MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN
THE FIELD OF HEALTH POLICY

Program Director T. Burke
Practicum Directors L. Cartwright-Smith, T. Burke

Mission Statement
The Department of Health Policy of the Milken Institute
School of Public Health is an intellectual and practice-oriented
community in the Nation’s capital dedicated to advancing
innovative and effective health policy education, research,
and service to improve public health and health services
domestically and globally.

We are committed to:

• offering a cutting-edge, multidisciplinary curriculum that
  provides students with deep content knowledge and the
  analytic, communication, and professional skills needed to
  be the next generation of health policy leaders;
• conducting rigorous multidisciplinary research that
  addresses significant health challenges, is objective, and
  is translated to inform and impact health policy and public
  health practice;
• being a trusted resource for shaping and advancing health
  policy options because of our research rigor, the real-world
  health policy leadership experiences of our faculty and staff,
  our deep expertise regarding a wide range of policy issues,
  and our exceptional students;
• leveraging our unique location which allows for strong
  collaborations with health policy leaders and practitioners in
  Washington, D.C.;
• improving the health and health care of underserved and
  vulnerable populations;
• learning from the diversity among our faculty, staff, and
  students in terms of background, experience, and thought.

Overview
The Department of Health Policy is the home for health policy
studies and research at the Milken Institute School of Public
Health (SPH). The Department focuses on virtually all facets
of U.S. health policy related to both public health and health
services, and emphasizes preparing students to understand
and analyze health policy matters in a broad, cross-cutting,
and real-world context. Among schools of public health, the
Milken Institute SPH Department of Health Policy is unique,
having been created to take maximum advantage of its
location in Washington, DC, the nation’s health policy-making
epicenter. The MPH in Health Policy is for students who wish
to develop in-depth policy analysis skills for use in various
practice settings, including both federal and state levels of
government, private-sector health policy consulting, and not-
for-profit advocacy. Additionally, this program is available
to GW law students (the JD/MPH and LLM/MPH programs),
lawyers seeking to develop expertise in all facets of health
policy and practice, and to GW medical students (the MD/
MPH and PA/MPH programs) who wish to enhance their clinical
training with a thorough understanding of health policy.

COMPETENCIES

A. Knowledge Domain: Graduates of the program will have
a thorough understanding of public health and health care
system issues, specifically the following areas:

• The various theories of policymaking and politics.

Related courses:
PUBH 6015 Culminating Experience
PUBH 6315 Intro-Health Policy Analysis
PUBH 6320 Advanced Health Pol Analysis
PUBH 6325 Fed Policymaking &Pol Advocacy

• Comparative models of structuring and financing public
  health activities and health care services, with emphasis
  on the mechanisms employed in the U.S., including private
  health insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, managed care,
  and directly-financed services.

Related courses:
PUBH 6305 Fundamentals for Health Policy
PUBH 6325 Fed Policymaking &Pol Advocacy
PUBH 6335 Public Health and Law

• The complex systems for delivery of public health
  and health care services, including facilities,
  workforce, technology, and the incentives at work in these
  systems.

Related courses:
PUBH 6305 Fundamentals for Health Policy
PUBH 6320 Advanced Health Pol Analysis
PUBH 6325 Fed Policymaking &Pol Advocacy

• The methods and mechanisms for determining the
  benefits of public health and health care services,
  including measures of health outcomes and quality,
  measuring population health and disparities, public health
  surveillance, the use of HIT, and issues of privacy and access
to data.

Related courses:
PUBH 6242 ClinicalEpid&Decision Analysis
PUBH 6305 Fundamentals for Health Policy
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<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 6310</td>
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- The systems and activities in place to provide a safety net for vulnerable populations and reduce health disparities, including community health centers, major federal programs, and public health clinics, and related concepts such as uncompensated care and disparities in access.

**Related courses:**
- PUBH 6305 Fundamentals for Health Policy
- PUBH 6325 Fed Policymaking & Pol Advocacy
- PUBH 6330 Health Services and Law
- PUBH 6335 Public Health and Law

- The framework of laws and regulations governing public health and health care services, including constitutional rights and limitations, federal and state statutes, regulations, judicial opinions, and other public policy instruments.

