

**Milken Institute School  
of Public Health**

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**THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

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**Milken Institute School of Public Health****MPH@GW  
Master of Public Health Online Degree  
2023-2024****Program Director**

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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 United States and globally.

**Program Description**

This distance education program for the MPH degree will emphasize local, national and global health practice. The MPH@GW emphasizes interdisciplinary teaching and will focus on core competencies/skills by using cases and other materials from both the United States 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.

**Optional Concentrations**

MPH@GW students may choose to use their elective credits to formally “major” in a growing number of concentrations. These concentrations allow students to build knowledge and skills in a specific area of the public health space, and also connect with faculty and fellow students who focus their professional and academic efforts in that area. Currently approved MPH@GW concentrations include:

1. Health Informatics
2. Women, Youth, and Child Health
3. Global Health
4. Climate and Health

## Course Requirements

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

The distance education program includes 16 elective credits. Students can choose to select their electives in a particular area of public health and emphasize a public health area i.e health policy. Alternatively, students may use their electives to cover a range of domains within public health practice.

The MPH@GW program is taught over four 10-week quarters throughout the calendar year. Each course is designed to be delivered to meet the required workload per credit hour within the 10-week quarter.

As an accredited School of Public Health, students in all GWSPH MPH programs are required to fulfill both an interprofessional team experience and an applied practice experience (APEX). GWSPH has incorporated these 0-credit course requirements into the curriculum as follows:

### PubH 6023: Interprofessional Education (IPE) Experience:

- Following completion of 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 'course' (PubH 6023- *Interprofessional Education Experience*) and will receive credit upon successful completion.

### PubH 6000: Applied Practice Experience (APEX):

- 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 a practice experience. Students are required to fulfill all requirements of the 120-hour applied practicum experience to receive credit for PUBH 6000. **Please note that PubH 6000 is a corequisite course for PubH 6060 Culminating Experience I.**

## Course Sequence

Students will start the program by enrolling in MPH core 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 MPH core courses, students should complete the MPH@GW program specific courses, and finish with their elective courses. 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.

## Additional Graduation Requirements

In addition to completing the 45-credit requirement, PubH 6000, and PubH 6023 students must also complete CITI Training, Academic Integrity Quiz, and Professional Enhancement Hours. A detailed description of these requirements can be found in Appendix I of this document.

## GWSPH MPH Core and MPH@GW Program Competencies

## MPH 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
  - PubH 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
  - PubH 6022
- 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).

## **Program Elective Courses**

The following are examples of electives that are currently offered online. New courses are added frequently. Up to 15 credits may be taken on campus in residential courses provided pre-requisites have been met. The list of MPH@GW electives will be updated as new courses become available.

- PubH 6054, Community Engagement & Advocacy (2 credits)
- PubH 6058, Researching Violence Against Women and Girls (2 credits)
- PubH 6128, Global Environmental and Occupational Health (2 credits)

## MPH@GW

- PubH 6130, Sustainable Energy and the Environment (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 6140, Global Climate Change and Air Pollution (2 credits)
- PubH 6146, Microbiomes and Microbial Ecology in Public Health (2 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 6550, Maternal and Child Health I (3 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)
- PubH 6703, Health Care Delivery and Health IT (2 credits)
- PubH 6704, Health IT, Informatics, and Decision Making (3 credits)
- PubH 6705, Health Law and Health IT (3 credits)
- PubH 6706, Population and Community Health Analytics (3 credits)
- PubH 6717, Predictive Analytics (3 credits)
- PubH 6894, Research Analytics (3 credits)

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Required Core Courses		Credits	Quarter Offered
PubH 6000	Applied Practice Experience (APEX)	0	All
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	
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
<b>Total MPH Core Credits</b>		<b>17</b>	
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
<b>Total Program Specific Credits</b>		<b>10</b>	
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	
<b>Total Degree Credits</b>		<b>45</b>	

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

## Appendix I.

### Milken Institute School of Public Health MPH Graduation Requirements

1. **Graduate Credits:** 45 graduate credits are required, two of which are the student's Culminating Experience courses, PubH 6060 and PubH 60601, to be taken in a student's last two consecutive terms in the MPH@GW Program.
2. **Courses:** Successful completion of the Core Courses and the Program-Specific Courses are required.
3. **Applied Practice Experience:** Students are required to fulfill all requirements of the Applied Practice Experience (APEX) to receive credit for PubH 6000. PubH 6000 is a co-requisite for enrolling in PubH 6060 Culminating Experience I.
4. **Interprofessional Education Experience (IPE):** Students are required to enroll, participate and complete an authorized IPE activity (PubH 6023).
5. **Grade Point Average:** A 3.0 (B average) overall grade point average is required.
6. **Time Limit:** 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 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 :** 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. **Academic Integrity Quiz:** 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 Hours:** 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 published 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.
11. **Applying for Graduation.** Upon completing degree requirements students are to apply for graduation. The table below outlines which is the correct term to apply for graduation as well as the respective commencement week to attend.

Final Term	Apply for	Commencement Week to Attend
Spring 1	Spring Graduation	May of current year
Spring 2	Summer Graduation	May of current year
Summer	Fall Graduation	May of next year
Fall	Fall Graduation	May of next year

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