Public Health Advising FAQs

Public Health Major

1. How do I become a public health major? Students must apply to become a public health major because it is a limited-enrollment program. To qualify for the major, students must have a 3.0 GPA or greater. We accept applications in the fall and spring of the student’s sophomore year. Please go to our website at http://publichealth.gwu.edu/programs/public-health-bs for application deadlines and details.

2. Can I double major in Public Health and another major? Yes, you are allowed to double major with Public Health and other majors across the university. If you want to graduate with a BSPH, you must designate the Milken Institute School of Public Health as your home university.

3. Can transfer students apply to the major? Yes, but transfer students must complete a semester at GW before applying to the major.

4. Do I need to take a Public Health course before applying to the major? While it is not required that you take a public health course to apply to the major, it is highly recommended to make sure that public health is the right area of study for you. It is recommended that you start with PubH 1101 (Intro to Public Health), PubH 1102 (History of Public Health), or PubH 2117 (Service-Learning in Public Health). Note PubH 2117 is only offered during the spring.

5. What general curriculum requirements do Public Health majors need to take to graduate? In addition to the major requirements, Public Health students must take the university-wide general education curriculum.

6. As a major, how do I know when to take the various public health classes? Required public health classes are numbered in the approximate order that they should be taken. That is, you should take 1000 and 2000 level courses before taking 3000 level courses. It is less important which order you take courses within a level (i.e., it is not important whether you take 1101 before or after 1102).

7. Do any classes have pre-requisites? Yes, three courses have non-public health pre-requisites and several public health courses require students to take PubH 1101 or 2110. The three courses with non-public health pre-requisites are: PubH 2110 (must take BiSc 1002 or 1111); PubH 3130 (must take Econ 1101); and PubH 3131 (must take a statistics course with Stat 1127 preferred).

8. Can I substitute other courses for the pre-requisites? If you want to take a course other than a listed pre-requisite you need permission from the course instructor. You should contact the course instructor directly with your question.
9. **What if I have taken an AP courses, such as statistics, that is required as a pre-requisite for a public health course?** If GW credits your AP course, the Public Health major will accept it as well.

10. **Are there differences between the two sections of PubH 3133 (Global Health)?** Yes, Public Health majors should take Prof. Waldman’s PubH 3133 section (which emphasizes health over development) and ESIA Global Public Health Concentration students should take Prof. Gamble-Payne’s PubH 3133 section (which emphasizes development over health). Public health minors may take either section.

11. **What classes do I need to take before taking Senior Seminar (PubH 4140W).** It is recommended that students take as many of their required courses as possible before taking Senior Seminar during the spring of your senior year. If it is not possible to take all of your required courses, you should take the courses that might relate to what you want to focus on for your senior seminar paper. It is highly recommended that all students take PubH 3130 (Econ and Management) before they take Senior Seminar.

12. **What electives can I take as a Public Health major?** Public health majors are required to take 12 credits of electives. These credits must be taken from an approved list. There are three approved lists – approve GW public health electives, approved study abroad courses, and approved non-GW elective courses. You may find the approved elective lists on our website at [http://publichealth.gwu.edu/programs/public-health-bs](http://publichealth.gwu.edu/programs/public-health-bs).

13. **How do I get a course added to one of the approved elective lists?** If you have a course that you would like to be considered as an approved elective, send a complete syllabus to Sara Wilensky, Program Director, at wilensky@gwu.edu for review.

14. **Can I take all of my electives through my study abroad program?** No, at least one course must be taken from the GW approved elective list.

15. **Do majors have other requirements they need to complete before graduation?** Yes, all majors must complete the CITI training course in protection of human research subjects, take the integrity quiz, and complete 8 hours of professional enhancement. Links to these requirements may be found on our website at [http://publichealth.gwu.edu/programs/public-health-bs](http://publichealth.gwu.edu/programs/public-health-bs).

16. **What if I still have more advising questions?** Please email gwspahadmit@email.gwu.edu to schedule an appointment.
Public Health Minor

1. **How do I become a public health minor?** We accept public health minors on a space-available, rolling basis. Minors must have a 2.8 GPA. If you are qualified, you may become a minor by filling out the minor declaration form, found here: [http://publichealth.gwu.edu/programs/public-health-minor](http://publichealth.gwu.edu/programs/public-health-minor). The only time we do not sign people in as minors is right before registration period.

2. **What is the minor waitlist?** We have a limited enrollment minor, so once the cap is reached we place interested students on the waitlist. We usually clear many students from the waitlist during the summer after spring graduation.

3. **Can I take courses toward the minor while I am on the waitlist?** Yes! You do not have to wait to come off the waitlist to take courses toward a public health minor. In fact, if you are able to complete the minor requirements, we will declare that you are a public health minor even if you did not get off the waitlist.

4. **What electives are minors allowed to take?** Minors use the same approved elective list as majors. There are three approved lists – approve GW public health electives, approved study abroad courses, and approved non-GW elective courses. You may find the approved elective lists on our website at [http://publichealth.gwu.edu/programs/public-health-bs](http://publichealth.gwu.edu/programs/public-health-bs).

5. **How do I get a course added to one of the approved elective lists?** If you have a course that you would like to be considered as an approved elective, send a complete syllabus to Sara Wilensky, Program Director, at wilensky@gwu.edu for review.

6. **Can I take all of my electives through my study abroad program?** No, minors may only take one elective course outside of GW.

7. **What if I still have more advising questions?** Please email gwsphadmit@email.gwu.edu to schedule an appointment.
BS/MPH Program

1. How do I apply to the BS/MPH program? Students must have a 3.5 GPA to apply to the BS/MPH program. Applications are only accepted in the spring. If you are applying to the major in the spring, you may submit one application for both options. Application details may be found on our website at http://publichealth.gwu.edu/programs/public-health-bsmph.

2. Are many students accepted into the BS/MPH program? No, the program is quite small with no more than 5 students accepted each year.

3. Do I need to know which MPH program I want to enter when I apply to the BS/MPH program? No, you do not need to decide on an MPH program until fall of your senior year, in most cases. If you are interested in Global Health, you must decide by spring of your junior year.

4. If I think I’m interested in the BS/MPH program, does that change which public health courses I should take? Yes, you should make sure you do not take any of the undergraduate versions of the crossover classes (PubH 2110, PubH 2112, PubH 3131, PubH 3132). If accepted, you will take the graduate version of these courses.

5. Are there any changes coming to the BS/MPH program? It is possible we will make significant program changes this spring. Please keep checking the website for details.

6. What if I still have more advising questions? Please email gwsphadmit@email.gwu.edu to schedule an appointment.