Mission
The mission of the Department of Prevention and Community Health in graduating Doctoral-level professionals within this specialty field is to create a cadre of professionals uniquely equipped to provide leadership in the field of Health Behavior. The DrPH program in Health Behavior is based on the ecological model of health and well-being and is aimed at understanding and having an impact on the health of populations and cultures, with special emphasis upon underserved populations. Our graduates are prepared to apply their research and analytic skills to a range of implementation, evaluation, and advocacy needs of various cultural and socioeconomic groups and communities.

Admissions Requirements
The Doctor of Public Health Program is designed for professionals seeking to become public health leaders. Applicants who have completed an MPH degree from a Council of Education for Public Health (CEPH) accredited program are strongly preferred for admission to the DrPH Program. Alternatively, applicants with a master’s degree in another field may indicate their relevant training, work and/or research experience, or educational background comparable to the MPH that may have prepared them for doctoral level training in Public Health. Doctoral applicants admitted without an MPH may be required to take additional course work at the graduate level that may not apply toward the minimum 48 credits required. For the DrPH, qualified applicants with degrees from institutions in foreign countries are also eligible for admission. All applicants must submit scores from the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) taken within five years of the date of application. Because admission to this program is highly selective, successful applicants have competitive academic credentials and substantial prior public health professional work experience related to the health behavior field.

DrPH Competencies
The Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) Program at The George Washington University prepares professionals to assume national and international leadership positions in environmental and occupational health, global health, health behavior, and health policy. The field of public health provides unique insights into the complex interrelationships between health, politics, and human development. It enables professionals to address public health issues by marshalling research and analytic skills to develop innovative approaches to understand health and to promote and advocate for improved health outcomes. Upon completion of the DrPH, students in all programs will demonstrate ability in the school-wide program competencies, as well as the program-specific competencies listed at the end of this document.

DrPH in Health Behavior Program-Specific Competencies
On completion of the DrPH Program, students will possess the following functional competencies and subject area knowledge:

1. Assess public health problems, analyze quantitative data, interpret findings from interventions to design and evaluate programs.
2. Use the basic concepts of public health practice and the philosophy of social and behavioral sciences to design effective public health programs.
3. Identify an area of interest within public health and develop a level of knowledge that will allow use of appropriate conceptual or theoretical models and build on the current state of the art in that topic area.
4. Develop culturally appropriate and effective communication strategies to inform and influence individual, organizational, community and policy action to promote the health of the public and address health disparities.
5. Develop partnerships and conduct or propose collaborative projects with/for diverse communities, community organizations, and public health organizations.
# Program of Study 2020

## Course Distribution Summary
- Total Credits = Minimum 48
- Required Foundation Courses and Research Methods = 22 credits
- Required Specialty Field Courses = 6 credits
- Specialty Field Electives = 7-10 credits
- Professional Leadership = 2 credits
- Dissertation Preparation and Dissertation = 8 to 11 credits

### Required Foundational and Research Methods Courses
22 Credits

With advanced approval of the Department Program Director, another Methods course may be substituted for PUBH 8417, 8418, or 8420.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Semester Taken/ Proposed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 8401</td>
<td>Foundations of Public Health Leadership and Practice – Doctoral Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fall Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 8402</td>
<td>Leadership and Decision Making: A Skills Based Approach</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Summer Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 8403</td>
<td>Leadership in Public Health Practice and Policy</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fall Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 8416</td>
<td>Study Design and Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 8417*</td>
<td>Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis Prereq: PUBH 8416 or instructor permission *indicates course may be replaced with EDUC8257, PSYC8258 or other doctoral level qualitative class</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring Year 2 or 3 Summer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 8418</td>
<td>Applied Statistical Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fall Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 8419</td>
<td>Measurement in Public Health and Health Services Research Prereq: PUBH 8418</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring Year 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 8420</td>
<td>Advanced Analysis and Dissemination Prereq: PUBH 8417, PUBH 8418</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fall Year 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 6080^</td>
<td>Pathways to Public Health *for Non MPH graduates only</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Summer or Fall Year 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

^Students without a prior MPH degree from an accredited school of public health will be required to successfully pass the free, zero credit, online course within one year of matriculation. There is no fee for this course. See information about Pathways to Public Health on the website in the Academic Advising section.

