

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Milken Institute School of Public Health

Master of Public Health MPH@GW 2021-2022*

*Effective beginning Fall 2021

Program Director

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Milken Institute School of Public Health

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Mission Statement

Provide a practice-oriented Master of Public Health (MPH) curriculum that enables our graduates to be leaders in the design of population and community health programs in the US and globally.

Program Description

This distance education track for our MPH degree will emphasize local, national and global health practice. The program emphasizes interdisciplinary teaching and will focus on core competencies/skills by using cases/other materials from both the U.S. and abroad. The pedagogy will allow students to tailor their education to local, national, or global levels emphasizing interdisciplinary public health competencies including biostatistics and epidemiology; cultural competency; health communication; leadership; professionalism; planning, implementation and evaluation methods; public health biology; and systems thinking. Students also have the option to add a Health Informatics concentration. Courses included under the concentration include: Health IT, Informatics and Decision Making; Population Health Analytics; Research Analytics; and Health Law and Health IT.

Course Requirements

All Milken Institute School of Public Health (GWSPH) MPH students who select the distance education track enroll in Core Courses (17 credits), Program-Specific Courses (10 credits), and Electives (16 credits). The total 45 credit degree program also includes a Culminating Experience (2 credits).

The distance education track includes 16 elective credits. Students who choose to cluster their electives in a particular area of public health could, for example, emphasize health communication or global health. Students can also bundle their electives with a Health Informatics concentration, focusing on courses that develop their understanding of health data, information and technology. Alternatively, students could use their electives to cover a range of domains within public health practice.

Note that the MPH@GW track will be taught in 10 week quarters throughout the calendar year (4 quarters per year). Each course will be designed to deliver the required credit hours within the 10 week quarter format, with existing courses being formatted to meet this requirement.

As an accredited School of Public Health, students in all GWSPH MPH programs are also required to fulfill both an interprofessional team experience and an applied practice experience. GWSPH has incorporated these requirements into the curriculum as follows:

Interprofessional Education (IPE) Experience:

- Following completion of PUBH 6021 (1-credit) and the MPH Core Classes, students will be required to select an IPE experience from a host of options provided throughout your enrollment as a MPH student to participate in a one-time, case-based or activity-based learning experience. The IPE experience is a way to experience working with people from other professions/programs outside of public health. Students will have many opportunities to register for this zero-credit (no fee) IPE 'class' (PUBH 6023- *Interprofessional Education Experience*) and will receive credit upon successful completion.

Applied Practice Experience (Practicum):

- The applied practice experience allows each student to individually demonstrate attainment of public health competencies. Information about the Practicum will be introduced in PUBH 6021 so students may begin planning for their practice experience. As a part of the content of PUBH 6022 *Essentials in Public Health Practice & Leadership 2: Managing Organizations & Influencing Systems* (1-credit), detailed information and an introduction to the necessary tools will be provided. Students are required to fulfill all requirements of the 120 hour Practicum experience to receive credit for this PUBH 6022.

Students will begin by taking the core MPH courses. Full-time students should plan to take PUBH 6021 and PUBH 6003 in their first quarter and complete all core courses within the first three quarters. Part-time students should consult with their academic advisor to select an appropriate sequence of courses. Following completion of the core MPH courses, students should complete the MPH@GW program specific courses, and finish with their elective selections. Courses offered in the online format can be found on the GW Schedule of Classes under Online and are designated with a "U" in the section number.

The following are examples of electives that are currently offered online. New courses are added frequently. Additional electives may be taken in the residential program provided pre-requisites have been met. The list of electives will be updated as new courses become available.

