

# Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

## Department of Health Policy and Management

### Master of Public Health and Graduate Certificate Health Policy 2019-2020

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

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## A. Master of Public Health (MPH) in Health Policy

#### Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of Health Policy and Management—a practice-oriented academic community in Washington, DC—is to improve health and health systems locally, nationally, and globally through: excellence in education, innovative scholarship and applied research that is translated into practice and policy, and the promotion of transformational leadership that advances health policy and health services management.

We are committed to:

- Preparing graduates who will become innovative and effective leaders in public health and health policy, health services delivery, and health system transformation;
- Conducting rigorous multidisciplinary research that addresses significant health challenges, is objective, and is translated to inform and affect health policy, health care management, and public health practice;
- Being a trusted resource for shaping and advancing health policy and management practices because of our research integrity and rigor, the real-world leadership experiences of our faculty and staff, and our exceptional students;
- Leveraging our unique location in Washington, DC which allows for strong collaborations with health policy and management leaders and practitioners;
- Improving the health and health care of under-served and vulnerable populations; and
- Promoting and learning from the diversity among our faculty, staff, students, and alumni in terms of background, experience, and thought.

#### Overview

The Department of Health Policy and Management is the home for health policy studies and research at the Milken Institute School of Public Health (SPH). The Department focuses on virtually all facets of U.S. health policy related to both public health and health services and emphasizes preparing students to understand and analyze health policy matters in a broad, cross-cutting, and real-world context. Among schools of public health, the Milken Institute SPH Department of Health Policy and Management is unique, having been created to take maximum advantage of its location in Washington, DC, the nation's health policy-making epicenter. The MPH in Health Policy is for students who wish to develop in-depth policy analysis skills for use in various practice settings, including both federal and state levels of government, private-sector health policy consulting, and not-for-profit advocacy. This program is also available as a joint degree to GW law students (the JD/MPH and LL.M/MPH programs) and to GW medical and physician assistant students (the MD/MPH and PA/MPH programs) who wish to enhance their clinical training with a thorough understanding of health policy. The Graduate Certificate in Health Policy is also available (please see section "B" below), standing alone or as a supplement to a primary (e.g., MPH, JD, MD) degree.

#### Course Requirements

All MPH students admitted to the Health Policy program enroll in MPH Core Courses (17 credits), Program-Specific Courses (20 credits) and Elective Courses (8 credits). The MPH Core includes a practice experience in which students apply their didactic education by working for credit for an organization that engages in health policy research, analysis, or practice. Students may wish to give greater emphasis to either public health or health services policy as they develop their course of study with their advisor. See the Program-At-A-Glance section below for details about the required courses.

### **Program-Specific Competencies**

Graduates of the MPH in Health Policy will be able to:

1. Understand the comparative models of structuring and financing public health and health care services, the complex systems for delivery of services, and the methods and mechanisms for determining the benefits of public health and health care services.
2. Locate, assess, appropriately use, and synthesize relevant information to conduct different types of applied policy analyses.
3. Comparatively analyze, interpret, and apply laws to health-related legal questions, considering the legal rights and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders.
4. Assess and apply microeconomic concepts and tools to analyze health policy questions.
5. Conduct statistical analyses of health policy questions using univariate, bivariate, and multivariate statistics.
6. Understand how to find and use population health data to describe a public health problem in terms of magnitude, person, time, and place.
7. Think creatively to develop and implement innovative policies that effect change and work collaboratively with stakeholders with a variety of viewpoints to achieve policy goals.
8. Speak and write clearly and effectively, conveying information and opinions in a structured and credible way and adapting communication styles and content to the needs of the intended audience.