### Required Specialty Field Courses
6 Credits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Semester Taken/ Proposed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 8408</td>
<td>Advanced Topics–Health Behavior Research and Practice Application- Doctoral Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 8409</td>
<td>Advanced Topics–Health Communications Research- Doctoral Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring Year 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Specialty Field Elective Courses
7-10 Credits
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 8413</td>
<td>Research Leadership</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 8415</td>
<td>Instructional Leadership</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Professional Leadership Courses**

**2 Credits**

(Most students will take 2 credits instructional leadership)

**Course** | **Title**                  | **Credits** | **Semester** | **Taken / Proposed**
---|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------------|
PUBH 8413  | Research Leadership         | Varies      |              |                     |
PUBH 8415  | Instructional Leadership    | Varies      |              |                     |

**Comprehensive Exam**

(Taken upon completion of all course work)

**Comprehensive Examination**

Date Taken ____________________  Pass/No Pass ________
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Semester Taken/ Proposed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 8422</td>
<td>Advanced Health Care and Public Health Research Design- Prerequisites: Pass Comprehensive Exam, Approval of Program Director, &amp; One page abstract</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fall Year 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 8423</td>
<td>Dissertation Research DrPH Degree Dissertation Research Prerequisite: PUBH 8422</td>
<td>6 to 9 required</td>
<td>Multiple – may be taken in increments of 1 to 9 credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL PROGRAM** 48 CREDITS

**PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT EXPERIENCES** 8 HOURS

**DrPH STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND 8 PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT HOURS.**

**HOURS MUST BE DOCUMENTED AND SIGNED BY AN ACADEMIC ADVISOR.**

Find information about courses, advising, handbooks, etc. on the [SPH Website](#).
Program Policies and Procedures
For program policies and procedures, please refer to the Doctor of Public Health Handbook and other resources, located at http://publichealth.gwu.edu/.

DrPH Foundational Competencies
On completion of the DrPH Program, students will possess the following foundational competencies and subject area knowledge:

Data & Analysis
1. Explain qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods and policy analysis research and evaluation methods to address health issues at multiple (individual, group, organization, community and population) levels
2. Design a qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods, policy analysis or evaluation project to address a public health issue
3. Explain the use and limitations of surveillance systems and national surveys in assessing, monitoring and evaluating policies and programs and to address a population’s health

Leadership, Management & Governance
4. Propose strategies for health improvement and elimination of health inequities by organizing stakeholders, including researchers, practitioners, community leaders and other partners
5. Communicate public health science to diverse stakeholders, including individuals at all levels of health literacy, for purposes of influencing behavior and policies
6. Integrate knowledge, approaches, methods, values and potential contributions from multiple professions and systems in addressing public health problems
7. Create a strategic plan
8. Facilitate shared decision making through negotiation and consensus-building methods
9. Create organizational change strategies
10. Propose strategies to promote inclusion and equity within public health programs, policies and systems
11. Assess one’s own strengths and weaknesses in leadership capacities, including cultural proficiency
12. Propose human, fiscal and other resources to achieve a strategic goal
13. Cultivate new resources and revenue streams to achieve a strategic goal

Policy & Programs
14. Design a system-level intervention to address a public health issue
15. Integrate knowledge of cultural values and practices in the design of public health policies and programs
16. Integrate scientific information, legal and regulatory approaches, ethical frameworks and varied stakeholder interests in policy development and analysis
17. Propose interprofessional team approaches to improving public health*

Education & Workforce Development
18. Assess an audience’s knowledge and learning needs
19. Deliver training or educational experiences that promote learning in academic, organizational or community settings
20. Use best practice modalities in pedagogical practices

*Interprofessional education occurs when students from two or more professions learn about, from and with each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes.” From: Framework for Action on Interprofessional Education & Collaborative Practice (WHO/HRH/HPN/10.3).

In this context, “Interprofessional” refers to engagement with professionals outside of public health (e.g., architects, nurses), rather than to engagement with individuals from other public health disciplines (e.g., biostatisticians, health promotion specialists).
DrPH Graduation Requirements

Graduation
While degrees are awarded at the end of each semester, formal commencement ceremonies occur only in May, including the doctoral hooding ceremony. Students are eligible to participate in graduation activities only after they have completed all degree requirements and have no financial obligations to the University. Students may include DrPH designation after their name upon completion of all degree requirements.

Graduation Requirements
1. Credits: Successful completion of 48 credits.
2. Curriculum: Successful completion of the foundational, research methods, program-specific specialty field, and professional leadership courses.
3. Comprehensive examination: Once the course of study is completed, students are required to pass the comprehensive exam to be officially admitted to the candidacy phase.
4. Dissertation: PUBH 8422 Advanced Health Care and Public Health Research Design plus 6 to 9 credits in dissertation research are required. Once the proposal has been successfully defended and the dissertation research credit requirement has been met, the oral defense may be scheduled.
5. Grade point average: A minimum overall grade-point average of B (3.0).
6. Time limit: The degree must be completed within seven years of matriculation.
7. CITI Training requirement: All students are required to complete training regarding human subject protection regulation and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). To fulfill this requirement, you must complete the Collaborative IRB Training Initiative (CITI) Course in The Protection of Human Research Subjects.
8. Integrity Quiz & Plagiarism requirement: All students are required to review the George Washington University Code of Academic Integrity, take the quiz within their first semester of study, and ensure documentation is submitted to the SPH Office of Student Records.
9. Professional Enhancement requirement: Students must participate in 8 hours per degree program of advisor pre-approved Public Health-related lectures, seminars, and symposia, related to the appropriate field of study. Students must submit documentation of Professional Enhancement activities to the SPH Office of Student Records.

Note: No transfer credits are accepted.