

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

BS in Public Health/MPH Dual Degree Program 2020-2021

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 in Public Health /MPH program. Applicants may apply to any of the MPH programs. 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 in Public Health/MPH in Public Health 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 completing 60 credits and at least 2 semesters of undergraduate education. **The department of Global Health will only consider applicants in the summer after completing 90 credits and at least 4 semesters of undergraduate education.** 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 and enrolled in the BS in Public Health before applying to the BS in Public Health/MPH program (students internally transferring from other GW schools are not enrolled in the program until the semester after they are admitted). Students must have a cumulative GPA of at least **3.3** to be considered for admission to the program. In addition, BS in Public Health/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 in Public Health program are considered to be **provisionally admitted**. Admission is conditional upon on earning a grade of **B** or higher in PUBH, 6003, 6007, and 6011. Students who do not obtain a B or higher in all three courses will remain a BSPH major, but they may not be eligible to continue in the BS in Public Health/MPH program. The decision whether the student may continue with the BS in Public Health/MPH program resides with the student's MPH department.

It is **strongly** recommended that students receive guidance about the program before submitting an application. Students may receive guidance from Undergraduate Academic Advisor, Justin Schlossberg at justin_s@email.gwu.edu Please email him 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 Banner (Admissions will cross-check it against an official copy);
5. For students applying to the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics ONLY, you **must** have completed MATH 1200 or higher **OR** PUBH 3142, STAT 1051, 1053, 1127 or higher;
6. 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 in Public Health/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 Undergraduate Academic Advisor **and their MPH faculty advisor**. Students are strongly encouraged to receive academic guidance from the Undergraduate Academic 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 in Public Health/MPH program. The student, with the assistance of the Undergraduate Academic 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; 35 graduate credits are required for the MPH degree. In order to qualify for undergraduate financial aid and scholarships, at least 51% of the credits students take each semester during their undergraduate studies must be undergraduate credits.
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.** The MPH degree must be completed within 5 years.
5. **Transfer Credit Policy.** In accordance 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](#).

Prerequisite Requirements: Please note that these are prerequisites for required core courses, rather than prerequisites to apply to the program.

Required Course	Prerequisite(s)
PUBH 2110	BISC 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1111, 1112, or HONR 1033 (Scientific Reasoning & Discovery: Biology Only)
PUBH 2112	PUBH 1101- Introduction to Public Health
PUBH 3130	ECON 1011- Principles of Economics I (Microeconomics)
PUBH 3133	<i>Restricted to Juniors and Seniors</i>
PUBH 3135W	PUBH 1101- Introduction to Public Health. <i>Restricted to Juniors and Seniors</i>
PUBH 4140W	PUBH 3130 & PUBH 3135W; no more than 1 other core course can be taken concurrently. Students must also satisfy the Research Methods Selective prior to enrolling in 4140W. Restricted to Seniors.

Credit Distribution

BS in Public Health/MPH Credit Distribution Chart		
Category	Non-Premed Credits	Premedical Credits
BS General Education Requirements (minimum)*	19	54-71
BS Public Health Core Course Requirements/Research Selective (Includes 10 graduate crossover credits)	32	32
BS SPH Electives	12	12
BS Additional Electives	57	5-22
BS Total Credits	120	120
MPH Total Credits	35	35
BS/MPH Total Credits (120 credits plus 35 credits = 155 total credits)	155	155

* Exercise Science and Nutrition Science Majors list 26 credits worth of needed General Education requirements, while the Public Health Major lists only 19 credits. This is because the Public Health Major includes both WID courses within the Public Health Core classes, while the Exercise Science and Nutrition Science Majors do not. In addition, the Public Health Major lists the minimum credit amount for fulfilling the Science General Education requirement (3 credits), while the Exercise Science and Nutrition Science Majors list the maximum credit amount for fulfilling the Science General Education requirement (4 credits) because a 4-credit course also fulfills a core requirement in both majors.

University General Education 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/>
*Some courses may count toward more than one requirement. Consult with your Advisor.***

BS Public Health Core Course Requirements and Graduate Substitutions

Public Health Core Courses (19 credits)

Required Courses	Credits	Title
PUBH 1010*	1	First Year Experience in Public Health
PUBH 1101	3	Introduction to Public Health and Health Services
PUBH 2110	3	Public Health Biology
PUBH 3130	3	Management and Economics of Health Services
PUBH 3133	3	Global Health and Development
PUBH 3135W	3	Health Policy
PUBH 4140W	3	Senior Seminar

Research Methods Selective[^] (3 credits)

Choose 1 Course Below	Credits	Course Title
PUBH 3152	3	Qualitative Methods in Public Health
PUBH 3199	3	Public Health Research Methods
EXNS 3111W**	3	Exercise and Nutrition Sciences Research Methods

[^]Alternative research methods courses with advanced approval of the Program Director.

	22	Total Undergraduate Core Credits
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 6011	2	Principles of Environmental Health Sciences (Replaces PUBH 3132 Health and Environment [3 credits] in the BS Public Health Program)
Graduate Elective	2	An approved graduate elective [2 credits] replaces an undergraduate elective [3 credits] in the BS Public Health Program
	10	Total Graduate Cross Over Credits
	32	TOTAL CORE PUBLIC HEALTH CREDITS

*PUBH 1010: Internal transfer students (i.e., transferring from within another program or school at GW) may satisfy this requirement if they took EXNS 1103, EXNS 1109, or a first-year experience course at another school within GW. Transfer students are also exempt from this requirement.

**EXNS 2119 is a prerequisite for

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 6009	Fundamentals of Program Evaluation	2	Summer, Fall, Spring
PUBH 6012	Fundamentals of Health Policy: Public Health and Health Care	2	Summer, Fall, Spring
PUBH 6021 [^]	Leading Self and Teams in Public Health	1	Summer, Fall, Spring ^{^^^}
PUBH 6022	Managing Organizations and Influencing Systems in Public Health	1	Summer, Fall, Spring
PUBH 6015	Culminating Experience	2	Summer, Fall, Spring
Total	Core Credits	11	

[^]BS/MPH in Public Health students are strongly encouraged to take PUBH 6021 in Fall of their senior year

Waive and Replace and Course Substitution Policies

- BS in Public Health /MPH in Public Health students must take PUBH 6007. They may not take PUBH 2112 and then waive and replace PUBH 6007.
- BS in Public Health/MPH in Public Health students who receive an A or A- in Health Policy (PUBH 3135W) may waive and replaced PUBH 6012 and take an additional elective with approval of their graduate advisor
- BS in Public Health/MPH in Public Health students in PCH Department programs will take Program Evaluation (PUBH 6501) instead of Fundamentals of Program Evaluation (PUBH 6009) in the MPH program.

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.

Students are responsible for reviewing and understanding the policies and requirements as outlined in the Undergraduate and Graduate Student Handbooks, which can be found here: <https://publichealth.gwu.edu/content/services-students> and the University's Bulletin. The Bulletin is available on-line at www.gwu.edu/~bulletin/.