Required MPH Core Courses		Credits	Semester Offered
PUBH 6002	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health	3	Fall, Spring, Summer, Online
PUBH 6003	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology	3	Fall, Spring, Summer, Online
PUBH 6007	Social and Behavioral Approaches to Public Health	2	Fall, Spring, Summer, Online
PUBH 6009	Fundamentals of Program Evaluation	2	Fall, Spring, Summer, Online
PUBH 6011	Environmental and Biological Foundations of Public Health	3	Fall, Spring, Summer, Online
PUBH 6012	Fundamentals of Health Policy	2	Fall, Spring, Summer, Online
PUBH 6021	Essentials in Public Health Practice & Leadership 1: Leading Self and Teams in Public Health (Note: Must be taken in first semester)	1	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6022	Essentials in Public Health Practice & Leadership 2: Managing Organizations & Influencing Systems in PH (Note: Includes practicum*)	1	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6023	Interprofessional Education Experience	0	Fall, Spring, Summer
<b>Total</b>	<b>MPH Core Course Credits</b>	<b>17</b>	
Required Program-Specific Courses			
PUBH 6310	Statistical Analysis in Health Policy (prerequisite: PUBH 6002)	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6315	Introduction to Health Policy Analysis (prerequisite: PUBH 6012)	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6320	Advanced Health Policy Research and Analysis Methods (prerequisites: PUBH 6310 and PUBH 6315)	3	Spring, Fall
PUBH 6325	Federal Policymaking and Policy Advocacy (prerequisite: PUBH 6012)	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6330 <b>OR</b> PUBH 6335	Health Services and Law (prerequisite: none) <b>OR</b> Public Health and Law (prerequisite: none)	3	Fall, Spring Fall, Spring, Online
PUBH 6340	Health Economics and Financing (prerequisite: none)	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
	<b>Health Policy Selective (choose one course from list below):</b>	2	
<b>Choose one course from this list</b>	PUBH 6356. State Health Policy (prerequisite: PUBH 6012) <b>OR</b>		Fall
	PUBH 6370. Medicare/Medicaid Law & Policy (prerequisite: PUBH 6012) <b>OR</b>		Spring
	PUBH 6384. Health Care Quality and Health Policy (prerequisite: PUBH 6012) <b>OR</b>		Fall
	PUBH 6367. Population Health, Public Health and Health Reform. (prerequisite: PUBH 6012) <b>OR</b>		Fall
	PUBH 6399. Comparative Health Policy (prerequisite: PUBH 6012)		Fall
PUBH 6350	Health Policy Capstone (prerequisite: 6320 and departmental approval) Notes: <u>Must</u> be taken in final MPH semester. Formerly “Culminating Experience.”)	2	Spring, Summer
<b>Total</b>	<b>Program-Specific Course Credits</b>	<b>20</b>	

Elective Courses			
Any PUBH or HSML course	A personalized combination of elective courses. Any PUBH or HSML course will count as an elective toward the MPH in Health Policy degree (prerequisites may apply). Residential MPH program students may take up to 15 PUBH credits online.	Varies	<p>As elective course offerings vary, please check the current semester's course schedule for a list of health policy electives and other PUBH and HSML electives.</p> <p>Regularly-offered health policy electives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PUBH 6345. Health Policy Research Design (Fall, 2 credits)</li> <li>• PUBH 6352. Basics of Economics for Health Policy (Fall, 1 credit)</li> <li>• PUBH 6356. State Health Policy (Fall, 2 credits)</li> <li>• PUBH 6358. Vaccine Policy (Summer, 2 credits)</li> <li>• PUBH 6368. Law, Medicine, and Ethics (Fall and online, 3 credits)</li> <li>• PUBH 6370. Medicare/Medicaid Law &amp; Policy (Spring, 2 credits)</li> <li>• PUBH 6374. Pharmaceutical Policy (Fall and online, 2 credits)</li> <li>• PUBH 6378. HIV Policy (Varies, 2 credits)</li> <li>• PUBH 6384. Health Care Quality and Health Policy (Fall, 2 credits)</li> <li>• PUBH 6399. Comparative Health Policy (Fall, 2 credits)</li> <li>• PUBH 6399. Cost-Benefit Analysis in Health Care (Spring, 2 credits)</li> <li>• PUBH 6399. Reproductive Health Policy (Spring, 2 credits)</li> <li>• PUBH 6399. Maternal and Child Health Policy (Spring, 2 credits)</li> <li>• PUBH 6367. Population Health, Public Health and Health Reform. (Fall, 2 credits)</li> <li>• PUBH 6399. Health Care on the Hill (Summer, 1 credit)</li> <li>• PUBH 6399. Emerging HP Issues in HC Finance (Summer, 1 credit)</li> <li>• PUBH 6399. Public Health Systems (Spring, 1 credit)</li> <li>• PUBH 6399. Health Care in Retail Settings (Spring, 1 credit)</li> <li>• PUBH 6399. Substance Use Disorder Policy (Spring, 2 credits)</li> </ul>
<b>Total</b>	<b>Elective Credits</b>	<b>8</b>	
Course Distribution Summary			
Required MPH Core Courses		17 Credits	
Required Program-Specific Core Courses, including the Practicum and Capstone		20 Credits	
Elective Courses		8 Credits	
<b>Total</b>		<b>45 Credits</b>	
<p><i>* Note: In PUBH 6021 and PUBH 6022, the Applied Practice Experience (Practicum) will be introduced and guidelines and tools for fulfilling this requirement will be provided. Upon completion of the 120-hour required practicum, students will receive credit for PUBH 6022.</i></p>			

