

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) 2022-2023

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

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Program Overview

The mission of the school-wide, interdisciplinary DrPH program is to educate public health thought leaders and practitioners ready to shape public health policy and practice discourse to lead organizational and societal change in the U.S. and worldwide. This is an interdisciplinary, public health leadership training program that delivers practice-based curriculum and applied research to equip public health leaders with skills for the development, implementation, and evaluation of efficient public health programs and policies and resolve complex systematic problems. The DrPH program training utilizes health policy and global health opportunities exclusive to Washington, D.C. to prepare our students for senior-level public health leadership roles in the U.S. and globally. Focusing on leadership and practice, we are providing curriculum flexibility to meet the diverse needs of our students through rigorous course work in global health; environmental & occupational health; health policy & management; prevention & community health; exercise & nutrition; biostatistics, and epidemiology.

Program Requirements

All Milken Institute School of Public Health (SPH) DrPH students are required to have completed a master's degree prior to admissions to the DrPH. In this 48-credit doctoral program, students will take 32 credits of required coursework and an additional 3 credits of methods courses that students select; a minimum of 6 credits in electives; and an additional 2-4 credits are applied to the dissertation proposal preparation and applied dissertation project.

DrPH Competencies

The DrPH curriculum aligns with the current Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) criteria, including 20 foundational DrPH competencies. In addition to these, the GWSPH DrPH program has identified five program-specific competencies. The five GW-specific competencies listed below are identified with an asterisk (*).

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
4. Apply implementation science approaches to improve uptake of evidence for decision-making*

Leadership, Management & Governance

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

Policy & Programs

15. Design a system-level intervention to address a public health issue
16. Integrate knowledge of cultural values and practices in the design of public health policies and programs
17. Integrate scientific information, legal and regulatory approaches, ethical frameworks and varied stakeholder interests in policy development and analysis
18. Propose interprofessional team approaches to improving public health
19. Integrate leadership frameworks into practices, programs, and/or policies to address public health challenges*
20. Understand how to apply a health equity lens in all aspects of public health practice, including assessments, programs, policies, and/or services*
21. Apply the core elements of a policy analysis to issues in health policy (health services and public health policy)*

Education & Workforce Development

22. Assess an audience's knowledge and learning needs
23. Deliver training or educational experiences that promote learning in academic, organizational or community settings
24. Use best practice modalities in pedagogical practice
25. Identify workforce development strategies to train public health leaders and practitioners capable of addressing the 21st Century's wicked problems*

Course Distribution Summary

- Total Credits = Minimum 48
- Required Foundation Courses and Research Methods = 38 credits (29 credits foundational + 9 credits Methods (includes 3 credits Choice Methods)
- Required Specialty Field Courses /Electives= 6-8 credits- mix and match/cross depts
- Dissertation Preparation and Applied Dissertation = 2-4 credits

REQUIRED FOUNDATIONAL & METHODS COURSES

32 CREDITS

(INCLUDES 6 CREDIT METHODS COURSE)

Course #	Course Title	Credits	Semester
PUBH 8700	DrPH Interdisciplinary Seminar	3 credits	Fall 1
PUBH 8706	Foundations of Public Health Leadership (Leadership Principles and Practice I)	3 credits	Fall 1
PUBH 8708	Applied Public Health Methods	3 credits	Fall 1
PUBH 8710	Public Health Project Management and Social Entrepreneurship	3 credits	Spring 1
PUBH 8712	Public Health Program Planning, Implementation & Evaluation	3 credits	Spring 1
PUBH 8799*	Applied Public Health Methods II	3 credits	Spring 1
PUBH 8714	Leadership Principles and Practice II	3 credits	Summer 1
PUBH 8716	Leadership in Practice: Education & Workforce Development	2 credits	Summer 1
PUBH 8718	Public Health Communications and Marketing	3 credits	Fall 2
PUBH 8722	Public Health Policy Analysis	3 credits	Fall 2
PUBH 8720	Social Change and Collective Impact	3 credits	Fall 3
PUBH 8724	Organizational Leadership & Change Management	3 credits	Summer 2
PUBH 6080	Pathways to Public Health**	0 credits	Year 1

REQUIRED ADDITIONAL METHODS – 3 Credits- CHOICE

SEE LIST OF COURSE OPTIONS BELOW THE PROGRAM OF STUDY CHART^
(RECOMMEND: 3 CREDITS FALL 2)

