

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

BS/MPH Dual Degree Program 2018-2019

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

Program Director

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BACKGROUND:

The George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health (SPH) offers a unique opportunity to a select group of students who not only demonstrate academic excellence, but also demonstrate a strong commitment to public health. The Milken Institute SPH will accept a small number of outstanding students each year to the BS/MPH program. Applicants may apply to any of the MPH programs. Applicants for Global Health programs must apply in their junior year. As incentives to move beyond the traditional undergraduate curriculum, SPH offers participants admission to the MPH program without having to sit for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), as well as the opportunity to complete both the BS and MPH degrees more efficiently than if the degrees been completed separately. This dual degree program strives to matriculate public health leaders who are committed to life-long learning and to improving the health and well-being of our local, national, and international communities. This is an appropriate program for pre-professional students who are interested in public health issues.

The BS/MPH program is a multi-level, dual-degree program, meaning that students are concurrently enrolled in one undergraduate program and one graduate program, and that degrees will be awarded in different semesters.

ADMISSIONS:

Office of Admissions and Recruitment

950 New Hampshire Avenue, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20052
Phone: 202-994-2160
Email: GWSPHAdmit@gwu.edu

Admissions Requirements

Students apply directly to the school's [residential MPH programs](#). For most programs, students apply in the summer after their sophomore year. **The department of Global Health will only consider applicants in the summer after their junior year.** Applications are due June 1st (if on a holiday or weekend, submissions are accepted the next business day). Incomplete or late applications will **not** be considered.

Students must be admitted to the BS in Public Health before applying to the BS/MPH program. Students must have a cumulative GPA of at least **3.3** to be considered for admission to the program. In addition, BS/MPH applicants are required to complete at least two public health core or elective classes by the end of that spring semester, receiving a grade of B or better.

Students admitted by their department of choice to the BS/MPH program are considered to be **provisionally admitted**. Admission is conditional upon on earning a grade of **B** or higher in PUBH 6001, 6003, 6004, and 6007. Students who do not obtain a B or higher in all three courses will remain a BSPH major, but they will not be eligible to continue in the BS/MPH program.

It is **strongly** recommended that students receive guidance about the program before submitting an application. Students may receive guidance from either Program Advisor, Meaghan Sullivan (meaghanwilson@email.gwu.edu), or an

Admissions Representative at gwsphadmit@gwu.edu. Please email either of these contacts to schedule an appointment to discuss the program.

The link to the online application form is made available three weeks prior to the admission deadline at <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/programs/public-health-bsmph>. A complete application includes:

1. A personal statement
 - a. The statement of purpose should explain how you became interested in your field of choice; the contribution you hope to make to your field; and how you believe GW's program will help you reach your career goals. If there is anything unusual in your transcripts, standardized testing, or resume that you wish to explain to the admissions committee, please include this information in your Statement of Purpose.
2. Two letters of recommendation - faculty members preferred;
3. Your resume;
4. Your unofficial transcript from BanWeb (Admissions will cross-check it against an official copy)
 - a. For students applying to the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics ONLY, you **must** have completed MATH 1200 or higher **OR** STAT 1051, 1053, 1127 or higher.
5. GRE scores, if you choose to submit them. (*GRE or other standardized test scores are not required for admission. However, applicants may submit standardized test scores if they feel that including this information will enhance their application.*)

No student is considered to have declared a BS/MPH until this process is completed and the student has received, and returned signed, the letter of acceptance from the GWSPH Office of Recruitment and Admissions. Thereafter students receive guidance from the Program Advisor **and their MPH faculty advisor**. Students are strongly encouraged to receive academic guidance from the Program Advisor in order to register for all subsequent undergraduate semesters. Students follow the prescribed curriculum effective in the year that he/she matriculates into the BS/MPH in Public Health program. The student, with the assistance of the Program Advisor, is responsible for managing the undergraduate degree requirements and the four crossover graduate courses. The student will work with the MPH faculty advisor to plan the graduate degree coursework beyond the crossover courses.

BS/MPH GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

1. **Graduate Credit Requirement.** 120 undergraduate credits are required for the BS degree; 36 graduate credits are required for the MPH degree.
2. **Course Requirements.** Successful completion of the undergraduate program is required for the BS degree, and completion of the remaining graduate Core Courses and the Program-Specific Courses are required for the MPH degree.
3. **Grade Point Requirement.** A 3.0 (B average) overall grade point average is required for graduate courses.
4. **Time Limit Requirement.** Both degrees must be completed within six years of the date accepted to the School of Public Health.
5. **Transfer Credit Policy.** In concordance with undergraduate and graduate established policies.
6. **Comply with policies and procedures** as outlined in the University and SPH requirements. After completing the BS degree, students will follow all graduate policies outlined in the University Bulletin and the SPH Student Handbook. Pay particular attention to the SPH requirements to complete human research training (CITI training), to complete 16 hours of professional enhancement (8 hours *before* completing the BSPH and *another* 8 hours before completing the MPH) activities, and to pass the Academic Integrity Quiz.