## **Interprofessional Education (IPE) Experience**

Following (or simultaneous to) enrollment in PUBH 6021 Essentials in Public Health Practice & Leadership 1: Leading Self and Teams (1-credit), students will be required to select an IPE experience from a host of options provided throughout your enrollment as a MPH student to participate in a one-time, case-based or activity-based learning experience. The IPE experience is a way to experience working with people from other professions/programs outside of public health. Students will have many opportunities to register for this zero-credit (no fee) IPE 'class' (PUBH 6023- Interprofessional Education Experience) and will receive credit upon successful completion.

## **The Practicum (Applied Practice Experience)**

The Practicum (also called Applied Practice Experience) is completed as part of Essentials in Public Health Practice & Leadership 2: Managing Organizations & Influencing Systems in PH. The practicum is a planned, supervised, and evaluated practice experience in health policy that aims to provide you with an opportunity to synthesize, integrate, and apply practical skills, knowledge, and training learned through courses, to gain experience in a professional public health work environment, and to work on public health practice projects that are of particular interest to you. During the practicum, the student works at least 120 hours in the field under the supervision of the site preceptor who has agreed to directly supervise the work of the student. Students are required to fulfill all requirements of the 120-hour practicum to receive credit for this PUBH 6022.

If you have had prior work experience, you will find that the practicum provides the opportunity to hone your skills or to gain new experience in a different area. However, if you have three years or more of full-time health policy experience prior to beginning the MPH, you may be able to waive and replace the practicum through the Practicum Equivalent Experience petition. (Students who waive the practicum will still take the Essentials in Public Health Practice & Leadership 2 course but will not be required to complete a practicum as part of that course.)

Decisions on the practicum site, the nature of the work, specific learning objectives, and activities of the practicum are determined following discussions and agreements among the student, the Health Policy practicum director, and the site preceptor, whose respective responsibilities are outlined in the Student Practicum Handbook. Your practicum can be performed in a concentrated fashion in one semester or can be carried out over two semesters. Most full-time students complete the practicum requirement during their second full year of study, but timing is variable. See <https://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/practicum> for the Health Policy Practicum Syllabus, the Student Practicum Guidebook, and other resources. The following chart gives examples of potential practicum sites:

<b>SAMPLE PRACTICUM TOPICS AND SITES HEALTH POLICY</b>	
<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>SITE</b>
Injury Prevention	Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Insurance Coverage for Kids	Children's Defense Fund
Community Health Centers	National Association of Community Health Centers
Vaccine Policy	Sanofi Pasteur
Responding to National Mass Casualties	US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Policy and Strategic Planning
Newborn Screening Programs	March of Dimes
Federal Health Initiatives	Congressional Offices on Capitol Hill
Mental Health of Kids in the Criminal System	Department of Juvenile Services
Medically Underserved in DC	District of Columbia Primary Care Association
Public Insurance Programs	Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services