SPECIALTY FIELD/ELECTIVES COURSES

CHOICE OF DEPARTMENT DOCTORAL SEMINARS (2-3 CREDITS EACH)
AND/OR
CHOICE OF GRADUATE ELECTIVE COURSEWORK
(SPRING 1, FALL 2; SPRING 2, FALL 3)
6-8+ CREDITS (MINIMUM 6 CREDITS)

COMPREHENSIVE EXAM			
UPON COMPLETION OF REQUIRED COURSEWORK (PREFERABLY INCLUDING 6 CREDITS OF METHODS BUT NOT REQUIRED) AND BEFORE CANDIDACY			
DAPEX AND APPLIED DISSERTATION			
2-4 CREDITS			
PUBH 8701	DrPH Applied Practice Experience (DAPEX)	0 credits	Completed before Comp Exam
PUBH 8702	Proposal Development	2 credits	Spring 2
PUBH 8704	Applied Dissertation <i>Students may choose to take extra elective coursework and count Applied Dissertation as 0 credits, or count up to 2 credits for Applied Dissertation</i>	0-2 credits	Year 3
TOTAL PROGRAM		48 CREDITS	
SPH NON-ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT EXPERIENCE(S)- (MINIMUM 8 HOURS) 2. CITI TRAINING 3. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY QUIZ 			

*Anticipated course number for 2022 cohort.

**Students without a prior MPH or other public health degree from an accredited school of public health will be required to successfully pass the free, zero credit, online course (PUBH 6080) 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.*

^Sample list- Recommended Methods Courses - Plan with Advisor (Required: minimum 3 credits); Additional courses may be considered. Prerequisites apply; each student has the responsibility to coordinate.) The list below is not exhaustive and is subject to change.

Course #	Title	Credits	Semester <i>Subject to change</i>
PUBH 6002	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health	3	Summer, Fall
PUBH 6047	Systematic Reviews to Synthesize Evidence in Public Health Practice	1	Fall
PUBH 6121	Environmental & Occupational Epidemiology	3	Fall
PUBH 6126	Assessment & Control/Environmental Hazards	3	Fall
PUBH 6144+8114	Environmental Health Data Development & Modeling	2 + 1	Varies
PUBH 6242+8242	Clinical Epidemiology & Public Health	2 + 1	Spring
PUBH 6247	Design of Health Studies	3	Fall, Spring
PUBH 6252	Advanced Epidemiologic Methods	3	Fall, Spring
PUBH 6260	Applied Epidemiologic Data Analysis	3	Fall
PUBH 6262	Intro to GIS	1	Summer, Fall
PUBH 6263	Advanced GIS	1	Fall
PUBH 6273	Ethnographic Methods as Applied in Public Health	1	Summer
PUBH 6282	Intro to R Programming in Epidemiology	1	Summer
PUBH 6310	Statistical Analysis in Health Policy	3	Summer, Fall
PUBH 6340	Health Economics and Finance	3	Summer, Fall
PUBH 6411	Global Health Qualitative Research Methods	2	Summer
PUBH 6412	Global Health Quantitative Research Methods	3	Summer
PUBH 6495	Field Trial Methods and Application	2	Fall
PUBH 6599	Dissemination and Implementation (D&I) Science		
PUBH 6850	Introduction to SAS for Public Health Research	1	Fall
PUBH 6851	Introduction to R for Public Health Research	1	Fall
PUBH 6852	Introduction to Python for Public Health Research	1	Fall
PUBH 6853	Use of Statistical Packages for Data Mgmt & Data Analysis	3	Fall, Spring
PUBH 6854	Applied Computing in Health Data Science	3	Spring
PUBH 6856	Advanced SAS for Public Health Research	1	Summer
PUBH 6862	Applied Linear Regression Analysis for Public Health Research	3	Fall
PUBH 6863	Applied Meta-Analysis	1	Fall
PUBH 6864	Applied Survival Analysis	3	Fall
PUBH 6866	Principles of Clinical Trials	3	Spring
PUBH 6868	Quantitative Methods	3	Spring
PUBH 6879	Propensity Score Methods for Causal Inference in Observational Studies	3	Spring