BS/MPH Credit Distribution Chart

Category	Non Premed Credits	Premedical Credits
BS General Education Requirements (minimum)*	19-20	52-71
BS Public Health Core Course Requirements (Includes 9 graduate crossover credits)**	27	27
BS SPH Electives***	12	12
BS Additional Electives	47-54	10-29
BS Total Credits	120	120
MPH Total Credits	36	36
BS/MPH Total Credits (120 credits plus 36 credits = 156 total credits)	156	156

***General Curriculum Courses**

Note: See Bulletin for most up-to-date version of the University General Education Requirements and approved courses: <http://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/> Consult with your Advisor. Courses may count toward more than one requirement as noted below.

****BS Public Health Core Course Requirements and Graduate Substitutions**

Required Courses	Credits	Title
PUBH 1101(W)	3	Introduction to Public Health and Health Services
PUBH 1102	3	History in Public Health
PUBH 3130	3	Management and Economics of Health Services
PUBH 3133	3	Global Health and Development
PUBH 3135 W	3	Health Policy
PUBH 4140 W	3	Senior Seminar
Total Undergraduate Core Credits	18	
PUBH 6007	2	Social and Behavioral Approaches to Public Health (Replaces PUBH 2112 Principles of Health Education and Health Promotion [3 credits] in the BS Public Health Program)
PUBH 6003	3	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology (Replaces PUBH 3131 Epidemiology: Measuring Health and Disease [3 credits] in the BS Public Health Program)
PUBH 6004	2	Environmental and Occupational Health in a Sustainable World (Replaces PUBH 3132 Health and Environment [3 credits] in the BS Public Health Program)
PUBH 6001	2	Biological Concepts for Public Health (Replaces PUBH 2110 Public Health Biology [3 credits] in the BS Public Health Program)
Total Graduate Cross Over Credits	9	
Total Core Credits	27	

*****Approved Public Health Elective Courses**

AMST 3950	3	Topics: Narrative Medicine in American History <i>only</i>
ANTH 3504	3	Illness, Healing and Culture
ANTH 3513	3	Anthropology of Human Rights
ANTH 6302	3	Issues in Development
BADM 4101	3	Business Law and Ethics
BIOC 3560	3	Diet, Health, and Longevity
BISC 3450 or BISC 3450W	3	Evolutionary Medicine
EHS 2107	4	Theory and Practice of Research in a Clinical Setting
EXNS 1114	3	Community Nutrition
EXNS 1199	3	Topics: Nutrition & Disease <i>only</i>
EXNS 2119	3	Introduction to Nutrition Science
EXNS 2122	3	Food Systems in Public Health
GEOG 2104	3	Introduction to Cartography and GIS
GEOG 2127	3	Population Geography
GEOG 2137	3	Environmental Hazards
HIST 3363	3	Race, Medicine, and Public Health
HLWL 1106	3	Drug Awareness
HLWL 1109	3	Human Sexuality
HONR 2047	3	Special Topics- Medicine and Society <i>only</i>
HONR 2047	3	Special Topics- Gender, Race, and Science <i>only</i>
HSCI 2101	3	Psychosocial Aspects of Health and Illness
HSCI 2105	3	Current Issues in Bioethics
IAFF 2190W	3	Topics: Science, Policy and Tech <i>only</i>
PHIL 2124	3	Philosophies of Disability
PHIL 2281	3	Philosophy of the Environment
PSYC 3128	3	Health Psychology
PUBH 2113	3	Impact of Culture Upon Health
PUBH 2114	3	Environment, Health and Development
PUBH 2115	3	Health, Human Rights, and Displaced Persons
PUBH 2117	3	Service Learning in Public Health
PUBH 3116	3	Global Health Systems Performance
PUBH 3136	3	Health Law
PUBH 3137	3	Global Public Health Nutrition
PUBH 3150	3	Sustainable Energy and Environmental Health
PUBH 3151	3	Current Issues in Bioethics
PUBH 3199	1-3	Various Topics in Public Health - i.e. Qualitative Research Methods in PUBH
STAT 2118	3	Regression Analysis
STAT 2183	3	Intermediate Statistics Lab/Packages
SUST 2003	3	The Sustainable Plate

MPH Core Course Requirements (beyond the crossover courses)

Begin Planning Your Practicum after Completing the First Half of Your Program

Required Core Course		Credits	Semester Offered
PUBH 6002	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health	3	Summer, Fall, Spring
PUBH 6006	Management & Policy Approaches to Public Health (for all MPH programs except the MPH, Health Policy or MPH, Global Health Policy)	3	Summer, Fall, Spring
Total	Core Credits	6	

For MPH program guides, course descriptions and registration information, please go to the website: <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics>. Please refer to the relevant MPH Program Guide for your program-specific curricular and graduation requirements.

BS/MPH Supplement to the Milken Institute School of Public Health Student Handbook

OVERVIEW

This supplement is intended to provide information about policies and procedures that apply to students in the School of Public Health and Health Service's BS/MPH dual-degree program. BS/MPH students should use this supplement along with the information in the *School of Public Health Graduate Student Handbook* ("Handbook") and the University's Bulletin. The Bulletin is available on-line at www.gwu.edu/~bulletin/.

