

**2.3. PUBLIC HEALTH CORE KNOWLEDGE. ALL GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL DEGREE PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE SUFFICIENT COURSEWORK TO ATTAIN DEPTH AND BREADTH IN THE FIVE CORE AREAS OF PUBLIC HEALTH KNOWLEDGE.**

2.3.a. Identification of the means by which the school assures that all graduate professional degree students have fundamental competence in the areas of knowledge basic to public health. If the means is common across the school, it need be described only once. If it varies by degree or program area, sufficient information must be provided to assess compliance by each program. See CEPH Data Template 2.3.1.

**MPH**

All MPH degree students are required to take a 15-credit core curriculum. The five core knowledge areas of public health are addressed in this core, as shown in Template 2.3.1.a below. In addition, the required core MPH curriculum includes a two-credit course, PUBH 6001 Biological Concepts for Public Health, which provides an overview of current knowledge about the biological mechanisms of major diseases causing death and disability in the US and globally. As a result, students understand and can interpret the reciprocal relationships of genetic, environmental, and behavioral determinants of health and disease in an ecological context from a public health perspective.

**Template 2.3.1.a: Required Courses Addressing Public Health Core Knowledge Areas for MPH Degree**

<u>Core Knowledge Area</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Course #</u>	<u>Credits</u>
Biostatistics	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health	PUBH 6002	3
Epidemiology	Principles & Practice of Epidemiology	PUBH 6003	3
Environmental Health Sciences	Environmental & Occupational Health in a Sustainable World	PUBH 6004	2
Health Services Administration	Management & Policy Approaches to Public Health	PUBH 6006	3
Social & Behavioral Sciences	Social & Behavioral Approaches to Public Health	PUBH 6007	2

Program guides for individual MPH tracks are available here: <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/graduate/masters-programs>

## Residential MHA

The MHA program incorporates the foundations of knowledge basic to public health by offering coursework that is applied to the health care industry. Core courses address business and medical informatics training, knowledge of health care systems, management theory, healthcare finance, ethics, law, policy, critical values in decision-making, and specialized topics relating to the healthcare industry. This 50-credit program requires 31 core credits in addition to three-nine credits of field experience. See Template 2.3.1.b below.

### CEPH Data Template 2.3.1.b: Required Courses Addressing Public Health Core Knowledge Areas for MHA Degree

Core Knowledge Area	Course Title	Course #	Credits
<b>Biostatistics</b>	Medical Informatics	HSML 6208	2
	Health Services Information Applications	HSML 6207	2
	Quantitative Methods & Epidemiology	HSML 6206	3
<b>Epidemiology</b>	Quantitative Methods & Epidemiology	HSML 6206	3
	Health Services Finance	HSML 6209	2
	Health Services Financial Applications	HSML 6210	2
	Health Economics	HSML 6211	2
<b>Environmental Health Sciences</b>	Environmental & Occupational Health in a Sustainable World	PUBH 6004	2
<b>Social &amp; Behavioral Sciences</b>	Community Health Management/Advocacy	HSML 6212	2
<b>Health Services Administration</b>	Introduction to Health Management	HSML 6203	2
	Health Services Marketing & Planning	HSML 6213	2
	Human Resources Management & Organizational Behavior	HSML 6216	2
	Seminar- Health Services Management & Leadership	HSML 6218	2
	Management- Acute Care Hospital	HSML 6231	2
	Managing/Skilled Nursing Facility	HSML 6237	3
	Ambulatory Care Management	HSML 6238	2

For complete program information: <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/programs/health-administration-mha>

**Executive MHA**

This executive master's program offers professionals working in healthcare and health services the opportunity to earn a Master of Health Administration degree and gain the skills and knowledge they need to assume a leadership role in their organizations. This hybrid program consists of eight "modules" that include pre-recorded, asynchronous content, live face-to-face online classes, live team sessions, immersive multimedia coursework; and team projects. The program also includes four face-to-face immersive experiences; two in leadership and ethics, one in health system analysis and one for the culminating experience final presentation.

**CEPH Data Template 2.3.1.c: Required Courses Addressing Public Health Core Knowledge Areas for Executive MHA Degree**

<b>Core Knowledge Area</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Course #</b>	<b>Credits</b>
<b>Biostatistics</b>	Medical Informatics & Decision Management	HSML 6265/ Module 2	5
	Economics and Quantitative Methods	HSML 6268/ Module 5	5
	Healthcare Financial Management	HSML 6266/ Module 3	5
	Capstone-Systems Thinking & Learning	HSML 62xx/ Module 8	4
<b>Epidemiology</b>	Economics and Quantitative Methods	HSML 6268/ Module 5	5
	Quality & Performance Improvement	HSML 6269/ Module 6	5
<b>Environmental Health Sciences</b>	Community Engagement	HSML 6267/ Module 4	5
<b>Social &amp; Behavioral Sciences</b>	Community Engagement	HSML 6267/ Module 4	5
	Leadership & Ethics - I	HSML 6255/ Immersion I	1.5
	Leadership & Ethics- II	HSML 6256/ Immersion II	3
<b>Health Services Administration</b>	Healthcare Management & Strategy	HSML 6264/ Module 1	5
	Medical Informatics & Decision Management	HSML6265/ Module 2	5
	Healthcare Financial Management	HSML 6266/ Module 3	5
	Economics and Quantitative Methods	HSML 6268/ Module 5	5
	Quality & Performance Improvement	HSML 6269/ Module 6	5
	Capstone-Systems Thinking & Learning	HSML 62xx/ Module 8	4
	Healthcare Law and Policy	HSML 62xx/ Module 7	5

For complete program information for the Executive MHA: <http://mha.gwu.edu/>.

## **DrPH Degree**

Applicants to the DrPH program must have previously earned a MPH degree or the equivalent. Equivalency is evaluated for individual applicants based on whether they have had appropriate academic training in all five core areas of public health. If any areas are missing or weak, students are required to successfully complete relevant coursework at the master's level prior to, or during, the first year of their doctoral program.

### **2.3.b. Assessment of the extent to which this criterion is met and an analysis of the school's strengths, weaknesses and plans relating to this criterion.**

This criterion is met.

#### **Strengths:**

- The School-wide Curriculum Committee regularly reviews the MPH core courses. Each core course gets reviewed approximately once every two to three years. In the summer and fall of 2012, the School created working groups to examine all of the core courses. From these groups came the recommendation to combine PUBH 6005- *Policy Approaches to Public Health* and PUBH 6008 *Management Approaches to Public Health*, both two-credit courses, into one three-credit course, PUBH 6006, *Management and Policy Approaches to Public Health*. The new course has a much more integrated approach to teaching health policy and management and eliminated overlap between the two former courses. It became a requirement in the Fall of 2013. Student course evaluations for the new course have been consistently more favorable than the evaluations for the former two courses. Also, combining PUBH 6005 and PUBH 6008 freed up one elective credit.
- The required two-credit course in Public Health Biology (PUBH 6001- *Biological Concepts of Public Health*) strengthens our students' knowledge of determinants of health and disease.
- As a result of the most recent CEPH accreditation process, we strengthened the public health core content of the residential MHA program.

#### **Challenges:**

- To provide a broader range of options for students matriculating with various levels of core knowledge and competencies, we would like to offer multiple choices of our introductory courses, but do not yet have the faculty capacity to do so.

#### **Future Plans:**

- There is some discussion about whether we could further combine some of the core content through a case-based curriculum. We are planning to create an exploratory group to investigate this idea in the near future.
- The curriculum committees throughout the School are reviewing the ASPPH "Framing the Future" reports to determine whether we need to make changes to the core in light of these new ideas.