PUBH 6886	Statistical & Machine Learning for Public Health Research	3	Spring
PUBH 6887	Applied Longitudinal Data Analysis	3	Spring
PUBH 8146	Study Design & Evaluation Methods	3	Fall
PUBH 8364	Quantitative Methods	2	Spring
PUBH 8405	Advanced Topics: Health Economics Research	3	Fall
PUBH 8416	Study Design & Evaluation Methods	3	
PUBH 8417	Qualitative Research Methods & Analysis	3	Spring
PUBH 8418/8610	Applied Statistical Analysis/Stat Analysis in Health Policy	3	Fall/Spring
PUBH 8419	Measurement in PH & Health Services Research	3	Spring (even # years only)
PUBH 8420	Advanced Analysis & Dissemination	3	
PUBH 8422	Advanced Health Care and Public Health Research Design	2	Fall
PUBH 8470	Global Health Demographic Methods	3	Fall
PUBH 8875	Linear models in Biostatistics	3	
PUBH 8877	Generalized Linear Models in Biostatistics	3	Fall
EXNS 6204	Biostatistical Methods & Research Design	3	
EDUC 6112	Foundations - Assess, Test, Measure	3	Summer
EDUC 6114	Intro to Quantitative Research	3	Summer, Fall
EDUC 6116	Intro to Educational Statistics	3	Summer, Fall
EDUC 8120	Group Comparison Designs & Analyses	3	Summer, Fall
EDUC 8122	Qualitative Research Methods	3	
EDUC 8130	Survey Research Methods	3	Fall/Spring
EDUC 8131	Case Study Research Methods	3	Fall/Spring
EDUC 8140	Ethnographic Research Methods	3	Spring
EDUC 8142	Phenomenological Research Methods	3	Spring
EDUC 8148	Qualitative Data Collection	3	Summer, Fall
EDUC 8170	Educational Measurement	3	Fall
EDUC 8171	Predictive Designs and Analysis	3	Fall or Spring
EDUC 8172	Multivariate Analysis	3	
EDUC 8173	Structural Equation Modeling	3	Spring
PPPA 8022	Econometrics for Policy Research II	3	Spring
PSYC 8231	Development of Psychometric Instruments	3	Fall
PSYC 8256	Introduction to Survey Research	3	Fall
PSYC 8258	Qualitative Research and Analysis	3	Spring

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- 1. Credits.** Successful completion of all required coursework; minimum 48 credits total credits required.
- 2. Grade point average.** A minimum overall grade point average of 3.0.
- 3. Timeline.** The degree must be completed within seven years of matriculation. Degrees are awarded each semester, though formal commencement ceremonies, including the doctoral hooding ceremony, only occur in May. Students are eligible to participate in graduation activities only after they have completed all degree requirements, including a successful dissertation defense and have no financial obligations to the University.
- 4. Doctoral Applied Practice Experience (DAPEX).** Successfully complete all requirements for the DAPEX.
- 5. Comprehensive examination.** Students become eligible to sit for the comprehensive exam after all required coursework, (preferably including the 3 credits of methods coursework, but not required), has been completed. Upon successful completion of the exam, students officially enter the doctoral candidacy phase of the program. The exam may be repeated, up to one time, upon approval.
- 6. Proposal defense.** Doctoral candidates prepare a written proposal with guidance from their dissertation advisor and committee. Each DrPH candidate gives an oral presentation and defense to the committee who determines the student's readiness to commence the applied dissertation.
- 7. Applied dissertation.** The successful oral defense and submission of the applied dissertation is required.
- 8. Professional Enhancement.** All GWSPH students must complete a minimum of 8 hours of professional enhancement activities. This can be accomplished through participation in seminars, workshops, professional meetings and other appropriate functions. Documentation of attendance to the event should be submitted to the GWSPH Office of Student Records at gwsphrecords@gwu.edu.
- 9. Integrity Quiz & Plagiarism.** In the first semester as a DrPH student, all students should review the George Washington University's Code of Academic Integrity, take the quiz and submit documentation to the GWSPH Office of Student Records at gwsphrecords@gwu.edu
- 10. 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 and then send to GWSPH Office of Student Records at gwsphrecords@gwu.edu. Please save this for future reference for your DAPEX and Applied Dissertation.

