DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN THE FIELD OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

Program Director: H. Young

Our graduate and PhD programs prepare students to conduct epidemiological research, undertake evaluation studies and monitor population health status in academic, governmental, private sector and community health settings. Opportunities exist for our students to collaborate with experts from the National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute, National Center for Health Statistics, Food and Drug Administration and many other federal research agencies. With courses scheduled in the late afternoons and early evenings, our programs allow students to attain valuable career experience while they earn their degrees. All applications are submitted through SOPHAS.org (http://sophas.org/).

Visit the program website (https://publichealth.gwu.edu/programs/epidemiology-phd/) for additional program information.

ADMISSIONS

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<tr>
<th>Article</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Admissions</td>
<td>Fall - December 1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Prior Academic Records: Transcripts are required from all colleges and universities attended, whether or not credit was earned, the program was completed, or the credit appears as transfer credit on another transcript. Transcripts must be forwarded to SOPHAS in their original sealed envelopes directly from the institution. Official transcripts from institutions outside the United States must be accompanied by an official transcript evaluation from an accredited independent evaluating agency. Please be sure you request a detailed evaluation that includes all course titles, credit hours, grade-point average (GPA), United States degree equivalency, and date of degree conferral. For a list of acceptable foreign credential evaluation services (https://www.naces.org/members.php).

Statement of Purpose: In an essay of approximately 1500 words, state your purpose in undertaking graduate study in your chosen field. Include your academic objectives, research interests, and career plans. Also discuss your related qualifications, including collegiate, professional, and community activities, and any other substantial accomplishments not already mentioned in the application. The Committee reviews your Statement of Purpose to determine your motivation for pursuing a career in public health and health services.

International Applicants: Please review International Applicant Information (https://graduate.admissions.gwu.edu/international-student-application-requirements) carefully for details on required documents, earlier deadlines for applicants requiring an I-20 or DS-2019 from GW, and English language requirements. Detailed documentation needed for this program is available here (https://publichealth.gwu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/).

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:
Office of Admissions
Suite 200
Milken Institute School of Public Health
950 New Hampshire Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20052

Contact for questions:
GWSPHAdmit@gwu.edu – 202-994-2160 (phone)

Standardized Test Scores: Students must submit a GRE general test (institutional code 5268).

Recommendations: Three (3) recommendations required.
REQUIREMENTS

Two program options are available: Option A is more quantitative and includes advanced statistical coursework in the Department of Statistics. Option B, while also quantitative, allows for courses and electives with a primary focus on public health.

The following requirements must be fulfilled: 72 credits including: 34 to 37 credits\(^1\) in required public health, epidemiology, and statistics coursework; these credits include 3 credits in program-specific epidemiology selective coursework, a minimum of 14 credits in graduate elective courses, 3 credits in consulting coursework, and 12 to 21 credits in dissertation research. Successful completion of a comprehensive examination is required.

Preparatory Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minimum prerequisite courses for admission consideration</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BISC 1111 &amp; BISC 1112</td>
<td>Introductory Biology: Cells and Molecules and Introductory Biology: The Biology of Organisms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 1231</td>
<td>Single-Variable Calculus I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 1232</td>
<td>Single-Variable Calculus II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 2233</td>
<td>Multivariable Calculus (option A only)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Additional course requirements for admissions consideration**       |                                                   |         |

The courses listed below are additional course preparatory requirements. Applicants lacking these courses (or equivalents to these GW courses) will be considered for conditional admission with the expectation that these courses will be completed within two semesters following matriculation in the program. Credit for these courses does not count toward the 72 credits required for the degree and grades earned are not reflected in the overall grade-point average.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 2184</td>
<td>Linear Algebra I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 2183</td>
<td>Intermediate Statistics Lab/Packages</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PUBH 6853</td>
<td>Use of Statistical Packages for Data Management and Data Analysis</td>
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| **Degree Requirements**                                                                 |                                                   |         |

Doctor of Philosophy in the Field of Epidemiology
### Program Requirements

#### Core Courses
- **PUBH 6245 & PUBH 8245**  
  Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Doctoral Topics: Infectious Disease Epidemiology
- **PUBH 6250 & PUBH 8250**  
  Epidemiology of HIV/AIDS and Doctoral Topics: Epidemiology of HIV/AIDS
- **PUBH 6259 & PUBH 8259**  
  Epidemiology Surveillance in Public Health and Doctoral Topics: Epidemiologic Surveillance in Public Health

#### Electives ¹

At least 14 credits in graduate-level EXNS, HSML, PUBH, or STAT courses.

#### Consulting (3 credits)
- **PUBH 6869**  
  Principles of Biostatistical Consulting
- **PUBH 8283**  
  Doctoral Biostatistics Consulting Practicum ⁴

#### Dissertation research (12 to 21 credits)
- **PUBH 8999**  
  Dissertation Research (taken in units of 3 credits for a total of 12 to 21 credits)

¹The total number of credits varies depending on whether the student is following Option A or Option B and/or if the consulting requirement is waived (see footnote 4).

²Basis for PhD general comprehensive examination.

³PUBH 8435 may be waived and replaced with dissertation credits at the discretion of program director.

⁴The program director may waive the consulting requirement based on written documentation of prior equivalent coursework or relevant work experience. Waiver of the consulting requirement increases the total required number of elective credits proportionally.

### Graduation Requirements

1. Program options: Students may choose either curriculum Plan A or curriculum Plan B for the Doctor of Philosophy degree in the field of epidemiology.
2. Graduate credit requirement: 72 graduate credits are required.
3. Prerequisites: Review official program guide for minimum prerequisite requirements for admission.
4. Comprehensive (General) exam
   - a. A written comprehensive exam will be administered within 24 months from date of matriculation based on the course content of PUBH 6247 Epidemiologic Methods I: Design of Health Studies, PUBH 6252 Epidemiologic Methods II: Advanced Epidemiologic Methods, and PUBH 8419 Measurement in Public Health and Health Services. The exam is administered once per year in August.
   - b. An oral presentation of the proposal for dissertation is made to the students’ Dissertation Research Committee. The Committee will determine the student’s readiness to pursue and complete the proposed research.
5. Dissertation: 12-21 credits of dissertation research are required. Students may register for up to 6 credits of PUBH 8999 Dissertation Research prior to completion of the proposal defense.
6. Grade point requirements: An overall GPA of 3.0 (B average) is required.
7. Time limit requirement: The degree must be completed in 7 years.
8. Transfer credit policy: Up to 24 credits from an applicable master’s program may be approved to be transferred to the doctoral program. Credits must have been earned from an accredited institution with a grade point average of B or better.