- PUBH 6054, Community Engagement & Advocacy (2)
- PUBH 6058, Researching Violence Against Women and Girls (2 credits)
- PUBH 6128, Global Environmental and Occupational Health (2 credits)
- PUBH 6132, Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (WASH) in Low-Income Countries (2 credits)
- PUBH 6133, Social Dimensions in Climate Change & Change (3 credits)
- PUBH 6135, Researching Climate Change & Human Health (3 credits)
- PUBH 6136, Introduction to Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology (3 credits)
- PUBH 6335, Public Health and Law (3 credits)
- PUBH 6368, Law, Medicine, and Ethics (3 credits)
- PUBH 6390, Prescription Drugs, Policy and Public Health (3 credits)

- PUBH 6400, Global Health Frameworks (2 credits)
- PUBH 6450, Global Health Diplomacy (2 credits)
- PUBH 6451, Sexual and Reproductive Health Monitoring (2 credits)
- PUBH 6452, Social and Behavior Change Communication in Middle-to Low-Income Countries (2 credits)
- PUBH 6455, Global Vaccinology (3 credits)
- PUBH 6480, Public Health in Humanitarian Settings (2 credits)
- PUBH 6486, Global Health Programs and Approaches to the Control of Infectious Diseases (2 credits)
- PUBH 6489, Evaluation of Nutrition Program (1 credit)
- PUBH 6508, Cost Effectiveness Analysis of Health Promotion Interventions (3 credits)
- PUBH 6514, Preventing Health Disparities (2 credits)
- PUBH 6530, Qualitative Methods in Health Promotion (2 credits)
- PUBH 6552, Women's Health (2 credits)
- PUBH 6563, Global Child Health (2 credits)
- PUBH 6571, Social Marketing (3 credits)
- PUBH 6572, Marketing and Research for Public Health (3 credits)
- PUBH 6612, Food Systems in Public Health (2 credits)
- PUBH 6619, Fundamentals of Nutrition Science (3 credits)

Core Competencies

Upon completion of the program, students should possess the following functional competencies:

- Apply epidemiological methods to the breadth of settings and situations in public health practice
 - 6003
- Select quantitative and qualitative data collection methods appropriate for a given public health context
 - PUBH 6002, PUBH 6003, PUBH 6009
- Analyze quantitative and qualitative data using biostatistics, informatics, computer-based programming and software, as appropriate
 - PUBH 6002, PUBH 6009
- Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy or practice
 - PUBH 6002, PUBH 6003, PUBH 6009
- Compare the organization, structure and function of health care, public health and regulatory systems across national and international settings
 - PUBH 6012
- Discuss the means by which structural bias, social inequities and racism undermine health and create challenges to achieving health equity at organizational, community and societal levels
 - PUBH 6007
- Assess population needs, assets, and capacities that affect communities' health
 - PUBH 6003, PUBH 6007
- Apply awareness of cultural values and practices to the design or implementation of public health policies or programs
 - PUBH 6007, PUBH 6021, PUBH 6022
- Design a population-based policy, program, project or intervention
 - PUBH 6007
- Explain basic principles and tools of budget and resource management
 - PUBH 6022

- Select methods to evaluate public health programs
 - PUBH 6009
- Discuss multiple dimensions of the policy making process, including the roles of ethics and evidence
 - PUBH 6011, PUBH 6012
- Propose strategies to identify stakeholders and build coalitions and partnerships for influencing public health outcomes
- Advocate for political, social or economic policies and programs that will improve health in diverse populations
 - PUBH 6022
- Evaluate policies for their impact on public health and health equity
 - PUBH 6012
- Apply principles of leadership, governance and management, which include creating a vision, empowering others, fostering collaboration and guiding decision making
 - PUBH 6021, PUBH 6022
- Apply negotiation and mediation skills to address organizational or community challenges
 - PUBH 6021, PUBH 6022
- Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors
 - PUBH 6021, PUBH 6022
- Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation
 - PUBH 6012, PUBH 6021, PUBH 6022
- Describe the importance of cultural competence in communicating public health content
 - PUBH 6021, PUBH 6022
- Perform effectively on interprofessional teams
 - PUBH 6021, PUBH 6023
- Apply systems thinking tools to a public health issue
 - PUBH 6007, PUBH 6011, PUBH 6022

