

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Department of Global Health

Doctor of Public Health – Global Health 2020

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

Program Director

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Mission

The DrPH degree is the terminal degree in the professional discipline of public health. Consistent with this advanced professional orientation, the DrPH Program will prepare future public health leaders to apply critical thinking and rigorous research methods to the complex practical problems facing practitioners and policy-makers in public health practice. The DrPH Program is designed to both follow and promote the principles of academic public health practice. As noted in a recent ASPH publication, public health practice is the strategic, organized, and interdisciplinary application of knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary to perform essential public health services and other activities to improve the populations' health. Academic public health practice is the applied, interdisciplinary pursuit of scholarship in the field of public health. Recent events sharply illustrate the need for public health professionals who can provide the leadership to expand and strengthen the US and global public health systems. The DrPH program is designed to prepare professionals with skills to provide this leadership.

From the combination of course work and the implementation of the knowledge in the context of a thesis project in outstanding international placements, the DrPH degree in Global Health will enable professionals to develop innovative approaches to and ability to negotiate the complex interrelationship between health and political, economic, and human development.

Goals

The DrPH graduate will be prepared to assume an advanced level of leadership in global health, in the context of health research as well as implementation programs in an international setting.

Admissions Requirements

The Doctor of Public Health Program is designed for mid-career 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, research experience, or educational background comparable to the MPH. Doctoral applicants admitted without an MPH will be required to take additional course work at the graduate level that does 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 specialty field to which they are applying.

Competencies

The Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) Program 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 program areas will demonstrate ability in the core competencies listed at the end of this document.

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

UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES AND WITH ADVANCE APPROVAL OF THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR, ANOTHER METHODS COURSE MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR PUBH 8417, 8418, OR 8420.

Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken/ Proposed
PUBH 8401	Foundations of Public Health Leadership and Practice – Doctoral Seminar	3	Fall Year 1
PUBH 8402	Leadership and Decision Making: A Skills Based Approach	2	Summer Year 1
PUBH 8416	Study Design and Evaluation	3	Spring Year 1
PUBH 8417	Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis <i>Prereq: PUBH 8416</i>	3	Spring Year 1
PUBH 8418	Applied Statistical Analysis	3	Fall Year 1
PUBH 8419	Measurement in Public Health and Health Services Research <i>Prereq: PUBH 8418</i>	3	Spring Year 2
PUBH 8420	Advanced Analysis and Dissemination <i>Prereq: PUBH 8418, PUBH 8417</i>	3	Fall Year 2
PUBH 8403	Leadership in Public Health Practice and Policy	2	Fall Year 3
PUBH 6080^	Pathways to Public Health	0	Year 1

REQUIRED SPECIALTY FIELD COURSES 6 CREDITS

Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken/ Proposed
PUBH 8406	Advanced Topics –Health Research in the Global Arena- Doctoral Seminar	3	Year 1 or Year 2
PUBH 8407	Advanced Topics- Health Leadership in International Settings- Doctoral Seminar	3	Year 1 or Year 2

SPECIALTY FIELD ELECTIVE COURSES 7-10 CREDITS (SUGGESTED OPTIONS)

Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken/ Proposed
	Any GW graduate level course: 8000 level courses (advanced approval not required; consultation with Advisor strongly recommended); 6000 level courses (advanced approval by Advisor required) Course Descriptions may be found here: http://bulletin.gwu.edu/index.html	Varies	

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP COURSES				
2 CREDITS				
<i>(most students will take 2 credits Instructional Leadership)</i>				
Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken / Proposed	Instructor/Class TA'd
PUBH 8413	Research Leadership	Varies		
PUBH 8415	Instructional Leadership	Varies		
COMPREHENSIVE EXAM				
<i>(TAKEN UPON COMPLETION OF ALL COURSE WORK)</i>				
COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION		DATE TAKEN _____	PASS/NO PASS _____	
DISSERTATION PREPARATION AND DISSERTATION				
8 TO 11 CREDITS				
PUBH 8422 IS REQUIRED				
Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken/ Proposed	
PUBH 8422	Advanced Health Care and Public Health Research Design- <i>Prerequisites: Pass Comprehensive Exam, Approval of Program Director, & One page abstract</i>	2 required	Fall Year 3	
PUBH 8423	Dissertation Research DrPH Degree Dissertation Research <i>Prereq: PUBH 8422</i>	6 to 9 required	Multiple – may be taken in increments of 1 to 9 credits	
TOTAL PROGRAM			48 CREDITS	
PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT EXPERIENCES				
8 CLOCK HOURS				
Activity		Date	Hours	

^ See information about Pathways to Public Health on the website in the Academic Advising section. 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.

Global Health Doctoral students interested in electives offered by other departments within Milken Institute SPH should access the Program Guides for those department doctoral programs, or the Schedule of Classes, to identify other electives offered.

Program-Specific Competencies

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

- Apply the theories and principles of epidemiology, economic and social development, and policy analysis to the identification, classification and elaboration of global health threats and opportunities at the community, national and international levels. Relevant Courses: PubH 8402, 8406, 8407, 8414, 8416, 8417, 8418, 8419, 8420, 8422, 8423
- Critically assess the functions, capacities, management and governance of governmental, international and non-state organizations in the translation of evidence and the application of scientific research to inform public health policy making and strategy development. Relevant Courses: PubH 8402, 8406, 8407, 8414, 8416, 8422, 8423
- Critically analyze complex global health trends, differentiating determinants that can be effectively addressed through technical, behavioral, social and economic interventions and prioritizing approaches based on economic affordability and political feasibility. Relevant Courses: PubH 8406, 8416, 8417, 8418, 8419, 8420, 8422, 8423
- Successfully apply public health theory and experiential evidence in the development and management of project, program and institutional strategies capable of reducing risks, addressing underlying vulnerabilities, and mitigating the impacts of the global burden of disease. Relevant Courses: PubH 8402, 8413, 8414, 8416, 8422, 8423
- Effectively synthesize health research findings with economic and social arguments to formulate communication strategies in global health action in various professional, institutional, political and cultural settings. Relevant Courses: PubH 8402, 8407, 8414, 8416, 8422, 8423
- Evaluate the benefits, costs and effectiveness of global health project, program and policy approaches and interventions through the appropriate choice and application of qualitative and quantitative survey and analysis methods. Relevant Courses: PubH 8406, 8416, 8417, 8418, 8420, 8422, 8423

Program Policies and Procedures

For program policies and procedures, please refer to the Doctor of Public Health Handbook and other resources, located on the School's website: <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/>.

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.