

# Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

## Milken Institute School of Public Health Bachelor of Science in Public Health 2018-2019

Note: All curriculum revisions will be updated immediately on the GWSPH 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 in 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 who began their academic careers at GW can apply to the BS in Public Health as early as the fall semester of their sophomore year. Transfer students must be admitted to the university and have completed a minimum of 12 credits in residence at GW (one full-time semester) before they will be considered for admission to the BS in Public Health program. **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.

It is **strongly** recommended that students receive guidance about the program before submitting an application. Students may receive guidance from the Academic Advisors at [sphundergrad@gwu.edu](mailto:sphundergrad@gwu.edu) Please email the Advisors to schedule an appointment to discuss the program and options for degree planning.

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

1. 250 word responses (each) to the following questions:
  1. What public health issues concern you most and why?
  2. What role will the public health major play in your goals to become a lifelong learner?
2. Your resume
3. Your unofficial transcript from BanWeb. (Admissions will verify with an official copy.)

The application deadline is October 1<sup>st</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. No students are guaranteed admission to the program.** 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 will transition from their first school's academic advisor(s) to the Program Advisor. Students must 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, Public Health Core Courses, and Public Health Electives. Students take other elective courses to reach the 120 total credits required to graduate.

### A. General Education REQUIREMENTS (19-20 credit hours)

The Public Health program follows the University General Education Requirements. **See the University Bulletin website for most up-to-date version of Gen Ed requirements and approved courses:** <http://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/>

**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.

**Prerequisite Requirements:** Please note that these are prerequisites for required core courses, rather than prerequisites to apply to the program.

<i>Required Course</i>	<i>Prerequisite(s)</i>
PUBH 2110	BISC 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1115 (with 1120/1125 lab), 1116 (with 1126 lab), or HONR 1033 ( <i>Scientific Reasoning &amp; Discovery: <b>Biology Only</b></i> )
PUBH 2112 & PUBH 3135W	PUBH 1101- Introduction to Public Health
PUBH 3130	ECON 1011- Principles of Economics I (Microeconomics)
PUBH 3131	STAT 1051 or 1053 or 1127 or 1111 ( <i>STAT 1127 is preferred</i> )
PUBH 4140W	PUBH 3130 & PUBH 3135W; <i>no more than 1 other core course can be taken concurrently.</i>

**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.*

**Public Health Core Courses (30 credits)**

Required Courses	Credits	Course Title
PUBH 1101	3	Introduction to Public Health and Health Services
PUBH 1102 or PUBH 1102W	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

**Approved Public Health Elective Courses (12 credits)**

Elective Courses	Credits	Course Title
AMST 3950	3	Topics: Narrative Medicine in American History <i>only</i>
ANTH 3504	3	Illness, Healing and Culture
ANTH 3513	3	Anthropology of Human Rights
ANTH 6302	3	Issues in Development
BADM 4101	3	Business Law and Ethics
BIOC 3560	3	Diet, Health, and Longevity
BISC 3450 or BISC 3450W	3	Evolutionary Medicine
EHS 2107	4	Theory and Practice of Research in a Clinical Setting
EXNS 1114	3	Community Nutrition
EXNS 1199	3	Topics: Nutrition & Disease <i>only</i>
EXNS 2119	3	Introduction to Nutrition Science
EXNS 2122	3	Food Systems in Public Health
GEOG 2104	3	Introduction to Cartography and GIS
GEOG 2127	3	Population Geography
GEOG 2137	3	Environmental Hazards
HIST 3363	3	Race, Medicine, and Public Health
HLWL 1106	3	Drug Awareness
HLWL 1109	3	Human Sexuality
HONR 2047	3	Special Topics- Medicine and Society <i>only</i>
HONR 2047	3	Special Topics- Gender, Race, and Science <i>only</i>
HSCI 2101	3	Psychosocial Aspects of Health and Illness
HSCI 2105	3	Current Issues in Bioethics
IAFF 2190W	3	Topics: Science, Policy and Tech <i>only</i>
PHIL 2124	3	Philosophies of Disability
PHIL 2281	3	Philosophy of the Environment
PSYC 3128	3	Health Psychology
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 2117	3	Service Learning in Public Health
PUBH 3116	3	Global Health Systems Performance
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 3152	3	Qualitative Research Methods in Public Health
PUBH 3199	1-3	Various Topics in Public Health
STAT 2118	3	Regression Analysis
STAT 2183	3	Intermediate Statistics Lab/Packages
SUST 2003	3	The Sustainable Plate

## EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS/POLICIES

1. Follow the admissions process outlined above;
2. Consult the Milken Institute SPH Program Advisor prior to each term's course 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:

Summary Credit Distribution Chart		
Category	Credits	Premedical Credits
Gen Ed Requirements	19-20	52-71*
Public Health Core Curriculum	30	30
Public Health Electives	12	12
Additional Electives	60	7-26
Total Number of Credits	120	120

\* *Gen Ed's credit total = Gen Ed's PLUS premedical concentration curricular requirements.*

4. Students may also fulfill credit requirements in the following ways:
  - a. transfer up to 9 credits for equivalent courses from an accredited institution, outside of a semester-long abroad program;
  - b. credit earned by means of AP, IB, or other nationally approved examination programs;
5. Two courses that are related in subject matter may not be taken to fulfill a requirement (Consult the GW 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 call 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 maintained by the Office for Study Abroad.
8. **It is the student's responsibility to understand the degree requirements and follow them for timely graduation and completion of the degree.**
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 (CITI 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, program information, and Registration** information can be found on the website: <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics>; and <http://bulletin.gwu.edu/courses/pubh/>.