

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 2017-2018

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

Program Director

Lara Cartwright-Smith, JD, MPH

Associate Research Professor

Department of Health Policy and Management

950 New Hampshire Avenue, NW

6th Floor

Washington, DC 20052

202-994-8641

laracs@gwu.edu

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 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>Milken Institute School of Public Health</p> <p>THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY</p>		<p>Master of Public Health in Health Policy Program-At-A-Glance</p> <p>2017-2018</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
Total	MPH Core Course Credits	12	
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
<i>Advanced Health Policy Analysis Requirement SELECTIVES</i> (choose one course from list below):			
Choose one (1) course from this list	PUBH 6320 Advanced Health Policy Analysis (prerequisites: PUBH 6310 and PUBH 6315)	2	Fall, Spring
	PUBH 6345 Health Policy Research Design (prerequisites: PUBH 6310 and 6315)	2	Fall
	PUBH 6242 Clinical Epidemiology and Decision Analysis + PUBH 6243 course with the same name for 1 credit (lab requirement) (prerequisites: PUBH 6003, 6310 and 6315)	2 + 1	Spring
	PUBH 6247 Design of Health Studies (prerequisites: PUBH 6003, 6310 and 6315)	3	Fall, Spring
	PUBH 6249 Use of Statistical Packages for Data Management and Data Analysis (prerequisites: PUBH 6310 and 6315)	3	Fall, Spring
	PUBH 6399.10 Cost-Benefit Analysis in Health Care (prerequisite: PUBH 6340 or HSML 6211)	2	Spring
	PUBH 6501 Evaluation of Health Promotion/ Disease Prevention Programs (prerequisites: PUBH 6003, 6007, 6310 & 6315)	3	Fall, Spring
	PPPA 6016 Public and Non-profit Program Evaluation (prerequisites: PUBH 6310, 6315 and instructor's permission)	3	Fall
	EMSE 6740 Systems Thinking & Policy Modeling I (prerequisites: PUBH 6310 and 6315)	3	Spring
	PUBH 6325	Federal Policymaking and Policy Advocacy (prerequisite: PUBH 6305)	2
PUBH 6330 OR PUBH 6335	Health Services and Law (prerequisite: none) OR Public Health and Law (prerequisite: none)	3 OR 3	Fall, Spring Fall, Spring

PUBH 6340	Health Economics and Financing (prerequisite: PUBH 6352 Basics of Economics or instructor's permission)	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
OR	OR	OR	
PUBH 6242	Clinical Epidemiology and Decision Analysis + PUBH 6243 course for 1 credit (lab requirement) (prerequisites: PUBH 6003, 6310, and 6315)	2 +1	Spring
	<i>Health Services Management Requirement SELECTIVES</i> (choose one course from list below):		
Choose one (1) course from this list	*Note some courses require instructor permission.* HSML 6203 Introduction to Health Management (prerequisite for MPH students: PUBH 6305) HSML 6204 Quality and Performance Improvement (prerequisites for MPH students: PUBH 6305 and instructor permission) HSML 6209 Health Services Finance (prerequisite for MPH students: PUBH 6305) HSML 6213 Health Services Marketing & Planning (prerequisite for MPH students: PUBH 6305) HSML 6216 Human Resources Management and Organizational Behavior (prerequisite for MPH students: PUBH 6305) HSML 6231 Management of Acute Care Hospitals (prerequisites for MPH students: PUBH 6305 and instructor permission) HSML 6238 Ambulatory Care Management (prerequisites for MPH students: PUBH 6305 and instructor permission) HSML 6246 Service Line and Project Management (prerequisites for MPH students: PUBH 6305 and instructor permission) HSML 6247 Consulting in Health Services (prerequisites for MPH students: PUBH 6305 and instructor permission)	2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	Fall Spring Fall Fall Fall Spring Spring Spring Fall
PUBH 6014.16	Practicum (prerequisites: PUBH 6305 and practicum director approval)	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
Total	Program-Specific Course Credits	23-24	
Elective Courses			
Any PUBH or HSML graduate course	A personalized combination of elective courses of eight or nine credits total (depending on which Advanced Selective was taken). Any PUBH or HSML course will count as an elective toward the MPH in Health Policy degree (prerequisites apply).	9-10	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. Regularly-offered health policy electives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PUBH 6345. Health Policy Research Design (Fall, 2 credits) • PUBH 6356. State Health Policy (Fall, 2 credits) • PUBH 6358. Vaccine Policy (Summer, 2 credits) • PUBH 6368. Law, Medicine, and Ethics (Fall, 2 credits)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PUBH 6370. Medicare/Medicaid Law & Policy (Spring, 2 credits) • PUBH 6374. Pharmaceutical Policy (Fall, 2 credits) • PUBH 6378. HIV Policy (Spring, 2 credits) • PUBH 6384. Health Care Quality and Health Policy (Fall, 2 credits) • PUBH 6399. Comparative Health Policy (Fall, 2 credits) • PUBH 6399. Cost-Benefit Analysis in Health Care (Spring, 2 credits) • PUBH 6399. Reproductive Health Policy (Spring, 2 credits) • PUBH 6399. Maternal and Child Health Policy (Spring, 2 credits) • PUBH 6399. Public Health & Health Reform (Spring, 2 credits) • PUBH 6399. Health Care on the Hill (Summer, 1 credit) • PUBH 6399. Health Policy and Health Information Technology (Summer, 2 credits) • PUBH 6399. Emerging HP Issues in HC Finance (Summer, 1 credit)
Course Distribution Summary		
Required MPH Core Courses	12 Credits	
Required Program-Specific Core Courses, including the Practicum and Culminating Experience	23-24 Credits	
Elective Courses	9-10 Credits	
Total	45 Credits	