## **Health Policy Capstone (Culminating Experience)**

**The Health Policy Capstone (PUBH 6350)** is a 2-credit course that must be taken in the student's final semester of MPH study. **PUBH 6320, Health Policy Research and Analysis Methods, is a non-negotiable pre-requisite to the Health Policy Capstone.** Designed to bring together all the competencies learned throughout the MPH in Health Policy curriculum, this course serves as the capstone for MPH students in Health Policy. In addition to weekly classes, this seminar requires the production of a substantial health policy analysis or similar product, which can serve as a polished writing sample for the new graduate. The Capstone course is separate and distinct from the Practicum in Health Policy. Register for the Capstone using a paper Registration Transaction Form through the HPM Department (you can't register online).

### **Course Descriptions and Registration**

For descriptions of all public health courses, see <http://bulletin.gwu.edu/courses/pubh/>. Additional information about courses and registration can be found here: <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/>. For course schedules from current and prior semesters, go to <https://my.gwu.edu/mod/pws/> (select main campus and then public health – log in required).

### **Flexible Programming (Online Courses)**

MPH-HP students may take up to 15 (of the 45 required) credits online, which may be completed prior to beginning residential coursework or at the same time as residential coursework. Note that online courses follow a quarterly academic calendar rather than semesters and that schedules for online courses may not be posted at the same time as the residential programs: <https://publichealthonline.gwu.edu/academics/curriculum/academic-calendar/>. For more information about online courses, see the course schedule for the semester you're interested in here: <https://my.gwu.edu/mod/pws/> (select online and then public health – log in required) and general information here: <https://publichealthonline.gwu.edu/academics/curriculum/>.

**Transfer Credit Policy:** Up to 12 graduate credits that have not been applied to a previous graduate degree may be transferred to the Master of Public Health program. External credits must have been earned from an accredited institution in the last 3 years with a grade of 3.0 (B) or better. SPH Graduate Certificate students can transfer as many credits as meet program requirements, up to 18 credits, to the MPH. Graduate Certificate students wishing to transfer to a degree program may apply to do so via the online change of concentration petition after completion of 3 or more courses and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better. A grade of B or better is required for a course to be transferred. Refer to the Milken Institute SPH Graduate Student Handbook for details on these and other requirements: <https://publichealth.gwu.edu/content/services-students> (click link for Graduate Student Handbook).

### **Required Academic Integrity and Human Subjects Research Training**

All MPH students, regardless of concentration, must successfully complete the Academic Integrity quiz in their first two weeks of study. All students must also complete on-line CITI social-behavioral training module before registering for the practicum. Refer to the Milken Institute SPH Graduate Student Handbook for details on these and other requirements: <https://publichealth.gwu.edu/content/services-students> (click link for Graduate Student Handbook).

### **Professional Enhancement Hours**

All undergraduate, certificate, masters, and doctoral degree students in the Milken Institute School of Public Health are *required* to attend eight hours of Professional Enhancement activities during their program. Professional Enhancement activities supplement the academic curriculum and help prepare students to participate actively in the professional community. They enhance practical knowledge and awareness of public health issues – either in general or in a student's area of study.

Students can fulfill this requirement by attending workshops, seminars, or other relevant professional meetings, which are frequently held at Milken Institute SPH and elsewhere in the metropolitan Washington, DC area. Examples of SPH-sponsored events include sponsored speakers, such as the Geiger-Gibson Distinguished Visitor Seminar and the Southby Lecture, and frequent brown bag lunches with presentations by faculty and visiting experts. Examples of conference sponsors include Academy Health, the National Academy for State Health Policy, the Pan American Health Organization, the American Public Health Association, and the American College of Healthcare Executives. Examples of organizations that regularly hold health policy events include Kaiser Family Foundation, Bipartisan Policy Center, Alliance for Health Reform, and the Brookings Institution. Opportunities for professional enhancement are regularly publicized via the Milken Institute SPH and Department of Health Policy & Management listservs and newsletters.

