

# 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 2016-2017

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;
- 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 to GW law students (the JD/MPH and LLM/MPH programs), lawyers seeking to develop expertise in all facets of health policy and practice, and to GW medical 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 Milken Institute SPH Core Courses (12 credits), Program-Specific Courses (23-24 credits) and Elective Courses (9-10 credits). The 45-credit total requirement includes a Practicum in which students apply their didactic education by working for credit for an organization that engages in health policy analysis. 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.

### **Program-Specific Competencies**

Broadly defined, the goal of health policy is to promote and protect the health of individuals and of populations bound by common circumstances. The Master of Public Health degree in Health Policy is designed to teach both the substance of health policy (how public health and health services policy is developed and implemented in the U.S.) and the skills of policy analysis (including research, qualitative and quantitative, and written and oral communications skills). Upon completion of the MPH in Health Policy, students will demonstrate functional competence in all of the following domains:

A. **KNOWLEDGE DOMAIN:** Graduates of the program will have a thorough understanding of public health and health care system issues, specifically the following areas:

A.1. The various theories of policymaking and politics. Related courses: 6315, 6320, 6325, & 6015.

A.2. Comparative models of structuring and financing public health activities and health care services, with emphasis on the mechanisms employed in the U.S., including private health insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, managed care, and directly-financed services. Related courses: 6305, 6325, 6330 & 6335.

A.3. The complex systems for delivery of public health and health care services, including facilities, workforce, technology, and the incentives at work in these systems. Related courses: 6004, 6305, 6320 & 6325.

A.4. The methods and mechanisms for determining the benefits of public health and health care services, including measures of health outcomes and quality, measuring population health and disparities, public health surveillance, the use of HIT, and issues of privacy and access to data. Related courses: 6003, 6007, 6305, 6310, 6320 & 6335.

A.5. The systems and activities in place to provide a safety net for vulnerable populations and reduce health disparities, including community health centers, major federal programs, and public health clinics, and related concepts such as uncompensated care and disparities in access. Related courses: 6007, 6305, 6325 & 6330.

A.6. The framework of laws and regulations governing public health and health care services, including constitutional rights and limitations, federal and state statutes, regulations, judicial opinions, and other public policy instruments. Related courses: 6305, 6325, 6330 & 6335.

B. **ANALYSIS DOMAIN:** Graduates of the program will have skills in policy analysis, legal analysis, economic analysis, statistical analysis and population health assessment, and will be able to:

Policy Analysis:

B.1. Locate, assess, appropriately use and synthesize information relevant to key issues in health policy, including evidence related to the legislative, regulatory and judicial processes, peer-reviewed literature, and the “gray literature” produced by think tanks, research organizations, and government agencies. Related courses: 6305, 6315, 6320, 6325, 6330, 6335, 6340 & 6014.

B.2. Understand and critique the research design/methods of different types of applied policy analyses, including program evaluations, cost benefit/cost effectiveness studies, and forecasting/simulation models. Related courses: 6310, 6315, 6320, 6335 & 6340.

B.3. Apply the core elements of a sophisticated policy options analysis to key issues in health care and public health. Related courses: 6315, 6320, 6325, 6335, 6340, 6014 & 6015.

B.4. Design and implement process, impact and economic assessments of health programs and policies that have been implemented. Related courses: 6320, 6325, 6340 & 6015.

Legal Analysis:

B.5. Apply the basic legal rights and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders in the health care and public health systems. Related courses: 6305, 6325, 6330 & 6335.

B.6. Comparatively analyze, interpret, and apply legislation and administrative regulations, judicial rulings, and relevant constitutional law to legal questions pertaining to the health care and public health systems. Related courses: 6325, 6330 & 6335.

Economic Analysis:

B.7. Assess key microeconomic concepts, including supply and demand, markets, taxes and subsidies, public goods and the case for government intervention. Related courses: 6305, 6325, 6335 & 6340.

