

# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN THE FIELD OF EPIDEMIOLOGY (STEM)

Program Director: Heather Young

GW's master's and doctor of philosophy (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.

The programs provide students with opportunities 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, students gain valuable career experience while earning their degree. All applications are submitted through SOPHAS.org (<http://sophas.org/>).

This is a STEM designated program.

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

## ADMISSIONS

Visit the Milken Institute School of Public Health website (<https://publichealth.gwu.edu/>) for additional information about academic programs and information about GWSPH. Graduate admissions information, including application requirements and deadlines, can be found on the GWSPH Graduate Admissions website (<https://publichealth.gwu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/>).

## REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled: 48 credits, including 5 credits in core foundational courses, 19 credits in program-specific courses, at least 12 credits in elective courses, and at least 12 credits in dissertation research.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Admissions prerequisites</b>		
The courses listed below are the required minimum prerequisite courses for admission consideration. Applicants who have not already completed these courses or their equivalent from another institution will not be considered for admission.		
BISC 1111 & BISC 1112	Introductory Biology: Cells and Molecules and Introductory Biology: The Biology of Organisms	
MATH 1231	Single-Variable Calculus I	
MATH 1232	Single-Variable Calculus II	
PUBH 6003	Principles and Practices of Epidemiology	

Additional course requirements for admissions consideration

The courses listed below are additional preparatory course requirements. Applicants who have not already completed these courses or their equivalents will be considered for conditional admission with the expectation that the courses will be completed within two semesters following matriculation in the program. Credit for these courses does not count toward the 48 credits required for the degree and grades earned are not reflected in the overall grade-point average.

MATH 2184	Linear Algebra I
PUBH 6853	Use of SAS for Data Management and Analysis
or STAT 2183	Intermediate Statistics Lab/Packages

### Required for the degree

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required</b>		
Foundational courses		
PUBH 6080	Pathways to Public Health <sup>1</sup>	
PUBH 6247	Epidemiologic Methods I: Design of Health Studies <sup>2, 3</sup>	
PUBH 8001	Doctor of Philosophy Seminar on Cross-Cutting Concepts in Public Health	
PUBH 8475	Research Ethics and Integrity in Domestic and International Research	
Program-specific courses		
PUBH 6252	Epidemiologic Methods II: Advanced Epidemiologic Methods <sup>4</sup>	
PUBH 6865	Applied Categorical Data Analysis for Public Health Research	
PUBH 6866	Principles of Clinical Trials	
PUBH 6868	Quantitative Methods	
PUBH 6869	Principles of Biostatistical Consulting	
PUBH 8419	Measurement in Public Health and Health Services <sup>3</sup>	
PUBH 8877	Generalized Linear Models in Biostatistics <sup>3</sup>	

### Electives

At least 12 credits in graduate-level Public Health (PUBH) and/or Statistics (STAT) courses selected in consultation with the program director. Elective courses in other departments can be approved by the program director.

### Dissertation

PUBH 8210	Professional Skills Enhancement for Doctoral Students in Epidemiology
PUBH 8435	PhD Dissertation Proposal Development <sup>4</sup>
PUBH 8999	Dissertation Research

<sup>1</sup>PUBH 6080 can be waived for students who matriculate with a prior degree from a Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)-accredited institution.

<sup>2</sup>PUBH 6247 can be waived for students who matriculate with an MPH degree or equivalent coursework and replaced with elective credits.

<sup>3</sup>These courses serve as the basis for the PhD general comprehensive examination.

<sup>4</sup>PUBH 8435 can be waived and replaced with additional dissertation research credits at the discretion of the program director.

## Comprehensive examination

After completion of the course requirements, students take a comprehensive examination based on core courses. Upon successful completion of the examination, students officially enter the doctoral candidacy phase of the program.

## Dissertation

Doctoral candidates prepare a written dissertation research proposal with guidance from their dissertation advisor and committee. Each doctoral candidate gives an oral presentation and defense to the committee who determines the student's readiness to commence the dissertation.

Doctoral candidates are required to conduct original research on a contemporary problem or issue. The dissertation includes at least one written manuscript and an oral presentation and defense.

## Additional requirements for degree completion:

- Collaborative IRB Training Initiative (CITI) training requirement: All students must complete training regarding human subject protection regulation and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). To fulfill this requirement, students must complete the CITI course in The Protection of Human Research Subjects.
- Integrity quiz and plagiarism requirement: Students must review the George Washington University Code of Academic Integrity (<https://students.gwu.edu/code-academic-integrity/>), take the quiz within their first semester of study, and ensure documentation is submitted to the SPH Office of Student Records.
- Professional enhancement requirement: Students must attend/participate in eight hours of epidemiology conferences. To be cleared for graduation, students must submit required

documentation of applicable professional enhancement activities to the SPH Office of Student Records.

- Completion of a graduate teaching assistantship program certificate. See the GTAP website (<https://gradfellowships.gwu.edu/graduate-teaching-assistantship-program-gtap/>) for additional information.
- Grade-point average: A minimum program grade-point average of 3.0.
- Time limit: The degree must be completed within seven years of matriculation.

Additional information regarding School of Public Health doctoral programs is available on the SPH website (<https://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/programs/doctoral/>).