Students must submit documentation of Professional Enhancement activities to the Office of Student Records. The documentation consists of the Professional Enhancement Form found at <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/forms> (which includes a prior approval signature from the student's advisor, a description of the program agenda, and proof of attendance). Remember to submit your documentation *before* you apply to graduate!

### **Course Planning Tips**

**NOTE: Always see your advisor for course scheduling and sequencing strategies, but remember that proper course selection, fulfilling requirements, and on-time graduation are the student's responsibilities.**

The Master of Public Health (MPH) in Health Policy curriculum consists of three types of courses:

- Required Core Courses (PUBH 6002, 6003, 6007, 6009, 6011, 6012, 6021, and 6022)
- Required Program-Specific Courses, including Capstone
- Electives

The MPH core courses are designed to provide students with a broad public health context as well as a foundation for subsequent coursework. Early completion of these core courses ensures that students will have the base of knowledge to successfully complete the program specific courses and to get as much as possible out of them.

PUBH 6021 (Essentials in Public Health Practice & Leadership 1: Leading Self and Teams in Public Health) must be taken in the student's first semester. In rare cases where special circumstances apply, the Program Director may give permission for a student to take it in their second semester.

PUBH 6022 (Essentials in Public Health Practice & Leadership 2: Managing Organizations & Influencing Systems in PH) should be taken during the semester in which the student intends to complete a practicum. Students should talk with their academic advisor and/or practicum director about any proposed practicum activity that falls outside of that semester.

PUBH 6012 is the prerequisite for most of the program-specific required courses in health policy. Therefore, students seeking to graduate in two years must take PUBH 6012 in one of the first two semesters of study.

PUBH 6002 is the course prerequisite for PUBH 6310. For students seeking to graduate in two years, PUBH 6002 must be taken in one of the first two semesters of study.

PUBH 6310 and PUBH 6315 are the course prerequisites for 6320 (Advanced Health Policy Research and Analysis Methods). Students must take 6310 and 6315 before 6320.

PUBH 6320 (Advanced Health Policy Research and Analysis Methods) is the course prerequisite for PUBH 6350, the Health Policy Capstone. Students must take the 6320 before 6350 (the Capstone).

PUBH 6350, the Health Policy Capstone, can only be taken in the student's final MPH semester. Registration for the Capstone requires Departmental approval via registration transaction form.

Please check the course schedule for a given semester to determine all applicable prerequisites.

## Timing and Accelerated Options

We recommend that students allow at least five semesters to complete the MPH program. (This is typically two fall and spring semesters and one summer.) Students must complete the MPH program within five years.

The program technically can be done in a minimum of four semesters if started in a Spring or Summer semester, but students on this accelerated path must carefully plan their program and ensure they register as soon as registration opens to ensure that they get into the courses they need. Students may encounter schedule conflicts that prevent them from taking the courses they prefer and potentially delay graduation. It also is possible for students admitted to the residential MPH in Health Policy program to take online courses their first semester, which must include PUBH 6002 and PUBH 6012, and then complete the rest of the program on-campus in 12 months, which may be May to May or August to August (spending three semesters in residence in Washington, DC). Students wishing to pursue an accelerated option should talk with their assigned academic advisor and/or the program director to plan their program carefully before they begin.

The MPH in Health Policy is designed to be accessible to working professionals with all core courses available in the late afternoon (3 pm or later) or evening in Fall or Spring semesters, in addition to the opportunity to take up to 15 credits online. Note that it is not possible for all courses to be made available after 6 pm so a student may need some flexibility in their work schedule if working full time while pursuing the MPH.

