.pdf](https://registrar.gwu.edu/sites/registrar.gwu.edu/files/downloads/internal_transfer.pdf)
2. 250 word responses (each) to the following questions:
  1. What public health issues concerns you most and why?
  2. What role will the public health major play in your goals to become a lifelong learner?
3. Your resume
4. Your transcript (you may include either an official or unofficial transcript, as long as GPA is included)

The application deadline is October 12<sup>th</sup> in the fall semester and March 1<sup>st</sup> in the spring semester. If the date falls on a holiday or weekend, submissions are accepted the next business day. **Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.**

Admission to the program is made on a selective and space-available basis. The admissions committee considers applications holistically, considering applicants' academic strengths, commitment to public health, leadership qualities, and other attributes.

No student is considered to have declared a public health major until this process is completed and the student has received and returned their signed copy of the acceptance letter from the GWSPH Office of Recruitment and Admissions. Thereafter students receive guidance from the Program Advisor. Students are strongly encouraged to receive academic guidance from the Program Advisor in order to register for all subsequent semesters.

Students follow the prescribed curriculum effective in the year that he/she matriculates into the BS in Public Health program.

### **ACADEMIC DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION**

There are three categories of Degree Requirements: University General Education Requirements (GER), Public Health Core Courses, and Public Health Electives. Students take other electives to reach the 120 total credits required to graduate.

#### **A. GER REQUIREMENTS (19 credit hours)**

Students are required to complete a minimum of 19 credit hours as follows: natural or physical science with a laboratory experience (1 course), mathematics or statistics (1 course), social sciences (2 courses), the humanities (1 course), and writing (1 writing course and 2 writing-in-the-discipline courses). Courses taken to fulfill GER components may count toward more than one requirement and can be counted toward a major or a minor.

**See the University Bulletin website for most up-to-date version of GER requirements and approved courses: <http://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/>**

**Milken Institute SPH follows the University's GER requirements with the following specifications:**

- Students must take either BISC 1005, BISC 1111 or equivalent (with approval from the PUBH 2110 instructor) as a pre-requisite to taking Public Health Biology (PUBH 2110) and Global Health & Development (PUBH 3133).
- Students must take one semester of statistics (STAT 1127 is preferred) as a pre-requisite for Epidemiology (PUBH 3131).
- Students must take ECON 1011 or equivalent (with approval from the PUBH 3130 instructor) as a pre-requisite to taking Health Services Management and Economics (PUBH 3130).

**B. PUBLIC HEALTH CORE COURSES (30 credits, 10 courses)**

The public health major curriculum constitutes 42 credits: 30 core credit credits and 12 elective credit credits offered through the Milken Institute SPH.

<b>Public Health Core Courses</b>		
<b>Required Courses</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Course Title</b>
PUBH 1101	3	Introduction to Public Health and Health Services
PUBH 1102	3	History of Public Health
PUBH 2110	3	Public Health Biology
PUBH 2112	3	Principles of Health Education and Health Promotion
PUBH 3130	3	Health Services Management and Economics
PUBH 3131	3	Epidemiology: Measuring Health and Disease
PUBH 3132	3	Health and Environment
PUBH 3133	3	Global Health and Development
PUBH 3135W	3	Health Policy
PUBH 4140W	3	Senior Seminar
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	

**C. PUBLIC HEALTH ELECTIVE COURSES (12 credits).**

*No more than 9 elective credits may be taken through approved study abroad programs or non-GW domestic courses.*

<b>Approved Public Health Elective Courses</b>		
<b>Elective Courses</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Course Title</b>
HLWL 1106	3	Drug Awareness
HLWL 1109	3	Human Sexuality
HLWL 1110	3	Issues in Alternative Medicine
EXNS 1114	3	Community Nutrition

EXNS 2119	3	Basic Nutrition
EXNS 2122	3	Food Systems in Public Health
HIST 3363	3	Race, American Medicine, and PH: African-American Experiences
ANTH 3504	3	Illness, Healing and Culture
ANTH 3513	3	Human Rights and Ethics
ANTH 6302	3	Issues in Development
BIOC 3560	3	Diet, Health, and Longevity
GEOG 2127	3	Population Geography
GEOG 2137	3	Environmental Hazards
HSCI 2101	3	Psychosocial Aspects of Health and Illness
PUBH 2113	3	Impact of Culture Upon Health
PUBH 2114	3	Environment, Health and Development
PUBH 2115	3	Health, Human Rights, and Displaced Persons
PUBH 2116	3	Global Delivery of Health Services
PUBH 2117	3	Service-Learning in Public Health
PUBH 3136	3	Health Law
PUBH 3137	3	Global Public Health Nutrition
PUBH 3150	3	Sustainable Energy and Environmental Health
PUBH 3151	3	Current Issues in Bioethics
PUBH 3199	1-3	Various Topics in Public Health - i.e. Qualitative Research Methods in PUBH

## EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS/POLICIES

1. Follow the admissions process outlined above;
2. Consult the Milken Institute SPH Program Advisor prior to registration (The advisor should be consulted before registration concerning the student's program of courses; the entire program, including electives, must be approved by the advisor. The student is also expected to consult a program advisor in all matters affecting the program of studies, such as changes, substitutions, or withdrawals);
3. Earn 120 credits within the established course distribution outlined below:

<b>Summary Credit Distribution Chart</b>		
<b>Category</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Premedical Credits</b>
GER Requirements	19	52-71
Public Health Core Curriculum	30	30
Public Health Electives	12	12
Additional Electives	44-50	7-26
Total Number of Credits	120	120

4. Students may also fulfill credit requirements in the following ways:
  - a. transfer up to 9 credits for equivalent courses from an accredited institution;
  - b. credit earned by means of AP, IB, or other nationally approved examination programs;
  - c. or by waiver examinations such as SAT II or ACT subject tests, except in foreign languages. (See Advanced Standing and Advanced Placement under [Admissions](#) in the GW Undergraduate Bulletin);
5. Two courses that are related in subject matter may not be taken to fulfill a requirement (Consult the GW Undergraduate Bulletin in the Course Instruction section to identify courses that are equivalent);
6. Students may not take required courses for the major outside of GW except with permission of the Director of the Undergraduate Program in Public Health. Permission will only be granted if there are strong extenuating circumstances that calls for an exception to this policy.
7. Students may not apply more than 9 elective credits from approved study abroad programs or non-GW domestic classes to their major. Please consult the approved course list on SPH website, BSPH program page, which can be found at <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/programs/public-health-bs>.
8. It is the student's responsibility to understand the degree requirements and follow them for on-time graduation.
9. Comply with policies and procedures as outlined in the *Milken Institute SPH Student Handbook* and the *GW University Bulletin*. Pay particular attention to the Milken Institute SPH requirements to complete human research training, to complete 8 hours of professional enhancement activities, and to pass the Academic Integrity Quiz.

Please consult the Program Advisor for further information about the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Public Health.

**Course Descriptions and Registration** information can be found on the website:  
<http://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics>.