B.8. Apply microeconomic tools in analyses of health care markets, government intervention in markets, the functioning of private/public insurance, and the forecasting of health care utilization and workforce needs. Related courses: 6340.

B.9. Apply models of profit-maximization to health care firms such as hospitals and nursing homes, and appropriate adjustments for the non-profit sector. Related courses: 6340.

B.10. Measure competition and evaluate its consequences in health care delivery, pharmaceutical development, and other markets. Related courses: 6325 & 6340.

Statistical Analysis:

B.11. Access data sets relevant to health policy, including public use data sets. Related courses: 6310.

B.12. Analyze, interpret and present univariate and bivariate statistics, such as means and frequencies. Related courses: 6002 & 6310.

B.13. Analyze, interpret and present multivariate statistics, such as regression or logic models. Related courses: 6002, 6310 & 6320.

B.14. Run basic statistical analyses using a standard statistical software package. Related courses: 6002 & 6310.

Population Health Assessment:

B.15. Identify key sources of population health data. Related courses: 6325.

B.16. Apply key indicators of population health and health disparities. Related courses: 6003 & 6007.

B.17. Describe a public health problem in terms of magnitude, person, time and place. Related courses: 6003 & 6320.

B.18. Draw appropriate inferences from epidemiologic data. Related courses: 6003, 6310 & 6320.

B.19. Calculate basic epidemiology measures. Related courses: 6003.

C. LEADERSHIP DOMAIN: Graduates of the program will be able to:

C.1. Think creatively to develop and implement innovative policies that effect change and to identify strategies to successfully implement policies. Related courses: 6315, 6320, 6325, 6330, 6335, 6014 & 6015.

C.2. Work collaboratively with decision-makers, stakeholders, and colleagues with a variety of viewpoints to achieve policy goals. Related courses: 6325, 6330, 6335, 6014 & 6015.

C.3. Manage time, resources, and people strategically and effectively to develop and implement policies; demonstrate negotiation and conflict management skills. Related courses: 6325 & 6015.

C.4. Motivate and influence others to reach their highest level of effectiveness in the policymaking and implementation process. Related courses: 6325 & 6015.

C.5. Adhere to professional ethics while promoting a high standard of personal integrity, compassion, and respect for others. Demonstrate transparency, integrity, and honesty in all actions. Related courses: 6320, 6325, 6335, 6014 & 6015.

C.6. Persuade others to support a point of view, position, or recommendation through advocacy. Related courses: 6315, 6320, 6325, 6330, 6335 & 6015.

D. COMMUNICATION DOMAIN: Graduates of the program will be able to:

D.1. Speak and write clearly and effectively, adapting communication styles and content so they are appropriate to the needs of the intended audience. Related courses: 6305, 6315, 6320, 6325, 6330, 6335, 6014 & 6015.


D.2. Convey information and opinions in a structured and credible way. Related courses: 6305, 6315, 6320, 6325, 6330, 6335 & 6015.

D.3. Encourage others to share their views, and take time to understand and consider these views. Related courses: 6315, 6325, 6330 & 6335.

D.4. Ensure that messages have been heard and understood. Related courses: 6325 & 6335.

D.5. Keep others informed of key and relevant issues. Related courses: 6315, 6325 & 6335.

