

Program Director

Monique Turner, Ph.D., M.A.

Associate Professor

Department of Prevention and Community Health

950 New Hampshire Ave, 3rd Floor

Washington, DC 20037

Phone: (202)994-3570

mmtturner@gwu.edu

Mission

The mission of the Department of Prevention and Community Health in graduating Doctoral-level professionals within this specialty field is to create a cadre of professionals who are uniquely equipped to provide leadership at the in the field of Health Behavior. The DrPH program in Health Behavior is based on the ecological model of health and well-being and is aimed at understanding and having an impact on the health of populations and cultures, with special emphasis upon underserved populations. Our graduates are prepared to apply their research and analytic skills to a range of implementation, evaluation, and advocacy needs of various cultural and socioeconomic groups and communities.

Admissions Requirements

The Doctor of Public Health Program is designed for professionals seeking to become public health leaders. Applicants who have completed an MPH degree from a Council of Education for Public Health (CEPH) accredited program are strongly preferred for admission to the DrPH Program. Alternatively, applicants with a master's degree in another field may indicate their relevant training, research experience, or educational background comparable to the MPH. Doctoral applicants admitted without an MPH will be required to take additional course work at the graduate level that does not apply toward the minimum 48 credits required. For the DrPH, qualified applicants with degrees from institutions in foreign countries are also eligible for admission. All applicants must submit scores from the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) taken within five years of the date of application. Because admission to this program is highly selective, successful applicants have competitive academic credentials and substantial prior public health professional work experience related to the specialty field to which they are applying.

DrPH Competencies

The Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) Program prepares professionals to assume national and international leadership positions in environmental and occupational health, global health, health behavior, and health policy. The field of public health provides unique insights into the complex interrelationships between health, politics, and human development. It enables professionals to address public health issues by marshalling research and analytic skills to develop innovative approaches to understand health and to promote and advocate for improved health outcomes. Upon completion of the DrPH, students in all programs will demonstrate ability in the core competencies listed at the end of this document.

Program-Specific Competencies

On completion of the DrPH Program, students will possess the following functional competencies and subject area knowledge:

- Evaluate research tools including research design, statistical analysis data collection instruments and measurement systems. Evaluation will be based on course requirements (PubH 8408, 8409, 8410, 8416, 8417, 8418, 8419, 8420, 8422), answers to comprehensive examination questions, and dissertation defense.
- Apply epidemiological and biostatistical techniques to studies designed to assure effective practice and policy decision-making in a field within public health. Students will possess epidemiological and biostatistical concepts/techniques necessary to successfully analyze and apply the results to epidemiological research to making and implementing complex decisions in a

field within public health and related to public health practice. Evaluation based on completion of courses (PubH 8408, 8416, 8418, 8420), comprehensive examination, and dissertation defense.

- Assess public health problems; analyze quantitative data; and design public health studies including sampling and hypothesis testing. Evaluation based on completion of courses (PubH 8408, 8409, 8416, 8418, 8420), comprehensive examination, and dissertation defense.
- Use the basic concepts of public health practice and the philosophy of social science to justify dissertation research. Evaluation will be based on completion of appropriate courses (PubH 8402, 8408, 8409, 8410, 8416, 8418, 8420, 8422), comprehensive examination, and dissertation defense.
- Identify an area of interest within public health and develop a level of knowledge that will allow use of appropriate conceptual or theoretical models and build on the current state of the art in that topic area. Develop research agendas and questions. Completion of individualized study courses, doctoral seminars, and the comprehensive examination will assess preparation in this area.
- Possess graduate-level competence in Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Environmental Health, Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Health Administration. Preparation will be assessed based on completion of prior MPH degree, coursework at the graduate level (in the case of environmental health, health behavior, and health administration, these may need to be in addition to DrPH program requirements), or successfully pass an examination to assure MPH-level competence in these core public health areas.
- Attain the skills necessary to conduct doctoral level research that involves a problem-based inquiry in a real world setting in student's specialty area of public health. Evaluation will be based on successful defense of a dissertation proposal and final dissertation.

Program Policies and Procedures

For program policies and procedures, please refer to the Doctor of Public Health Handbook and other resources, located at <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/>

Course Distribution Summary

- Total Credits = Minimum 48
- Required Foundation Courses and Research Methods = 20 credits
- Required Specialty Field Courses = 6 credits
- Specialty Field Electives = 7 to 10 credits
- Professional Leadership = 4 credits
- Dissertation Preparation and Dissertation = 8 to 11 credits

**REQUIRED FOUNDATIONAL AND RESEARCH METHODS COURSES
20 CREDITS**

ALL DRPH STUDENTS FOLLOW THIS CORE. UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES AND WITH ADVANCE APPROVAL OF THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR, ANOTHER METHODS COURSE MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR 8417, 8418, OR 8420.