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DrPH Sample Sequencing Guide
for Full-time versus Part-time Study

Note: DrPH courses are offered 1 time per year only

Full Time (3 years) <i>(3 terms per year for 3 years)</i>	Part-Time (3.5 - 4 years) <i>Strongly prefer FT for first Fall Term as this maintains core course sequencing</i>
Fall Yr 1: 9 credits 8700, 8706, 8708	Fall Yr 1: 9 credits 8700, 8706, 8708
Spring Yr 1: 8-9 credits 8710, 8712, and 1 Methods/elective (8799 Applied Public Health Methods II) 8701 – Students may begin DAPEx	Spring Yr 1: 6 credits 8710, 8712 8701 – Students may begin DAPEx
Summer Yr 1: 5 credits 8714, 8716	Summer Yr 1: 5 credits 8714, 8716
Fall Yr 2: 8-9 credits 8718, 8722 and 1 methods or elective choice	Fall Yr 2: 6 credits 8718, 8722
Spring Yr 2: 7-8 credits 8720, 8702, and 1 methods or elective choice Comp Exam- May	Spring Yr 2: 5-6 credits 8720 and 1 methods or elective choice (8799 Applied Public Health Methods II)
Summer Yr 2: 3 credits 8724, 8701-DAPEx completion	Summer Yr 2: 5-6 credits 8724 and 1 methods or elective course
Fall Yr 3: 0-5 credits 1-2 methods or electives remaining and 8704- begin applied dissertation	Fall Yr 3: 5-6 credits 8702, 1 methods or elective choice, 8701-DAPEx completion
Spring Yr 3: 0-2 credits 8704 - applied dissertation (<i>possibly defend</i>)	Spring Yr 3: 2-5 credits 1 methods or elective choice 8704- begin applied dissertation Comp Exam- May
Summer Yr 3: 0 credits Defend dissertation	Summer Yr 3: 0-2 credits 8704- applied dissertation; option to enroll in a methods or elective course
	Fall Yr 4: 2-5 credits Option to enroll in 1 methods/elective choice and 8704 applied dissertation (<i>possibly defend</i>)
	Spring Yr 4: - 0 credits Defend Dissertation

IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT SEQUENCING:

1. Most courses are offered once each year, so students are encouraged to follow this sequencing guide as closely as possible and to plan out choice methods and electives early in their program taking into consideration when classes of interest will likely be offered.
2. There are limited methods and electives courses scheduled in the summer term, so plan accordingly.
3. Students become eligible to sit for the comprehensive exam after all required coursework, (preferably including the 3 credits of additional methods coursework, but not required), has been completed. The comprehensive exam will typically be administered in May each year; specific dates to be determined annually. Students may retake the comprehensive exam up to one time.
4. GW students are required to be registered for coursework every fall and spring semester until they have successfully completed all program requirements to remain in active status. It is not required to be registered in the summer term to maintain active status. In the DrPH program, this requirement also pertains to the defense, final approval, and submission of the dissertation. Students must be registered in PUBH 8704 (Applied Dissertation) or continuous enrollment (may be a nominal fee) in the term in which the dissertation is defended, including the summer term, if that is when the defense is scheduled.
5. Our DrPH program offers a hybrid of flexible opportunities to accommodate the DAPEx requirement. Students may begin a DAPEx project after completing Fall 1 semester. All students should aim to complete their DAPEx prior to taking the comprehensive exam. We recommend starting the process two semesters before you plan to complete the requirement. Students may extend the DAPEx longer with the concurrence of the academic adviser.
6. The DrPH program is designed for full time students to complete all requirements within 3 years (9 terms). However, all students must complete all DrPH requirements within 7 years of matriculation, (21 terms), including official leaves of absence.

REQUIRED COURSES

PUBH 8700: DrPH Interdisciplinary Seminar

PUBH 8701: DrPH Applied Practice Experience (DAPEx)

PUBH 8702: DrPH Proposal Development

PUBH 8704: DrPH Applied Dissertation

PUBH 8706: Foundations of Public Health Leadership (Leadership Principles and Practice I)

PUBH 8708: Applied Public Health Methods

PUBH 8710: Public Health Project Management and Social Entrepreneurship

PUBH 8712: Public Health Planning, Implementation & Evaluation

PUBH 8799: Applied Public Health Methods II

PUBH 8714: Leadership Principles and Practice II

PUBH 8716: Leadership in Practice: Education & Workforce Development

PUBH 8718: Public Health Communications and Marketing

PUBH 8720: Social Change and Collective Impact

PUBH 8722: Public Health Policy Analysis

PUBH 8724: Organizational Leadership & Change Management

3 credits of choice METHODS