**Program-At-A-Glance**

 <p><b>Milken Institute School of Public Health</b> THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY</p>		<p align="center"><b>Master of Public Health in Health Policy</b> <b>Program-At-A-Glance</b></p> <p align="center"><b>2016-17</b></p>	
Required MPH Core Courses		Credits	Semester Offered
PUBH 6001	Biological Concepts for Public Health	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6002	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6003	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6004	Environmental and Occupational Health in a Sustainable World	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6007	Social and Behavioral Approaches to Public Health	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
<b>Total</b>	<b>MPH Core Course Credits</b>	<b>12</b>	
Required Program-Specific Courses			
PUBH 6305	Fundamentals for Health Policy (prerequisite: none)	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6310	Statistical Analysis in Health Policy (prerequisite: PUBH 6002)	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6315	Introduction to Health Policy Analysis (prerequisite: PUBH 6305)	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
<p align="center"><b>Advanced Health Policy Analysis Requirement</b> <b>SELECTIVES</b> <b>(choose one course from list below):</b></p>			
<b>Choose one (1) course from this list</b>	<b>PUBH 6320</b> Advanced Health Policy Analysis (prerequisites: PUBH 6310 and PUBH 6315)	2	Fall, Summer
	<b>PUBH 6345</b> Health Policy Research Design (prerequisites: PUBH 6310 and 6315)	2	Fall
	<b>PUBH 6242</b> Clinical Epidemiology and Decision Analysis + <b>PUBH 6243</b> course with the same name for 1 credit (lab requirement) (prerequisites: PUBH 6003, 6310 and 6315)	2 + 1	Spring
	<b>PUBH 6247</b> Design of Health Studies (prerequisites: PUBH 6003, 6310 and 6315)	3	Fall, Spring
	<b>PUBH 6249</b> Use of Statistical Packages for Data Management and Data Analysis (prerequisites: PUBH 6310 and 6315)	3	Fall, Spring
	<b>PUBH 6501</b> Evaluation of Health Promotion/ Disease Prevention Programs (prerequisites: PUBH 6003, 6007, 6310 & 6315)	3	Fall, Spring
	<b>PPPA 6015</b> Benefit-Cost Analysis (prerequisites: PUBH 6310, 6315, PPPA 6014 or equivalent micro economics course and instructor's permission)	3	Variable
	<b>PPPA 6016</b> Public and Non-profit Program Evaluation (prerequisites: PUBH 6310, 6315 and instructor's permission)	3	Spring
	<b>EMSE 6740</b> Systems Thinking & Policy Modeling I (prerequisites: PUBH 6310 and 6315)	3	Fall
PUBH 6325	Federal Policymaking and Policy Advocacy (prerequisite: PUBH 6305)	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 <b>OR</b> 3	Fall, Spring, Summer  Fall, Spring

PUBH 6340 <b>OR</b> PUBH 6242	Health Economics and Financing (prerequisite: PUBH 6352 Basics of Economics or instructor's permission) <b>OR</b> Clinical Epidemiology and Decision Analysis + PUBH 6243 course with the same name for 1 credit (lab requirement) (prerequisites: PUBH 6003, 6310, and 6315)	3 <b>OR</b> 2 +1	Fall, Spring, Summer  Spring
	<b>Health Services Management Requirement SELECTIVES (choose one course from list below):</b>		
<b>Choose one (1) course from this list</b>	<b>HSML 6204</b> Quality and Performance Improvement (prerequisite: either PUBH 6305 or HSML 6203)	2	Spring
	<b>HSML 6209</b> Health Services Finance (prerequisite: either PUBH 6305 or HSML 6203)	2	Fall
	<b>HSML 6216</b> Human Resources Management and Organizational Behavior (prerequisites: either PUBH 6305 or HSML 6203)	2	Fall
	<b>HSML 6231</b> Management of Acute Care Hospitals (prerequisites: either PUBH 6305 or HSML 6203 and instructor permission)	2	Spring
	<b>HSML 6238</b> Ambulatory Care Management (prerequisites: either PUBH 6305 or HSML 6203 and instructor permission)	2	Spring
	<b>HSML 6246</b> Service Line and Project Management (prerequisites: either PUBH 6305 or HSML 6203 and instructor permission)	2	Spring
	<b>HSML 6247</b> Consulting in Health Services (prerequisites: either PUBH 6305 or HSML 6203 and instructor permission)	2	Fall
PUBH 6014.16	Practicum	2 (credit/ no-credit)	Not semester-specific
PUBH 6015.16	Culminating Experience for Health Policy (must be taken in final MPH semester) (prerequisite: Advanced Health Policy Analysis Selective)	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
<b>Total</b>	<b>Program-Specific Course Credits</b>	<b>23-24</b>	
<b>Required Elective Courses</b>			
Any PUBH or HSML	A personalized combination of elective courses of eight or nine credits total (depending on which Selective was taken). Any PUBH or HSML course will count as an elective toward the MPH in Health Policy degree. (prerequisites apply)	<b>9-10</b>	Please check the applicable semester course schedule – elective course offerings are semester-specific.
<b>Course Distribution Summary</b>			
Required MPH Core Courses		12 Credits	
Required Program-Specific Core Courses, including the Practicum and Culminating Experience		23-24 Credits	
Required Elective Courses		9-10 Credits	
<b>Total</b>		<b>45 Credits</b>	