Some policies are course-specific (i.e., grade appeal of a course) while others relate to the students' overall participation in the program (i.e. academic standing). Unless otherwise specified in this supplement, students should follow the policies and procedures relating to course-specific issues that coincide with the program level of the course. In other words, if the issue relates to an undergraduate course, students should follow the undergraduate rules and if the issue relates to a graduate course, students should follow the graduate rules. For issues relating to the students' overall participation in the program, students should follow the policies that coincide with the students' level of progress in the program. In other words, the student should adhere to undergraduate policies and procedures until the student completes the requirements for a BS in Public Health. Once the student completes the requirements for the BS in Public Health, the student should follow the graduate policies and procedures.

HOW TO FINANCE YOUR BS/MPH PROGRAM

Prior to the award of the BS degree, BS/MPH students are eligible only for undergraduate financial assistance. Once matriculating into the graduate program, BS/MPH students are eligible for graduate support and [the Grad2Grad program](#). BS/MPH students are not eligible for merit scholarships from GWSPH because of the combination of at least 9 credits saved and the Grad2Grad discount.

To retain eligibility for undergraduate Federal and institutional financial aid, the number of graduate courses for which an undergraduate student is registered in any given semester or summer session must be less than half of his or her total course load. Put another way, students must be enrolled in 51% undergraduate credits in each term toward the BS degree.

GET ADVISING BEFORE YOU REGISTER

BS/MPH students have two academic advisors, one who focuses on undergraduate course work and completion of the BS requirements and one who focuses on graduate course work and completion of MPH requirements. Your undergraduate advisor is shown in the header. Your graduate advisor will be assigned based on which department/program you enter. These two advisors will work together as needed to assist BS/MPH students in course selection and sequencing for the entire program.

BS/MPH students, like other BS Public Health Majors, must meet with their undergraduate academic advisor before registering for classes in fall of their junior year. At that time, they should plan their course sequencing for the remaining undergraduate requirements. BS/MPH students must also meet with their likely MPH academic advisor in the fall of their junior year to plan their graduate course selection and sequencing. By meeting with both advisors early in the program, BS/MPH students are less likely to encounter scheduling or sequencing conflicts that delay graduation. **It is assumed that BS/MPH students will take courses during summer sessions if they wish to graduate in a reduced timeframe.** However, BS/MPH students are not required to take courses during the summer to maintain enrollment status.

Please refer to the *SPH Student Handbook* for additional information on advising and registration.

PAY YOUR TUITION BILL ACCORDING TO ESTABLISHED BILLING PLANS

The fixed rate tuition plan remains in effect for BS/MPH students who chose to participate in the plan upon enrolling at GW. Students who are not part of the fixed-rate tuition plan or who are still enrolled at GW after the term of their fixed-

plan tuition plan expires, will pay on a per-credit basis according to the undergraduate rate for undergraduate courses or the graduate rate for graduate courses.

PARTICIPATE IN PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES

BS/MPH students are required to complete 16 hours of professional enhancement activities during their program. At least 8 credit hours must be completed to meet the requirements for the BS degree.

PROCEDURES FOR FILING PETITIONS

BS/MPH students should use the undergraduate or graduate petitions as appropriate.

BS/MPH students who wish to drop out of the BS/MPH dual-degree program but wish to continue to pursue a BS in Public Health [must submit an undergraduate petition](#). In the area labeled “Request”, check “other” and describe the reason for the petition in the “Specifics” section. Students who wish to become a Public Health major will be automatically accepted into the major unless there are outstanding academic or disciplinary issues that must be addressed. In those cases, the Director of the Undergraduate Program will make the final decision about admittance into the BS in Public Health and may establish requirements by which students must abide as a condition of enrollment into the major.

ACADEMIC STANDING

BS/MPH students have undergraduate standing until they successfully complete 120 credit hours and meet the other requirements necessary to obtain their BS in Public Health. Until BS/MPH students fulfill their requirements for the BS degree, they are subject to the undergraduate guidelines on academic standing. Once they complete their BS degree, BS/MPH students are subject to graduate guidelines on academic standing.

For graduate course work to be cross-credited toward the undergraduate degree, students must earn at least a B and the course work must be taken for graduate credit. Students who earn less than a B in a graduate course that is to be cross-credited may apply this course only toward the undergraduate degree. To meet graduate degree requirements, the student must substitute an advisor-approved graduate-level course from the same discipline, to help the student reinforce competency in this discipline.

PREPARING TO GRADUATE!!

Spring Commencement Ceremony

BS/MPH students earn their degrees sequentially, with the BS awarded after students successfully complete 120 credits and meet all other requirements for the undergraduate degree. Students may choose to participate in the Spring Commencement Ceremony twice, once to celebrate their undergraduate degree and later to celebrate their graduate degree. Students must follow Milken Institute SPH guidelines for graduation application, ceremony, and walk-through requirements as indicated in the Student Handbook.