

# Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

## Department of Prevention and Community Health

### Master of Public Health Maternal and Child Health

2016-2017

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

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#### Mission Statement

The Maternal and Child Health program at the Milken Institute School of Public Health (SPH) at The George Washington University is a Master of Public Health (MPH) program designed to train individuals to become responsible and productive public health professionals with an emphasis on MCH populations. This program investigates maternal and child health from a multi-disciplinary perspective that integrates the life course, biological, demographic, epidemiological, developmental, environmental, behavioral and social characteristics that are unique to the health and well-being of women, children and families.

#### Goals

The goals of this educational program are to provide and improve:

- ◆ Knowledge and skills to assess the health care needs of women, children, and families
- ◆ Ability to plan, design, implement, evaluate and communicate programs and research targeted toward health promotion, disease prevention among women, children, and families

#### Course Requirements

All Milken Institute School of Public Health (SPH) MPH students who select the Maternal and Child Health Program enroll in Core Courses (15 credits), PCH Department Core Courses (6 credits), Program-Specific Required Courses (6 credits), Program-Specific and General Electives (14 credits). The 45 total credit requirements include a Practicum experience, where students apply their classroom education in a Maternal and Child Health organization and/or research endeavor.

The Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health have outlined 5 basic competency areas in MCH that our program strives to attain:

1. Scientific Basis of MCH public health practice
2. Methodological/Analytical Skills
3. Management and Communication Skills
4. Policy and Advocacy Skills
5. Values and Ethics in MCH Public Health Practice

## Program-Specific Competencies

Upon Completion of the MPH, Maternal and Child Health Program students should possess the following functional competencies:

- **Assess the individual, community, organizational and societal needs of women, children, and families.**

Students should be able to assess existing health related data and data sources on the health and well-being of women, children and families. Students should be able to collect health related data, distinguish between those factors that foster or hinder health and wellbeing, and infer needs of women, children and families from an assessment of health needs. Relevant courses: PUBH 6550, 6551, 6555, 6552, 6553, 6557, 6560, 6554, 6561, 6563, 6530, 6562, EXNS 6242, HDEV 6109

- **Develop strategies, interventions and programs to improve the health of women, children and families.**

Student should have the ability to formulate appropriate and measurable program objectives, involve people and organizations in planning, develop a program plan with a logical scope and sequence, design strategies, interventions and programs that are consistent with the program objectives, select appropriate strategies to meet objectives and assess factors that may affect program implementation. Relevant courses: PUBH 6500, 6503, 6550, 6551, 6552, 6553, 6555, 6557, 6561, 6562, 6563, EXNS 6242, HDEV 6109

- **Implement strategies, interventions and programs to meet the health needs of women, children and families.**

Students should have the knowledge on how to implement planned programs, to initiate a plan of action, select methods that best meet the program objectives and assess program implementation materials. Relevant courses: PUBH 6500, 6503, 6551

- **Conduct evaluation and research related to the health and well-being of women, children and families.**

Students should have the ability to develop plans for evaluation and research, design/evaluate existing data collection instruments, interpret results from evaluation and research and infer implications from evaluation and research into the health and wellbeing of women, children and families. Relevant courses: PUBH 6501, 6503, 6551

- **Administer MCH strategies and policies to improve the health and well-being of women, children and families.**

Students should have the knowledge to exercise professional leadership, conduct strategic planning, apply ethical standards to the administration of programs and practice of public health, and communicate and foster cooperation among the community and public to meet the needs of women, children and families. Relevant courses: PUBH 6550, 6552, 6553, 6555, 6561, 6562, 6560, 6563, EXNS 6242

- **Communicate and advocate for health and well-being of women, children and families.**

Students will have the capability to use health related information resources, select resource materials for dissemination, analyze and respond to current and future needs in MCH, apply a variety of communication methods and techniques, assess appropriateness of health education messages, techniques and dissemination, influence health policy to promote the health and well being of women, children and families. Relevant courses: PUBH 6500, 6503, 6550, 6552, 6553, 6555, 6560, 6561

- **Incorporate a life course perspective to the health and well-being of women, children and families.**

Students will have the ability to incorporate a life course perspective into programs and policies aimed at improving the health and well-being of women, children, adolescents and families. Relevant courses: PUBH 6550, 6551, 6555, 6552, 6553, 6557, 6554, 6558, 6563, EXNS 6242, HDEV 6109

**Begin Planning Your Practicum During Year 1**

**Required Core Courses**

| <b>Required Core Course (15 credits)</b> |   | <b>Credits</b> | <b>Semester Offered</b>    | <b>Grade</b> |
|--|---|----------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| PubH 6001                                | Biological Concepts for Public Health               | 2              | Fall, Spring, Summer I     |              |
| PubH 6002                                | Biostatistical Applications for Public Health       | 3              | Fall, Spring, Summer 10 wk |              |
| PubH 6003                                | Principles and Practice of Epidemiology             | 3              | Fall, Spring, Summer 10 wk |              |
| PubH 6004                                | Environmental & Occup Health in a Sustainable World | 2              | Fall, Spring, Summer I     |              |
| PubH 6006                                | Management and Policy Approaches to Public Health   | 3              | Fall, Spring, Summer 10-wk |              |
| PubH 6007                                | Social and Behavioral Approaches to Public Health   | 2              | Fall, Spring, Summer       |              |