## The Practicum

The Practicum (internship) requirement is a three-way partnership among students, SPH, and sponsoring agencies/organizations in which the practicum takes place under the supervision of a site preceptor. 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 professional experience in a professional public health work environment, and to work on public health practice projects that are of particular interest to you. The practicum serves as an important first step in a public health career, providing an introduction to the practical skills and experience necessary for a productive and fulfilling profession. 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 of specialization.

The practicum is a 2-credit requirement during which 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. Decisions on the practicum site, nature of the work, specific learning objectives, and activities of the practicum are arrived at 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 multiple semesters. Most full-time students undertake and complete the practicum requirement during their second full year of study, following the successful completion of the practicum course prerequisites.

The following chart sets forth 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

## Culminating Experience in Health Policy

**The Culminating Experience in Health Policy** (PUBH 6015.16) is a 2-credit course must be taken in the student's final semester of MPH study, and not earlier. **The course a student chooses to satisfy the Advanced Health Policy Analysis Requirement is a non-negotiable pre-requisite to the Culminating Experience in Health Policy.** Designed to bring together all of the competencies learned throughout the MPH in Health Policy curriculum, this course serves as the culminating experience for the MPH student. In addition to weekly lectures and/or guest speakers, this seminar requires the submission of a lengthy health policy analysis that will serve as a polished writing sample for the new graduate. This requirement is separate and distinct from the Practicum in Health Policy.

## **Certifications**

All MPH students, regardless of concentration, must successfully complete the on-line CITI social-behavioral training module prior to graduation. It is expected that most students will satisfy this requirement in their first semester of study. For the specifics on which on-line certification course to take and how to find it, please refer to the Milken Institute SPH 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 specific area of study.

Students can fulfill this requirement by attending workshops, seminars, or other relevant professional meetings, which are often held at Milken Institute SPH and in the metropolitan Washington, DC area. Examples of conference sponsors include the National Academy for State Health Policy, the Pan American Health Organization, the American Public Health Association, the American College of Healthcare Executives, the Area Health Education Center, the American College of Sports Medicine, the National Strength and Conditioning Association, and the National Athletic Trainer’s Association. 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!

## **Advising 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 four types of courses:

- Required Core Courses (PUBH 6001, 6002, 6003, 6004, and 6007)
- Required Program-Specific Courses
- Electives
- Required Practicum and Culminating Experience

The MPH core courses are designed to provide students with a broad public health context as well as a critical 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. As such, entering students are expected to enroll in MPH core courses in accordance with the following guidelines:

- We expect MPH students to complete the MPH core courses in their first year following their admission into the program (fall/spring/summer).
- Students may take core courses in any order.

Part-time students (who generally take 5 to 7 credits per semester) will typically concentrate on taking just core courses in their first year, and then take program-specific courses in their second and third years.

In order to help assure that all students complete required core courses in the first year of study, Milken Institute SPH will offer all core courses during all three semesters (fall, spring, and summer). This will allow students who wish to complete their MPH degree within two years to do so, and will allow every student to make steady progress toward completing the MPH degree. Most of the MPH Health Policy program specific required courses are offered three times in each academic year (fall, spring and summer semesters).

