

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Milken Institute School of Public Health Bachelor of Science in Public Health 2015-2016

(With G-PAC Program Requirements)

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

Program Director

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BACKGROUND

The George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health (SPH) first offered the BS Public Health fall semester 2003. The GW SPH was established in July 1997, bringing together three long-standing University programs, and 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 graduate students who will take their public health voice into diverse fields of professional practice, and bring 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

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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, but with 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 apply to the BS in Public Health during the 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 fall semester of their junior year, upon completion of 60 credits. Transfer students must be admitted and matriculating 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 either Program Advisor Candace Leake (cleake@email.gwu.edu) or Admissions Department (GWSPHAdmit@gwu.edu). Please email either individual to schedule an appointment to discuss the program.

The application should be **in the form of a PDF** and include the following materials:

1. A completed *Transfer Application from Within GW Form*
http://publichealth.gwu.edu/pdf/gwsph_transfer_within_application.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)

Students must submit their application via email to GWSPHAdmit@gwu.edu. The subject heading of the email should be BSPH (year you are applying) Application (ex: BSPH 2016 Application)

The application deadline is March 1st (if 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 applicant's 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, signed the letter of acceptance 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: General Curriculum Requirements (G-PAC), Public Health Core Courses, and Public Health Electives. Students take other electives to total the 120 credits required to graduate.

A. G-PAC REQUIREMENTS (28-34 credit hours)

Students are required to complete a minimum of 24 credit hours of analytical course work distributed across a range of disciplines in the following manner. Courses taken to fulfill G-PAC components can also be counted toward a major or a minor.

Perspective

Courses that meet learning objectives for the category of Perspective can double count with courses taken toward the Analysis requirement.

- Global or Cross-Cultural
- Local or Civic Engagement

Analysis

- Mathematics or Statistics- 3 credit hours in an approved mathematics or statistics course to achieve learning goals for quantitative reasoning. Public Health students recommended to take STAT 1127.
- Natural/Physical Sciences with lab- 6 credit hours in approved natural and physical sciences courses (must include a lab component) to achieve learning goals for scientific reasoning.
- Social Sciences- 6 credit hours in approved social sciences courses to achieve learning goals in quantitative, scientific, critical or creative thinking.

- Humanities- 6 credit hours in approved humanities courses to achieve learning goals in either critical or creative thinking
- Arts- 3 credit hours in an approved arts course (visual, performing, critical, or historical practices) to achieve learning goals in either critical or creative thinking.

Communication

Students are required to demonstrate both written and oral communication skills. Courses taken to meet this learning objective can be double counted with courses taken toward Analysis and/or Perspective requirements.

- Written Communications- Students must take UW 1020 in their freshman year plus two (2) Writing in the Discipline (WID) courses. Students must successfully complete UW 1020 before taking WID courses in order to receive credit for the Written Communication requirement. One WID course can double count with courses taken to count toward Analysis or Perspective requirement.
- Oral Communications- Of the G-PAC analysis/perspective courses, or selected from a course required from the student's major students must take one approved course that includes a component of oral communication.

Transfer credit and credit by examination (AP, IB, etc.) cannot be used to fulfill any part of the G-PAC requirements. Students should consult with Advisors with specific questions.

Milken Institute SPH follows the GW Columbian College of Arts and Sciences G-PAC 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)
- 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

See CCAS website for most up-to-date version of G-PAC (general curriculum) requirements: <http://advising.columbian.gwu.edu/g-pac>. Consult with the Program Advisor. Courses may count toward more than one requirement.

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.

Public Health Core Courses		
Required Courses	Credits	Course Title
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 3135-W	3	Health Policy
PubH 4140-W	3	Senior Seminar
TOTAL	30	

C. PUBLIC HEALTH ELECTIVE COURSES (12 credits).

No more than 9 elective credits may be taken through study abroad programs.

Approved Public Health Elective Courses		
Elective Courses	Credits	Course Title
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 2137	3	Environmental Hazards
HSCI 2101	3	Psychosocial Aspects of Health and Illness
ORSC 4161	3	Organizational Research Methods
PSC 2101	3	Scope & Methods in Political Science
PSYC 2101	3	Research Methods - Psychology
PubH 1099	1-3	Variable Topics
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 3190	1-3	Various Topics in Public Health

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:

Summary Credit Distribution Chart		
Category	Credits	Premedical Credits
G-PAC Requirements	28-34	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. No course may fulfill a requirement in more than one of the seven G-PAC categories (exception: An occasional WID course may fulfill more than one G-PAC category);
5. Students may also fulfill credit requirements in the following ways: 1. transfer credit for equivalent courses from an accredited institution; 2. credit earned by means of AP, IB, or other nationally approved examination programs; or 3. 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);
6. 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);
7. Students may not take required courses 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.
8. Students may not apply more than 9 elective credits from study abroad programs to their major.
9. It is the student's responsibility to understand the degree requirements and follow them for on-time graduation.
10. Comply with policies and procedures as outlined in the *Milken Institute SPH Student Handbook* and the *GW Undergraduate 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 Milken Institute SPH Office of Admissions and Recruitment, GWSPHAdmit@gwu.edu 202.994.2160 or 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>.