

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Department of Prevention and Community Health

Master of Public Health Maternal and Child Health (MCH)

2019-2020

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

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Mission Statement

The Maternal and Child Health program at the Milken Institute School of Public Health (SPH) at The George Washington University is a Master of Public Health (MPH) program designed to train individuals to become responsible and productive public health professionals with an emphasis on MCH populations. This program investigates maternal and child health from a multi-disciplinary perspective that integrates the life course, biological, demographic, epidemiological, developmental, environmental, behavioral and social characteristics that are unique to the health and well-being of women, children and families in the United States and around the world.

Goals

The goals of this educational program are to provide and improve:

- ◆ Knowledge and skills to assess the health care needs of women, children, and families
- ◆ Ability to plan, design, implement, evaluate and communicate programs and research targeted toward health promotion, disease prevention among women, children, and families

The Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health have outlined 5 basic competency areas in MCH that our program strives to attain:

1. Scientific Basis of MCH public health practice
2. Methodological/Analytical Skills
3. Management and Communication Skills
4. Policy and Advocacy Skills
5. Values and Ethics in MCH Public Health Practice

Course Requirements

All Milken Institute School of Public Health (SPH) MPH students who select the Maternal and Child Health Program enroll in MPH Core Courses (15 credits), Prevention and Community Health Department Core Courses (6 credits), Program-Specific Courses (6 credits), Program-Specific Electives (10 credits) and General Electives (6 credits). The 45 total credit

requirement includes a 2 credit capstone experience (PUBH 6015- Culminating Experience), in which students apply their classroom education in a Maternal and Child Health organization and/or research endeavor.

As an accredited School of Public Health, students in all GWSPH MPH programs are also required to fulfill both an interprofessional team experience and an applied practice experience. GWSPH has incorporated these requirements into the curriculum as follows:

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.

Applied Practice Experience (Practicum):

The applied practice experience allows each student to individually demonstrate attainment of public health competencies. Information about the Practicum will be introduced in PUBH 6021 so students may begin planning for their practice experience. As a part of the content of PUBH 6022 *Essentials in Public Health Practice & Leadership 2: Managing Organizations & Influencing Systems* (1-credit), detailed information and an introduction to the necessary tools will be provided. Students are required to fulfill all requirements of the 120-hour Practicum experience 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 Prevention and Community Health 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. See <https://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/practicum>.

Program-Specific Competencies

Upon Completion of the MPH, Maternal and Child Health Program students should possess the following functional competencies:

- **Assess the individual, community, organizational and societal needs of women, children, and families.**

Students should be able to assess existing health related data and data sources on the health and well-being of women, children and families. Students should be able to collect health related data, distinguish between those factors that foster or hinder health and wellbeing, and infer needs of women, children and families from an assessment of health needs. Relevant courses: PUBH 6500, 6550, 6551

- **Develop strategies, interventions and programs to improve the health of women, children and families.**

Student should have the ability to formulate appropriate and measurable program objectives, involve people and organizations in planning, develop a program plan with a logical scope and sequence, design strategies, interventions and programs that are consistent with the program objectives, select appropriate strategies to meet objectives and assess factors that may affect program implementation. Relevant courses: PUBH 6500, 6550

- **Implement strategies, interventions and programs to meet the health needs of women, children and families.**

Students should have the knowledge on how to implement planned programs, to initiate a plan of action, select methods that best meet the program objectives and assess program implementation materials. Relevant courses: PUBH 6500, 6550

- **Conduct evaluation and research related to the health and well-being of women, children and families.**

Students should have the ability to develop plans for evaluation and research, design/evaluate existing data collection instruments, interpret results from evaluation and research and infer implications from evaluation and research into the health and wellbeing of women, children and families. Relevant courses: PUBH 6501, 6551

- **Administer MCH strategies and policies to improve the health and well-being of women, children and families.**

Students should have the knowledge to exercise professional leadership, conduct strategic planning, apply ethical standards to the administration of programs and practice of public health, and communicate and foster cooperation among the community and public to meet the needs of women, children and families. Relevant courses: PUBH 6500, 6550

- **Communicate and advocate for health and well-being of women, children and families.**

Students will have the capability to use health related information resources, select resource materials for dissemination, analyze and respond to current and future needs in MCH, apply a variety of communication methods and techniques, assess appropriateness of health education messages, techniques and dissemination, influence health policy to promote the health and well-being of women, children and families. Relevant courses: PUBH 6550, 6551

- **Incorporate a life course perspective to the health and well-being of women, children and families.**

Students will have the ability to incorporate a life course perspective into programs and policies aimed at improving the health and well-being of women, children, adolescents and families. Relevant courses: PUBH 6550

Please see the curriculum sheets that follow.