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. 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.

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, 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.

The following chart gives examples of potential practicum sites:

SAMPLE PRACTICUM TOPICS AND SITES HEALTH POLICY	
TOPIC	SITE
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 Advanced Health Policy Analysis Selective is a non-negotiable pre-requisite to the Culminating Experience in Health Policy.** 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 courses, 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 Culminating Experience course is separate and distinct from the Practicum in Health Policy. Register for the CE using a paper Registration Transaction Form through the HPM Department.

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

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/>.

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 Student Handbook for details on these and other requirements: https://publichealth.gwu.edu/sites/default/files/downloads/admissions/Milken_Handbook_2016-2017%20FINAL.pdf.

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!

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 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. Full-time students typically

complete the MPH core courses in their first year following their admission into the program (fall/spring/summer). 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.

- 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 course schedule for a given semester to determine all of the course prerequisite requirements.
- 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. 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, as well as several electives.
- 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.
- 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.

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 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 subjects research training module.**
- **Successful completion of 8 Professional Enhancement hours.**
- **Time Limit Requirement:** The degree must be completed within four 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. 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 eligible for transfer.
- **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 st 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 st 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 st year 4 credits	2	PUBH 6315	Introduction to Health Policy Analysis
	2	PUBH 6014.16	Practicum
Fall 2 nd 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 nd 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 st year 6 credits	3	PUBH 6003	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology
	3	PUBH 6002	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health
Spring 1 st year 6 credits	2	PUBH 6001	Biological Concepts for Public Health
	2	PUBH 6007	Social & Behavioral Approaches to Public Health
	2	PUBH 6305	Fundamentals for Health Policy
Summer 1 st year 4 credits	2	PUBH 6315	Introduction to Health Policy Analysis
	2	PUBH/HSML course	Elective
Fall 2 nd year 7 credits	2	PUBH 6004	Environmental & Occupational Health in a Sustainable World
	3	PUBH 6310	Statistical Analysis in Health Policy
	2	HSML XXXX	Selected Health Services Management Course
Spring 2 nd year 3 credits	3	PUBH 6330	Health Services and Law
Summer 2 nd year 6 credits	2	PUBH 6014.16	Practicum
	2	PUBH XXXX	Selected Advanced Health Policy Analysis Course
	2	PUBH/HSML course	Elective
Fall 3 rd year 7 credits	3	PUBH 6340	Health Economics and Financing
	2	PUBH 6325	Federal Policymaking and Policy Advocacy
	2	PUBH/HSML course	Elective
Spring 3 rd year 6 credits	2	PUBH/HSML course	Elective
	2	PUBH/HSML course	Elective
	2	PUBH 6015.16	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. 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>