We recognize that there may be exceptional circumstances that make it difficult for a student to complete core courses in the first year as outlined above. Any such student should discuss this situation with his or her academic advisor.

For additional information and resources regarding registration, course descriptions, schedule of classes, etc. follow this link: <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/>.

Specifics about the Required Program-Specific Courses:

- PUBH 6305 is the course prerequisite for PUBH 6315. Students must take 6305 before 6315. For students seeking to graduate in two years, PUBH 6305 must be taken in one of the first two semesters of study.
- PUBH 6002 is the course prerequisite for PUBH 6310. Students must take 6002 before 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 the Advanced Health Policy Analysis Selective Course requirement. Students must take 6310 and 6315 before the Advanced Health Policy Analysis Selective Course requirement. Certain Advanced Health Policy Analysis Selective Courses have additional course prerequisite requirements. Please double-check those requirements as applicable.
- The Advanced Health Policy Analysis Selective Course requirement is the course prerequisite for PUBH 6015.16, the Culminating Experience in Health Policy. **Students must take the Advanced Health Policy Analysis Selective Course requirement before 6015.16.**
- PUBH 6015.16, the Culminating Experience in Health Policy, can only be taken in the student's final MPH semester.
- In addition to the prerequisite flow described above, PUBH 6310, 6325, 6330 or 6335, 6340 or 6242 (w/ the added PUBH 6243), and 6014.16 (the Practicum) are all required courses.
- Please check the applicable Course Schedule for a given semester to determine all of the course prerequisite requirements.
- Since the Milken Institute School of Public Health core courses consist of 15 credits, it is both feasible and desirable for full-time students (who are taking at least 9 credits per semester) to take introductory program-specific courses in their first year in addition to a selection of required Milken Institute SPH core courses. In addition to the required Milken Institute SPH core courses, full-time MPH Health Policy students should take PUBH 6305, Fundamentals for Health Policy (2 credits), in one of their first two semesters, as it is the prerequisite for both PUBH 6315 and 6325, which then opens the door to much of the rest of the curriculum.
- Because PUBH 6002 Biostatistics serves as the prerequisite for PUBH 6310 (which is a prerequisite for the Advanced Health Policy Analysis Selective Course requirement.), students are encouraged to take 6002 as early on as possible.
- Part-time students (taking less than nine credits in a given semester) will typically concentrate on taking Milken Institute SPH core courses in their first year, and then take program-specific courses in their second and third years. That said, part-time MPH Health Policy students should take PUBH 6305, Fundamentals for Health Policy (2 credits) in one of their first three semesters, as it is the prerequisite for both PUBH 6315 and 6325, which then opens the door to much of the rest of the curriculum.
- The Department offers at least one session of all Program-Specific course requirements during all three semesters (fall/spring/summer). This will allow students who wish to complete their MPH degree within two years to do so, and will allow every student to make steady progress toward completing the MPH degree.



### **Specifics about the Required Elective Courses:**

- MPH in Health Policy students are required to complete 9-10 total elective credits (9 or 10 depending on whether the course chosen to satisfy the Advanced Health Policy Analysis Requirement was 2 or 3 credits). Elective credits may be earned through any PUBH or HSML course.

We recognize that there may be exceptional circumstances that make it difficult for a student to complete the Milken Institute SPH core courses in the first year as outlined above. If applicable, students should discuss this situation with his or her academic advisor.

**Course Descriptions and Registration** information can be found on the website: <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/>.

### **Graduation Requirements**

- **Graduate Credit Requirement:** 45 graduate credits are required.
- **Course Requirements:** Successful completion of the Milken Institute SPH Core Courses, the Program-Specific Courses, and the Electives are required.
- **Grade Point Requirement:** A 3.0 (B average) overall grade point average is required.
- **Successful completion of the required on-line CITI human subject research training modules.**
- **Successful completion of 8 Professional Enhancement hours.**
- **Time Limit Requirement:** The degree must be completed within four years.
- **Transfer Credit Policy:** Up to 12 applicable and pre-approved graduate credits that have not been applied to a previous graduate degree may be transferred to the MPH in Health Policy. Up to 18 credits may be transferred to the MPH in Health Policy from the Milken Institute SPH Graduate Certificate in Health Policy. Transfer Credits must have been earned in the last 3 years with a grade point of 3.0 or better.
- **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 (23-24 credits), and Health Policy electives (9-10 credits).