## Graduation Requirements

- **Graduate Credit Requirement:** Completion of 45 graduate credits.
- **Course Requirements:** Successful completion of all required courses (the MPH Core Courses, Program-Specific Courses, and Electives).
- **Grade Point Requirement:** A 3.0 (B average) overall grade point average at the completion of the degree requirements.
- **Successful completion of the Interprofessional Education (IPE) experience.**
- **Successful completion of the required on-line CITI human subjects research training module.**
- **Successful completion of 8 Professional Enhancement hours.**
- **Time Limit Requirement:** The degree must be completed within five years.
- **Transfer Credit Policy:** Up to 12 graduate credits that have not been applied to a previous graduate degree may be transferred to the Master of Public Health program upon approval. External credits must have been earned from an accredited institution in the last 3 years with a grade of 3.0 (B) or better. SPH Graduate Certificate students can transfer as many credits as meet program requirements, up to 18 credits, to the MPH. Graduate Certificate students wishing to transfer to a degree program may apply to do so via the online change of concentration petition after completion of 3 or more courses and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better. A grade of B or better is required for a course to be transferred.
- **Online Course Policy:** MPH-HP students may take up to 15 (of the 45 required) credits online, which may be completed prior to beginning residential coursework or at the same time as residential coursework.



**Sample Schedules for the MPH in Health Policy**

Table 1 (full time students) and Table 2 (part time students) present sample course schedules that students admitted to the MPH program in Health Policy can use as a guideline to structure their program of studies. It is noteworthy that in either sample course schedule, a full 45 credits are required to complete the degree, including core courses (12 credits), program specific courses (24 credits), and Health Policy electives (9 credits).

**Table 1: Sample Schedule for 2-Year Completion (fall start)**

Semester	Cr	Course #	Course Name
Fall 1 <sup>st</sup> year 11 credits	3	PUBH 6002	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health
	2	PUBH 6007	Social & Behavioral Approaches to Public Health
	2	PUBH 6012	Fundamentals of Health Policy
	3	PUBH 6003	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology
	1	PUBH 6021	Essentials in Public Health Practice & Leadership 1: Leading Self and Teams in Public Health
Spring 1 <sup>st</sup> year 10 credits	3	PUBH 6011	Environmental and Biological Foundations of Public Health
	3	PUBH 6310	Statistical Analysis in Health Policy
	2	PUBH 6315	Introduction to Health Policy Analysis
	0	PUBH 6023	Interprofessional Education Experience
	2	PUBH/HSML course	Elective
Summer 1 <sup>st</sup> year 6 credits	2	PUBH 6009	Fundamentals of Program Evaluation
	2	PUBH 6325	Federal Policymaking and Policy Advocacy
	2	PUBH/HSML course	Elective
Fall 2 <sup>nd</sup> year 9 credits	3	PUBH 6320	Advanced Health Policy Research and Analysis Methods
	3	PUBH 6330 or 6335	Health Services & Law or Public Health & Law
	1	PUBH 6022	Essentials in Public Health Practice & Leadership 2: Managing Organizations & Influencing Systems in PH (and Practicum)
	2	PUBH ____	Health Policy Selective
Spring 2 <sup>nd</sup> year 9 credits	3	PUBH 6340	Health Economics and Financing
	2	PUBH 6350	Health Policy Capstone
	2	PUBH/HSML course	Elective
	2	PUBH/HSML course	Elective