**Related courses:**
- PUBH 6305 Fundamentals for Health Policy
- PUBH 6325 Fed Policymaking & Pol Advocacy
- PUBH 6330 Health Services and Law
- PUBH 6335 Public Health and Law

B. Analysis Domain: Graduates of the program will have skills in policy analysis, legal analysis, economic analysis, statistical analysis and population health assessment, and will be able to:

**Policy Analysis:**

- Locate, assess, appropriately use and synthesize information relevant to key issues in health policy, including evidence related to the legislative, regulatory and judicial processes, peer-reviewed literature, and the “gray literature” produced by think tanks, research organizations, and government agencies.

**Related courses:**
- PUBH 6305 Fundamentals for Health Policy
- PUBH 6315 Intro-Health Policy Analysis
- PUBH 6320 Advanced Health Pol Analysis
- PUBH 6325 Fed Policymaking & Pol Advocacy
- PUBH 6330 Health Services and Law
- PUBH 6335 Public Health and Law
- PUBH 6340 Health Economics and Finance

- Understand and critique the research design/methods of different types of applied policy analyses, including program evaluations, cost benefit/cost effectiveness studies, and forecasting/simulation models.

**Related courses:**
- PUBH 6322 Clinical Epid & Decision Analysis
- PUBH 6310 Statistical Analysis in Health Policy
- PUBH 6315 Intro-Health Policy Analysis
- PUBH 6320 Advanced Health Pol Analysis
- PUBH 6325 Fed Policymaking & Pol Advocacy
- PUBH 6335 Public Health and Law
- PUBH 6340 Health Economics and Finance

- Apply the core elements of a sophisticated policy options analysis to key issues in health care and public health.

**Related courses:**
- PUBH 6014 Practicum
- PUBH 6015 Culminating Experience
- PUBH 6315 Intro-Health Policy Analysis
- PUBH 6320 Advanced Health Pol Analysis
- PUBH 6325 Fed Policymaking & Pol Advocacy
- PUBH 6335 Public Health and Law
- PUBH 6340 Health Economics and Finance

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**Legal Analysis:**
• Apply the basic legal rights and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders in the health care and public health systems.

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• Comparatively analyze, interpret, and apply legislation and administrative regulations, judicial rulings, and relevant constitutional law to legal questions pertaining to the health care and public health systems.

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**Economic Analysis:**

• Assess key microeconomic concepts, including supply and demand, markets, taxes and subsidies, public goods and the case for government intervention.

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• Apply microeconomic tools in analyses of health care markets, government intervention in markets, the functioning of private/public insurance, and the forecasting of health care utilization and workforce needs.

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• Measure competition and evaluate its consequences in health care delivery, pharmaceutical development, and other markets.

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**Statistical Analysis:**

• Access data sets relevant to health policy, including public use data sets.

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• Analyze, interpret and present multivariate statistics, such as regression or logic models.

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• Run basic statistical analyses using a standard statistical software package.

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**Population Health Assessment:**

• Identify key sources of population health data.

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• Describe a public health problem in terms of magnitude, person, time and place.

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• Draw appropriate inferences from epidemiologic data.

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</table>

• Calculate basic epidemiology measures.

**Related course:**
PUBH 6242  ClinicalEpid&Decision Analysis

C. Leadership Domain: Graduates of the program will be able to:

- Think creatively to develop and implement innovative policies that effect change and to identify strategies to successfully implement policies.

  Related courses:
  - PUBH 6315  Intro-Health Policy Analysis
  - PUBH 6320  Advanced Health Pol Analysis
  - PUBH 6325  Fed Policymaking &Pol Advocacy
  - PUBH 6330  Health Services and Law
  - PUBH 6335  Public Health and Law
  - PUBH 6014  Practicum
  - PUBH 6015  Culminating Experience

- Work collaboratively with decision-makers, stakeholders, and colleagues with a variety of viewpoints to achieve policy goals.

  Related courses:
  - PUBH 6325  Fed Policymaking &Pol Advocacy
  - PUBH 6330  Health Services and Law
  - PUBH 6335  Public Health and Law
  - PUBH 6014  Practicum
  - PUBH 6015  Culminating Experience

- Manage time, resources, and people strategically and effectively to develop and implement policies; demonstrate negotiation and conflict management skills.