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

Semester	Cr	Course #	Course Name
Fall 1 <sup>st</sup> year 10 credits	3	PUBH 6002	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health
	2	PUBH 6004	Environmental & Occupational Health in a Sustainable World
	2	PUBH 6305	Fundamentals for Health Policy
	3	PUBH 6003	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology
Spring 1 <sup>st</sup> year 9 credits	2	PUBH 6001	Biological Concepts for Public Health
	2	PUBH 6007	Social & Behavioral Approaches to Public Health
	3	PUBH 6310	Statistical Analysis in Health Policy
	2	HSML XXXX	Selected Health Services Management Course
Summer 1 <sup>st</sup> year 4 credits	2	PUBH 6315	Introduction to Health Policy Analysis
	2	PUBH 6014.16	Practicum
Fall 2 <sup>nd</sup> year 11 credits	2	PUBH XXXX	Selected Advanced Health Policy Analysis Course
	2	PUBH 6325	Federal Policymaking and Policy Advocacy
	3	PUBH 6330	Health Services and Law
	2	PUBH/HSML course	Elective
	2	PUBH/HSML course	Elective
Spring 2 <sup>nd</sup> year 11 credits	3	PUBH 6340	Health Economics and Financing
	2	PUBH/HSML course	Elective
	2	PUBH/HSML course	Elective
	2	PUBH/HSML course	Elective
	2	PUBH 6015.16	Culminating Experience in Health Policy

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

Semester	Cr	Course #	Course Name
Fall 1 <sup>st</sup> year 6 credits	3 3	PUBH 6003 PUBH 6002	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology Biostatistical Applications for Public Health
Spring 1 <sup>st</sup> year 6 credits	2 2 2	PUBH 6001 PUBH 6007 PUBH 6305	Biological Concepts for Public Health Social & Behavioral Approaches to Public Health Fundamentals for Health Policy
Summer 1 <sup>st</sup> year 4 credits	2 2	PUBH 6315 PUBH/HSML course	Introduction to Health Policy Analysis Elective
Fall 2 <sup>nd</sup> year 7 credits	2 3 2	PUBH 6004 PUBH 6310 HSML XXXX	Environmental & Occupational Health in a Sustainable World Statistical Analysis in Health Policy Selected Health Services Management Course
Spring 2 <sup>nd</sup> year 3 credits	3	PUBH 6330	Health Services and Law
Summer 2 <sup>nd</sup> year 6 credits	2 2 2	PUBH 6014.16 PUBH XXXX PUBH/HSML course	Practicum Selected Advanced Health Policy Analysis Course Elective
Fall 3 <sup>rd</sup> year 7 credits	3 2 2	PUBH 6340 PUBH 6325 PUBH/HSML course	Health Economics and Financing Federal Policymaking and Policy Advocacy Elective
Spring 3 <sup>rd</sup> year 6 credits	2 2 2	PUBH/HSML course PUBH/HSML course PUBH 6015.16	Elective Elective Culminating Experience in Health Policy

## 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 6305, *Fundamentals for 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 6305)
- One Advanced Health Policy Analysis Selective Course (2/3 credits) (prerequisites PUBH 6310 and 6315)
- Elective Courses (5/6 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.
- **The Program Director/Advisor must pre-approve all course selections and course sequencing by developing a “program of study” prior to the student’s initial registration.** Graduate Certificate students meet with their advisor each semester before registration. All changes in this program of study must be pre-approved by the Program Director/Advisor.
- **Successful completion of the required on-line CITI human subject research training modules.**
- **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.
- **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>