

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

BS in Public Health/MPH Dual Degree Program 2022-2023

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 [residential MPH program of interest](#). For most programs, students may apply in the summer after earning 60 credits of undergraduate education. However, MPH Programs in the **department of Global Health require applicants to have earned 90 credits**. 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 to the Milken Institute School of Public Health and have declared a major in Public Health before applying to the BS/MPH dual degree program. To be considered for admission to the BS/MPH program, students must:

- Have completed PUBH 1101 with a grade of C- or better, and
- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.3

Students transferring internally to the School of Public Health from other GW schools must also:

- Submit their transfer request to the Registrar by October 15 of their second year (or their third year, for Global Health – MPH program applicants) AND
- Declare a public health major by the following February 15 to be eligible to apply for the BS/MPH program.

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 earning a grade of **B** or higher in PUBH 6002, 6003, 6007, and 6011. Students who do not obtain a grade of B or higher in all four courses will remain a BSPH major, but may not be eligible to continue in the BS in Public Health/MPH dual degree program. The decision whether the student may continue with the BSPH/MPH program resides with the student's MPH department. Departments may also rescind admission into the MPH program if a student is placed on probation or suspended before completing their BSPH degree.

It is **strongly** recommended that students receive guidance about the dual degree program before applying. Students may receive guidance from the BS/MPH Undergraduate Academic Advisor, Paige Hammond, at paigehammond@gwu.edu. Please email her 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 BS/MPH evaluation forms completed by faculty;
3. Your resume;
4. Your unofficial transcript from Banner (Admissions will cross-check it against an official copy);
5. Students applying to the Department of Epidemiology **must** have completed MATH 1220 or higher **OR** STAT 1051, 1053, 1127 or higher;
6. Students applying to the Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics **must** have earned a B or better in Calculus I (MATH 1220 or 1231).
7. 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 prior to registration in 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 five 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. **Total Credit Requirement.** 120 credits are required for the BS degree, which includes 12 crossover credits from the MPH core; an additional 33 graduate credits are required for the MPH degree. To qualify for undergraduate financial aid and scholarships, at least 51% of the credits students enroll in 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 portion of the degree must be completed within 5 years of matriculation into the dual degree.
5. **Leave of Absence Policy:** BS/MPH students are permitted to take a one semester (fall or spring) leave of absence upon graduating from the undergraduate program and before fully matriculating into the MPH portion of the program. Students must contact their academic advisor in order to take a leave of absence.
6. **Transfer Credit Policy.** In accordance with undergraduate and graduate established policies.
7. **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 advisor-approved, public health-related [professional enhancement](#) activities (8 hours *before* completing the BSPH and *another* 8 hours before completing the MPH), 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*, or 1112*, or HONR 1033* <i>(Biology topics only)</i> |
| 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 and Health Services <i>Restricted to Juniors and Seniors</i> |
| PUBH 4140W | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PUBH 1101, • PUBH 2110, • PUBH 6007 (or PUBH 2112), • PUBH 6002 (or PUBH 2142), • PUBH 6003 (or PUBH 3131), • PUBH 3130, • PUBH 3135W, • Research Methods Selective, AND • PUBH 6011 (or PUBH 3132), and/or PUBH 3133. <i>Restricted to Seniors only</i> |

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| PUBH 6003 | While not a pre-requisite, it is strongly recommended that students take PUBH 6002 (or PUBH 2142) prior to enrolling in PUBH 6003 |
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*These courses also count as GenEd requirements.

Credit Distribution

| BS in Public Health/MPH Credit Distribution Chart | |
|--|----------------|
| Category | Credits |
| BS General Education Requirements | 19-20 |
| BS Public Health Core Course Requirements (Includes 12 graduate crossover credits) | 34 |
| BS SPH Guided Electives | 12 |
| BS Additional Electives | 53-54 |
| BS Total Credits | 120 |
| MPH Total Credits | 33 |
| BS/MPH Total Credits (120 BSPH credits plus 33 MPH credits = 153 total credits) | 153 |

