

Program Director

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Professor

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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.

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

UNIV 0250- GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT CERTIFICATION. SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THIS CERTIFICATION IS REQUIRED PRIOR TO TAKING ON ROLE AS TEACHING ASSISTANT. THIS ONLINE CERTIFICATION IS PAID FOR BY GW. THE 1-CREDIT RECEIVED FOR THIS CERTIFICATION IS NOT COUNTED TOWARD THE 48-CREDIT DRPH PROGRAM.

**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.

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	Fall Year 1
PUBH 8417	Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis <i>Prereq: PUBH 8416</i>	3	Spring Year 1
PUBH 8418	Applied Statistical Analysis <i>Prereq: PUBH 8416</i>	3	Spring 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

**REQUIRED SPECIALTY FIELD COURSES
6 CREDITS**

Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken/ Proposed
PUBH 8408	Advanced Topics –Health Behavior Research and Practice Application- Doctoral Seminar	3	Spring Year 1
PUBH 8409	Advanced Topics- Health Communications Research- Doctoral Seminar	3	Fall Year 2

**SPECIALTY FIELD ELECTIVE COURSES
7-10 CREDITS**

Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken/ Proposed
PUBH 8434	Behavioral Medicine and Public Health	3	Spring
PPPA 8100	Seminar: Literature of Public Administration	3	Fall
PPPA 8111	Seminar: Public-Private Sector Institutions and Relationships	3	Fall

PPPA 8164	Seminar: Program Evaluation	3	Fall
PPPA 8174	Seminar: Public Management	3	Spring
MGT 8382	Foundations in Organizational Behavior and Development	3	Fall
EDUC 8131	Case Study Research Methods	3	Spring
EDUC 8140	Ethnographic Research Methods	3	Spring
EDUC 8171	Predictive Designs and Analysis	3	Fall
EDUC 8172	Multivariate Analysis	3	Spring
EDUC 8173	Structural Equation Modeling	3	Spring
DNSC 6274	Statistical Modeling and Analysis	3	Fall
DNSC 6275	Advanced Statistical Modeling and Analysis	3	Spring
DNSC 6276	Exploratory and Multivariate Data Analysis	3	Fall
MBAD 6221	Judgement, Uncertainty, and Decisions	1.5	Spring
MBAD 6222	Data Analysis and Decisions	1.5	Spring
FINA 6271	Financial Modeling and Econometrics	4	Fall or Spring
PSYC 8204	Biological Basis of Behavior	3	Fall
PSYC 8211	Community Psychology I	3	Fall
PSYC 8231	Development of Psychometric Instruments	3	Fall
PSYC 8255	Attitude and Attitude Change	3	Fall
EXNS 6242	Nutrition Throughout the Life Cycle	2	Fall
ANTH 6501	Gender and Sexuality	3	Fall
ANTH 6505	Medical Anthropology	3	Fall
HOL 8704	Leadership in Organizations	3	Spring
PUBH 6555	Reproductive Health: US & Global Perspective	2	Fall
PUBH 6561	Maternal and Child Health Policy Analysis	2	Spring
PUBH 6562	Physical Activity & Obesity Intervention	2	Summer
PUBH 6xxx	Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health		TBA
PUBH 6571	Social Marketing: Theory & Practice	3	Fall or Spring
PUBH 6573	Media Advocacy for Public Health	3	Fall
PUBH 6599	Culture and Health	2	Fall
PUBH 6262	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS)	1	Fall or Spring
PUBH 6574	Public Health Branding Theory and Practice	2	Fall
PUBH 6242	Clinical Epidemiology & Decision Analysis *note: this can be taken in combination with PUBH 8242 for a total of 3 credits	2	Spring
PUBH 8242	Topics: Clinical Epidemiology & Decision Analysis – Doctoral Studies	1	Spring
PUBH 6299	Reading the Epidemiology and Public Health Research – Doctoral Studies	1	Spring
	Other 8000 level GW elective courses not listed above do <u>not</u> require advanced approval prior to enrollment. Advanced Advisor's approval prior to enrollment required for any other courses.	varies	

Health Behavior 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.

Course Descriptions may be found here: <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/courses>

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	

DrPH in Health Behavior Program-Specific Competencies

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

Practice-based products that demonstrate DrPH competency achievement: Health Behavior Concentration		
Competency	Specific Assessment Opportunity	
Assess public health problems, analyze quantitative data, interpret findings from interventions to design and evaluate programs	PUBH 8408: Health Behavior Research and Practice Application – Doctoral seminar	Theory Application paper
		Theory & Measures presentation
	PUBH 8409: Health Communications Research – Doctoral Seminar	Journal Article Entry
		Final Exam
	Comprehensive Exam	
Use the basic concepts of public health practice and the philosophy of social and behavioral sciences to design effective public health programs	PUBH 8408: Health Behavior Research and Practice Application – Doctoral seminar	Theory Application Paper
	PUBH 8409: Health Communications Research – Doctoral Seminar	Grant proposal
	Comprehensive Exam	
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	PUBH 8408: Health Behavior Research and Practice Application – Doctoral seminar	Theory Application Paper
		Journal Article Entry
	PUBH 8409: Health Communications Research – Doctoral Seminar	Grant Proposal
		Dissertation
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	PUBH 8409: Health Communications Research – Doctoral Seminar	Journal Article Entry
		Grant Proposal
Develop partnerships and conduct or propose collaborative projects with/for diverse communities, community organizations, and public health organizations	PUBH 8409: Health Communications Research – Doctoral Seminar	Grant Proposal
	8408: Health Behavior Research and Practice Application – Doctoral seminar	Theory Application Paper

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 (eg, architects, nurses), rather than to engagement with individuals from other public health disciplines (eg, 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.