Required Core Courses			
Required Core Course (15 credits)		Credits	Semester Offered
PUBH 6002*	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6003*	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6007*	Social and Behavioral Approaches to Public Health	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6011	Environmental & Biological Foundations of Public Health	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6012	Fundamentals of Health Policy	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6021	Essentials of Public Health Practice & Leadership 1: Leading Self and Teams in Public Health	1	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6022**	Essentials of Public Health Practice & Leadership 2: Managing Organizations & Influencing Systems in Public Health	1	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6023	Interprofessional Education Experience	0	Fall, Spring, Summer
Required Department-Specific Courses			
Required Department Courses (6 credits)		Credits	Semester Offered
PUBH 6500*	Planning and Implementing Health Promotion Programs (pre-req: PUBH 6007)	3	Fall, Spring
PUBH 6501	Program Evaluation (pre-req: PUBH 6500)	3	Fall, Spring
Required Program Specific Courses (6 credits)			
PUBH 6550	Maternal and Child Health I (NOTE: must be taken in the first fall semester enrolled in the program)	3	Fall
PUBH 6551	Maternal and Child Health II (pre-req: PUBH 6002)	3	Fall
Program Specific Electives (select 10 credits from the list below)**			
PUBH 6269	Reproductive Epidemiology	1	Summer
PUBH 6503*	Introduction to Public Health Communications and Marketing	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6552*	Women's Health	2	Spring
PUBH 6553	Adolescent Health	2	Spring
PUBH 6555	Reproductive Health: US and Global Perspectives	2	Spring
PUBH 6560	School Health and Safety	2	Summer
PUBH 6561	MCH Policy Analysis	2	Spring
PUBH 6563	Global Child Health	2	Fall
EXNS 6242	Nutrition Through the Life Cycle	2	Fall
General Electives (6 credits)			
Any Graduate Course(s)		6	Fall, Spring, Summer
Other Required Courses			
PUBH 6015.18	Culminating Experience	2	See Advisor
Course Distribution		Credits	
Public Health Core Courses		15	
Department Specific Courses		6	
Program-Specific Required Courses		6	
Program-Specific Electives		10	
Electives		6	
Culminating Experience		2	
Total Degree Credits		45	

* These classes are additionally offered online. A maximum of 15 credits can be attributed to online courses.

** In PUBH 6021 and 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 Practica, students will receive credit for PUBH 6022.

*** Substitutions are allowed with advance advisor approval

Graduation Requirements

1. **Graduate Credit Requirement:** 45 graduate credits are required.
2. **Course Requirements:** Successful completion of the Core, Program-Specific, and General Elective Courses are required.
3. **Practicum Requirement:** Students are required to fulfill all requirements of the Applied Practice Experience (Practicum) to receive credit for PUBH 6022.
4. **Interprofessional Education Experience:** Students are required to enroll and participate in an authorized IPE activity (PUBH 6023).
5. **Grade Point Requirement:** A 3.0 (B average) overall grade point average is required.
6. **Time Limit Requirement:** The degree must be completed within five years.
7. **Transfer Credit Policy:** Up to 12 graduate credits that have not been applied to a previous graduate degree may be transferred to the MPH upon approval. Credits must have been earned from an accredited institution in the last 3 years with a grade point of 3.0 or better.
8. **CITI Training requirement:** All students are required to complete training regarding human subject protection regulation and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). To fulfill this requirement, you must complete the Collaborative IRB Training Initiative (CITI) Course in The Protection of Human Research Subjects.
9. **Integrity Quiz & Plagiarism requirement:** All students are required to review the George Washington University Code of Academic Integrity and take the quiz within their first semester of study. The Code of Integrity and step-by-step instructions can be found here: <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/integrity>
10. **Professional Enhancement requirement:** Students must participate in 8 hours per degree program of Public Health-related lectures, seminars, and symposia, related to your field of study. Professional Enhancement activities supplement the academic curriculum and help prepare students to participate actively in the professional community. Opportunities for professional enhancement are regularly publicized via the Milken Institute SPH Listserv and through your department or advisor. Students must submit documentation of Professional Enhancement activities to the Office of Student Records. The documentation consists of the Professional Enhancement Form <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!