| BS Public Health Core Course Requirements and Graduate Substitutions | | |
|--|----------------|---|
| Public Health Core Courses (22 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 - choose 1 Course[^]: | 3 | |
| PUBH 3199 | | Research Methods in Public Health |
| EXNS 3111W | | Exercise and Nutrition Sciences Research Methods |
| <i>[^]Alternative research methods courses will be considered with advanced approval of the Program Director.</i> | | |
| | 22 | Total Undergraduate Core Credits |
| Graduate Substitutions/Crossover Credits from the MPH Core (12 credits) | | |
| MPH Core Course | Credits | Course Title/Explanation for Substitution |
| 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 Core) |
| PUBH 6002** | 3 | Biostatistical Applications for Public Health (Replaces PUBH 2142 Introduction to Biostatistics for Public Health [3 credits] in the BS Public Health Core) |
| PUBH 6003 | 3 | Principles and Practice of Epidemiology (Replaces PUBH 3131 Epidemiology: Measuring Health and Disease [3 credits] in the BS Public Health Core) |
| PUBH 6011 | 3 | Principles of Environmental Health Sciences (Replaces PUBH 3132 Health and Environment [3 credits] in the BS Public Health Core) |

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|-----------|-----------|---|
| PUBH 6021 | 1 | Essentials of Public Health Practice and Leadership I |
| | 12 | Total Graduate Crossover Credits |
| | 34 | TOTAL CORE PUBLIC HEALTH CREDITS |

**Students should, but are not required to, take PUBH 6002 before taking PUBH 6003.

| MPH Core Course Requirements (beyond the crossover courses)* | | | |
|---|---|----------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Begin Planning Your Practicum after Completing the First Half of Your Program</i> | | | |
| Required Core Course | | Credits | Semester Offered |
| PUBH 6000 | MPH Applied Practice Experience (Practicum) | 0 | Summer, Fall, Spring |
| PUBH 6009 | Fundamentals of Program Evaluation | 2 | Summer, Fall, Spring |
| PUBH 6012 | Fundamentals of Health Policy | 2 | Summer, Fall, Spring |
| PUBH 6022 | Managing Organizations and Influencing Systems in Public Health | 1 | Summer, Fall, Spring |
| PUBH 6023 | Interprofessional Education Experience (IPE) | 0 | Summer, Fall, Spring |
| PUBH 6xxx | Culminating Experience/MPH Capstone | 2 | Summer, Fall, Spring |
| Total | | 7 | |

*Students cannot take PUBH 6000, 6023, or the Culminating Experience course before completing the BSPH degree and matriculating to the MPH program. Students can and are encouraged to take any other courses in the MPH core, program core, or program electives once admitted to the BS/MPH program and while still completing undergraduate requirements. However, graduate-level credits beyond the 12 credits of specified crossover BS/MPH credits will be counted toward EITHER the undergraduate 120-credit requirement for graduation or the 33 credit requirement for the MPH degree, but CANNOT be counted toward both.

Waive and Replace and Course Substitution Policies:

- BS in Public Health/MPH students should take PUBH 6007. PUBH 2112 will not be counted toward the MPH requirement as a waive/replace for PUBH 6007. If a BS/MPH student takes PUBH 2112, they will also need to take PUBH 6007 at some point during their MPH program but will not be able to earn BSPH crossover credit for it.
- BS in Public Health/MPH students should take PUBH 6011. PUBH 3132 will not be counted toward the MPH requirement as a waive/replace for PUBH 6011. If a BS/MPH student takes PUBH 3132, they will also need to take PUBH 6011 at some point during their MPH program but will not be able to earn BSPH crossover credit for it.
- BS in Public Health/MPH students who receive an A or A- in PUBH 3135W (Health Policy) may, with their MPH advisor's approval, waive and replace PUBH 6012 by enrolling in 2 credits of pre-approved graduate electives.
- BS in Public Health/MPH students who take PUBH 3131 (Epidemiology) instead of PUBH 6003 and receive a B or better may, with their MPH advisor's approval, waive and replace PUBH 6003 with 3 credits of pre-approved graduate electives.
- BS in Public Health/MPH students who take PUBH 2142 (Introduction to Biostatistics) instead of PUBH 6002 and receive an A may, with their MPH advisor's approval, waive and replace PUBH 6002 with 3 credits of pre-approved graduate electives.

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/.