MPH@GW Program Competencies

Upon completion of the program, students should possess the following functional competencies:

- Define communities and identify and assess relevant population health needs (e.g., PubH 6500).
- Assess the functions, capacities, management and governance of governmental, international and non-state organizations that comprise health systems. Translate scientific and program evidence to inform the development of public health programs and policies within the context of health systems (e.g., PubH 6442).
- Apply public health theory and experiential evidence to develop and manage project, program and institutional strategies to reduce community and individual health risks to mitigate the impact of disease (e.g., PubH 6503).
- Apply relevant quantitative tools and concepts to inform different audiences and public health topics (e.g., PubH 6052).
- Describe how health systems performance is affected by various approaches to health care organization, health law, health workforce development and health care financing (e.g., PubH 6442).
- Develop communication campaigns and strategies to disseminate health promotion information through media channels (e.g., PubH 6503).

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Master of Public Health MPH@GW Program-at-a-Glance 2019-2020

Required Core Courses		Credits	Quarter Offered
PUBH 6002	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health	3	All
PUBH 6003	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology	3	All
PUBH 6007	Social and Behavioral Approaches to Public Health	2	All
PUBH 6009	Fundamentals of Program Evaluation	2	All
PUBH 6011	Environmental & Biological Foundations of Public Health	3	All
PUBH 6012	Fundamentals of Health Policy: Public Health and Healthcare	2	All
PUBH 6021	Essentials of Public Health Leadership & Practice 1: Leading Self and Teams in Public Health	1	All
PUBH 6022*	Essentials of Public Health Leadership & Practice 2: Managing Organizations & Influencing Systems in PH	1	All
PUBH 6023	Interprofessional Education Experience (IPE)	0	All
Total MPH Core Credits		17	
Required Program Specific Courses		Credits	Quarter Offered
PUBH 6052	Practical Data Management and Analysis for Public Health	2	All
PUBH 6442	Comparative Global Health Systems	2	All
PUBH 6500	Planning & Implementation of Health Promotion Programs	3	All
PUBH 6503	Introduction to Public Health Communications and Marketing	3	All
Total Program Specific Credits		10	
Electives		Credits	Quarter Offered
Any PUBH 6000 level course	MPH@GW electives or on-campus^ electives where applicable	16	Varies-see advisor
MPH@GW Culminating Experience Courses		Credits	Quarter Offered
PUBH 6060	MPH@GW Culminating Experience I	1	All
PUBH 6061	MPH@GW Culminating Experience II	1	All
Course Distribution		Credits	
Public Health Core Courses		17	
Culminating Experience		2	
Required Program Specific Courses		10	
Electives		16	
Total Degree Credits		45	

* Note: In PUBH 6021 and PUBH 6022, the Applied Practice Experience (Practicum) will be introduced and guidelines and tools for fulfilling this requirement will be provided. Upon completion of the 120 hour required Practicum, students will receive credit for PUBH 6022.

^ MPH@GW students may take up to 15 credits on-campus.

Graduation Requirements

MPH

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. **Practicum Requirements:** Students are required to fulfill all requirements of the Applied Practice Experience (Practicum) to receive credit for PUBH 6022.
4. **Interprofessional Education Experience (IPE):** Students are required to enroll, participate and complete an authorized IPE activity (PUBH 6023).
5. **Grade Point Requirement:** A 3.0 (B average) overall grade point average is required.
6. **Time Limit Requirement:** The degree must be completed within five years.
7. **Transfer Credit Policy:** Up to 12 graduate credits that have not been applied to a previous graduate degree may be transferred to the MPH upon approval. Credits must have been earned from an accredited institution in the last 3 years with a grade of B or better (grade point of 3.0 and higher).
8. **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.
9. **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>.
10. **Professional Enhancement requirement:** Students must participate in 8 hours per degree program of 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. Find the Professional Enhancement submission form [here](#) and include a description of the program agenda and proof of attendance.

Course Descriptions and Registration information can be found on in the University Bulletin [here](#).