**Required Department-Specific Courses**

| <b>Required Department Courses (6 credits)</b> |  | <b>Credits</b> | <b>Semester Offered</b> | <b>Grade</b> |
|--|--|----------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| PubH 6500                                      | Planning and Implementing Health Promotion Programs (pre-req: PubH 6007) | 3              | Fall, Spring            |              |
| PubH 6501                                      | Program Evaluation (pre-req: PubH 6500)                                  | 3              | Fall, Spring            |              |

**Required Program Courses (6 credits)**

|           |  |   |      |  |
|-----------|--|---|------|--|
| PubH 6550 | Maternal and Child Health I ( <b>NOTE:</b> must be taken in the first fall semester enrolled in the program) | 3 | Fall |  |
| PubH 6551 | Maternal and Child Health II (pre-req: PubH 6002)  | 3 | Fall |  |

**Program Specific Electives (select 10 credits)**

|           |   |   |                   |  |
|-----------|---|---|-------------------|--|
| PubH 6503 | Introduction to Public Health Communication and Marketing | 3 | Fall, Spring      |  |
| PubH 6552 | Women's Health  | 2 | Spring            |  |
| PubH 6553 | Adolescent Health   | 2 | Fall              |  |
| PubH 6555 | Reproductive Health: US and Global Perspectives           | 2 | Spring            |  |
| PubH 6563 | Global Child Health                                       | 2 | Fall              |  |
| EXNS 6242 | Nutrition Across the Lifespan                             | 2 | Fall              |  |
| HDEV 6109 | Child Development   | 3 | Fall              |  |
| PubH 6560 | School Health and Safety                                  | 1 | Summer (1 credit) |  |
| PubH 6561 | MCH Policy Analysis                                       | 2 | Spring            |  |
| PubH 6562 | Physical Activity and Obesity Interventions               | 2 | Summer            |  |

**Electives:** Any Graduate Course(s)

|  |  |   |                      |  |
|--|--|---|----------------------|--|
|  |  | 4 | Summer, Fall, Spring |  |
|--|--|---|----------------------|--|

**Other Required Courses**

|              |                        |   |             |  |
|--------------|------------------------|---|-------------|--|
| PubH 6014.18 | Practicum              | 2 | See Advisor |  |
| PubH 6015.18 | Culminating Experience | 2 | See Advisor |  |

| <b>Course Distribution</b>        |  | <b>Credits</b> |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|----------------|--|--|
| Public Health Core Courses        |  | 15             |  |  |
| Department Specific Courses       |  | 6              |  |  |
| Program-Specific Required Courses |  | 6              |  |  |
| Program-Specific Electives        |  | 10             |  |  |
| Electives                         |  | 4              |  |  |
| Practicum                         |  | 2              |  |  |
| Culminating Experience            |  | 2              |  |  |
| <b>Total Degree Credits</b>       |  | <b>45</b>      |  |  |

## Graduation Requirements

1. **Graduate Credit Requirement:** 45 graduate credits are required.
2. **Course Requirements:** Successful completion of the Core Courses and the Program-Specific Courses are required.
3. **Grade Point Requirement:** A 3.0 (B average) overall grade point average is required.
4. **Time Limit Requirement:** The degree must be completed within four years.
5. **Transfer Credit Policy:** Up to 12 graduate credits that have not been applied to a previous graduate degree may be transferred to the MPH. Up to 18 credits may be transferred to the MPH from the SPH Graduate Certificate. Credits must have been earned from an accredited institution in the last 3 years with a grade point of 3.0 or better.
6. **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.
7. **Integrity Quiz & Plagiarism requirement:** All students are required to review the George Washington University Code of Academic Integrity and take the quiz within their first semester of study. The Code of Integrity and step-by-step instructions can be found here: <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/integrity>
8. **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 your field of study. Professional Enhancement activities supplement the academic curriculum and help prepare students to participate actively in the professional community. Opportunities for professional enhancement are regularly publicized via the Milken Institute SPH Listserv and through your department or advisor. Students must submit documentation of Professional Enhancement activities to the Office of Student Records. The documentation consists of the Professional Enhancement Form <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/forms> (which includes a prior approval signature from the student's advisor, a description of the program agenda, and proof of attendance. Remember to submit your documentation before you apply to graduate!

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## Maternal and Child Health

### Advising Tips

**NOTE: Always see your advisor for course scheduling and sequencing strategies, but remember that proper course selection, fulfilling requirements, and on-time graduation are your responsibilities.**

The Master of Public Health (MPH) curriculum consists of three types of courses:

- Required MPH Core Courses
- Required Departmental and Program-Specific Courses, including program specific electives and Milken Institute SPH electives
- Required Practicum and Culminating Experience

The MPH core courses are designed to provide students with a broad public health context as well as a critical foundation for subsequent coursework. Early completion of these core courses ensures that students will have the base of knowledge to successfully complete the program specific courses and to get as much as possible out of them. As such, entering students are expected to enroll in MPH core courses in accordance with the following guidelines:

- We expect MPH students to complete the MPH core courses in their first year of graduate study (fall/spring/summer).
- Students may take core courses in any order.

Part-time students (who generally take 5 to 7 credits per semester) will typically concentrate on taking just core courses in their first year, and then take program-specific courses in their second and third years.

In order to help assure that all students complete core courses in the first year of study, Milken Institute SPH will offer all core courses during all three semesters (fall, spring, and summer). This will allow students who wish to complete their MPH degree within two years to do so, and will allow every student to make steady progress toward completing the MPH degree.

We recognize that there may be exceptional circumstances that make it difficult for a student to complete core courses in the first year as outlined above. Any such student should discuss this situation with his or her academic advisor.

For additional information and resources regarding registration, course descriptions, schedule of classes, etc. follow this link: <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/>.