Course	Title	Credits	Semester
PubH 8401	Foundations of Public Health Leadership and Practice– Doctoral Seminar	3	Fall Year 1
PubH 8402	Leadership in Public Health Practice and Policy	2	Summer Year 2
PubH 8416	Study Design and Evaluation Methods	3	Fall Year 1
PubH 8417	Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis <i>Prereq: PubH 8416</i>	3	Spring Year 1 or Year 2
PubH 8418	Applied Statistical Applications <i>Prereq: PubH 8416</i>	3	Spring Year 1
PubH 8419	Measurement in Public Health and Health Services Research – Doctoral Seminar <i>Prereq: PubH 8418</i>	3	Spring Year 2
PubH 8420	Analysis and Dissemination <i>Prereq: PubH 8418</i>	3	Fall Year 2

**REQUIRED SPECIALTY FIELD COURSES
CHOOSE 6 CREDITS**

SAMPLE COURSES BELOW – OTHER COURSES MAY BE TAKEN WITH ADVISOR’S APPROVAL

Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken/ Proposed
PubH 8408	Advanced Topics – Health Behavior Research and Practice Application – Doctoral Seminar	3	Year 1 or Year 2
PubH 8409	Advanced Topics – Health Communications Research – Doctoral Seminar <i>Prereq: PubH 8408</i>	3	Year 1 or Year 2
PubH 8410	Advanced Topics – Social Marketing Research and Practice Application – Doctoral Seminar <i>Prereq: PubH 6572</i>	3	Year 1 or Year 2

**SPECIALTY FIELD ELECTIVE COURSES
7 TO 10 CREDITS***

SAMPLE COURSES BELOW – OTHER COURSES MAY BE TAKEN WITH ADVISOR’S APPROVAL

Course	Title	Credits	Semester
PubH 6500	Planning and Administration of Health Promotion/ Disease Prevention Programs	2	
PubH 6531	Health Promotion in Healthcare Settings	2	
PubH 6532	Community Organization, Development and Advocacy	3	
PubH 6533	Design & Conduct of Community Health Surveys	2	
PubH 6534	Community Based Participatory Research	1	
PubH 6570	Advanced Public Health Communication: Theory and Practice	3	
PubH 6571	Social Marketing: Theory and Practice	3	
EDUC 8131	Case Study Research Methods	3	
EDUC 8140	Ethnographic Research Methods	3	
EDUC 8172	Multivariate Analysis	3	
PSYC 8204	Biological Basis of Behavior	3	
PSYC 8231	Development of Psychometric Instruments	3	
PSYC 8277	Health Psychology	3	
PSYC 8287	Cross Cultural Psychology	3	

**PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP COURSES
4 CREDITS**

4 CREDITS (MINIMUM 2 CREDITS MUST BE INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP)

Course	Title	Credits	Semester
PubH 8413	Research Leadership	Varies	
PubH 8415	Instructional Leadership	Varies	

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

**DISSERTATION PREPARATION AND DISSERTATION
8 TO 11 CREDITS
(PUBH 8422 IS REQUIRED)**

Course	Title	Credits	Semester
PubH 8422	Advanced Health Care and Public Health Research Design <i>Prerequisites: Passing Comprehensive Exams, Approval of the Program Director, and a page-long abstract. Grade = Credit/No Credit</i>	2	
PubH 8423	Dissertation Research DrPH Degree Dissertation Research Prereq: PubH 8422	6 to 9 credits	Multiple – may be taken in increments of 1 to 9 credits

Health Behavior Doctoral students interested in electives offered by other departments within Milken Institute SPH should access the Program Guides for those department doctoral programs, or the Schedule of Classes, to identify other electives offered.

Course Descriptions may be found here: <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/courses>.

DrPH Core Competencies

2014

- Analyze a public health problem and determine appropriate sources of data and methods for problem identification, program planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Relevant courses: PubH 6249, 6260, 8417, 8419, 8422.
- Develop and analyze hypotheses that can be tested by appropriate quantitative or qualitative research designs and methodologies. Relevant courses: PubH 6247, 6252, 8416, 8417, 8422.
- Synthesize and evaluate research conducted by others. Relevant courses: PubH 8402, 8416, 8417, 8422.
- Design strategies to accurately and effectively describe public health, economic, administrative, legal, social, political, and cultural implications of different health policy options. Relevant courses: PubH 6247, 8402, 8417, 8419.
- Design grant proposals to address public health problems. Relevant courses: PubH 48416, 8422.
- Present public health data and research syntheses to scientific and professional audiences and the public. Relevant courses: PubH 8407, 8422.
- Defend the feasibility and expected outcomes of different policy options and transform them into organizations, plans, processes, and programs. Relevant courses: PubH 6247, 8402, 8417, 8422.
- Appraise the dynamic forces that contribute to cultural diversity and develop responsive plans and programs. Relevant courses: PubH 6247, 6252, 8402, 8417.
- Assess the determinants of health and illness, factors that contribute to health promotion and disease prevention, and factors that influence the use and cost of public health services in a population. Relevant courses: 6249, 6252, 6260, 8419, 8422.
- Develop and defend a budget statement that presents programmatic fiscal requirements to achieve stated objectives. Relevant courses: PubH 8402.
- Describe the theory of organizational structure and its relation to professional practice. Relevant courses: PubH 6001, 6247, 8416.
- Support a culture of ethical standards of conduct in the research process and within organizations and communities. Relevant courses: PubH 8402, 8416, 8422.
- Lead a team of diverse professionals reflecting shared values and vision to achieve specific objectives. Relevant courses: PubH 8402.