**Table 2: Sample Schedule for 3-Year Completion (fall start)**

Semester	Cr	Course #	Course Name
Fall 1 <sup>st</sup> year 6 credits	3 2 1 0	PUBH 6003 PUBH 6007 PUBH 6021 PUBH 6023	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology Social & Behavioral Approaches to Public Health Essentials in Public Health Practice & Leadership 1: Leading Self and Teams in Public Health Interprofessional Education Experience
Spring 1 <sup>st</sup> year 7 credits	3 2 2	PUBH 6011 PUBH 6012 PUBH/HSML course	Environmental and Biological Foundations of Public Health Fundamentals of Health Policy Elective
Summer 1 <sup>st</sup> year 5 credits	2 3	PUBH 6315 PUBH 6002	Introduction to Health Policy Analysis Biostatistical Applications for Public Health
Fall 2 <sup>nd</sup> year 6 credits	3 3	PUBH 6310 PUBH 6330 or 6335	Statistical Analysis in Health Policy Health Services & Law or Public Health & Law
Spring 2 <sup>nd</sup> year 5 credits	2 2 1	PUBH 6009 PUBH 6325 PUBH 6022	Fundamentals of Program Evaluation Federal Policymaking and Policy Advocacy Essentials in Public Health Practice & Leadership 2: Managing Organizations & Influencing Systems in PH (and Practicum)
Summer 2 <sup>nd</sup> year 5 credits	3 2	PUBH 6340 PUBH/HSML course	Health Economics and Financing Elective
Fall 3 <sup>rd</sup> year 5 credits	3 2	PUBH 6320 PUBH ____	Advanced Health Policy Research & Analysis Methods Health Policy Selective
Spring 3 <sup>rd</sup> year 6 credits	2 2 2	PUBH/HSML course PUBH/HSML course PUBH 6350	Elective Elective Health Policy Capstone

## B. The Graduate Certificate in Health Policy

For those seeking a solid foundation in the substance of health policy and the skills of health policy analysis but who do not wish to undertake the full MPH, the Department offers an 18-credit Graduate Certificate. Designed to provide both basic and advanced-level skills in policy research and analysis, the Graduate Certificate also includes elective course offerings to fit the student's desires. If enrolled in the Graduate Certificate in Health Policy Program, the student will meet often with his/her advisor to craft a personalized course of study through the Elective Course offerings. Specifically, the Graduate Certificate in Health Policy requires:

- PUBH 6002, *Biostatistical Applications for Public Health* (3 credits) (prerequisite: none)
- PUBH 6012, *Fundamentals of Health Policy* (2 credits) (prerequisite: none)
- PUBH 6310, *Statistical Analysis in Health Policy* (3 credits) (prerequisite: PUBH 6002)
- PUBH 6315, *Introduction to Health Policy Analysis* (2 credits) (prerequisite: PUBH 6012)
- PUBH 6320, *Advanced Health Policy Research and Analysis Methods* (3 credits) (prerequisites: PUBH 6310 and 6315)
- Elective Courses (5 credits)

The Graduate Certificate in Health Policy is available standing alone, as a supplement to an MPH degree from a different department (Epidemiology, Global Health, Environmental & Occupational Health, etc.), or as a supplement to another degree (e.g., the J.D.). When pursued as a supplement to an MPH degree from another department, 6 cross-over credits from the MPH degree are available to count towards the 18-credit Graduate Certificate. In other words, for students seeking both an MPH from another department and a Graduate Certificate in Health Policy at the same time, a total of 57 credits are required to complete both programs of study.

### Graduation Requirements

- **Graduate Credit Requirement.** 18 graduate credits are required.
- **Course Requirements:** Successful completion of all required courses.
- **Grade Point Requirement:** A 3.0 (B average) overall grade point average at the completion of the degree requirements.
- **Successful completion of the required on-line CITI human subject research training module.**
- **Successful completion of 8 Professional Enhancement hours.**
- **Grade Point Requirement.** A 3.0 (B average) overall grade point average or better is required.
- **Time Limit Requirement.** The certificate must be completed within 2 years.
- **Transfer Credit Policy.** The Program Director/Advisor may approve up to 4 graduate credits that have not been applied to a previous graduate degree to be transferred to the graduate certificate. The course(s) must be relevant to the graduate certificate. Credits must have been earned in the last 3 years with a grade point of 3.0 or better. Graduate Certificate students wishing to transfer to an SPH MPH program can transfer as many credits as meet program requirements, up to 18 credits. Graduate Certificate students wishing to transfer to a degree program may apply to do so via the online change of concentration petition after completion of 3 or more courses and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better. A grade of B or better is required for a course to be eligible for transfer.
- **Online Course Policy:** Graduate Certificate students may take selected courses for credit online, which may be completed prior to beginning residential coursework or at the same time as residential coursework.

**Additional Certificate information including can be found on the Milken Institute SPH website:**

<http://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/graduate/certificates>