  Related courses:
  - PUBH 6325  Fed Policymaking &Pol Advocacy
  - PUBH 6015  Culminating Experience

- Motivate and influence others to reach their highest level of effectiveness in the policymaking and implementation process.

  Related courses:
  - PUBH 6325  Fed Policymaking &Pol Advocacy
  - PUBH 6015  Culminating Experience

- Adhere to professional ethics while promoting a high standard of personal integrity, compassion, and respect for others. Demonstrate transparency, integrity, and honesty in all actions.

  Related courses:
  - PUBH 6320  Advanced Health Pol Analysis
  - PUBH 6325  Fed Policymaking &Pol Advocacy
  - PUBH 6335  Public Health and Law
  - PUBH 6014  Practicum
  - PUBH 6015  Culminating Experience

D. Communication Domain: Graduates of the program will be able to:

- Speak and write clearly and effectively, adapting communication styles and content so they are appropriate to the needs of the intended audience.

  Related courses:
  - PUBH 6305  Fundamentals for Health Policy
  - PUBH 6315  Intro-Health Policy Analysis
  - PUBH 6320  Advanced Health Pol Analysis
  - PUBH 6325  Fed Policymaking &Pol Advocacy
  - PUBH 6330  Health Services and Law
  - PUBH 6335  Public Health and Law
  - PUBH 6014  Practicum
  - PUBH 6015  Culminating Experience

- Persuade others to support a point of view, position, or recommendation through advocacy.

  Related courses:
  - PUBH 6315  Intro-Health Policy Analysis
  - PUBH 6320  Advanced Health Pol Analysis
  - PUBH 6325  Fed Policymaking &Pol Advocacy
  - PUBH 6330  Health Services and Law
  - PUBH 6335  Public Health and Law
  - PUBH 6015  Culminating Experience

- Convey information and opinions in a structured and credible way.

  Related courses:
PUBH 6305  Fundamentals for Health Policy
PUBH 6315  Intro-Health Policy Analysis
PUBH 6320  Advanced Health Pol Analysis
PUBH 6325  Fed Policymaking &Pol Advocacy
PUBH 6330  Health Services and Law
PUBH 6335  Public Health and Law
PUBH 6015  Culminating Experience

- Encourage others to share their views, and take time to understand and consider these views.

**Related courses:**
PUBH 6242  ClinicalEpid&Decision Analysis
PUBH 6315  Intro-Health Policy Analysis
PUBH 6325  Fed Policymaking &Pol Advocacy
PUBH 6330  Health Services and Law
PUBH 6335  Public Health and Law

- Ensure that messages have been heard and understood.

**Related courses:**
PUBH 6325  Fed Policymaking &Pol Advocacy
PUBH 6335  Public Health and Law

- Keep others informed of key and relevant issues.

**Related courses:**
PUBH 6315  Intro-Health Policy Analysis
PUBH 6325  Fed Policymaking &Pol Advocacy
PUBH 6335  Public Health and Law

**REQUIREMENTS**

All MPH students admitted to the Health Policy program enroll in SPH Core Courses (15 credits), Program-Specific Courses (17 credits) and Elective Courses (9 credits). The 45-credit total requirement includes a Practicum (2 credits) in which students apply their didactic education by working for credit for an organization that engages in health policy analysis and a Culminating Experience (2 credits). Students may wish to give greater emphasis to either public health or health services policy as they develop their course of study with their advisor.

**Program Requirements**

**Required core courses (15 credits):**

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 6001</td>
<td>BiologicalConcepts/PublicHlth</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 6002</td>
<td>Biostatistical Applic for PubH</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 6003</td>
<td>Prin &amp; Practice/Epidemiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 6004</td>
<td>Environmental and Occupational Health in a Sustainable World</td>
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<td>PUBH 6006</td>
<td>Mgt &amp; Policy Approaches to PH</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 6007</td>
<td>Social&amp;BehaviorAppr-Pub.Hlth</td>
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**Required program-specific courses (17-18 credits):**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 6305</td>
<td>Fundamentals for Health Policy: Public Health and Health Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 6310</td>
<td>Statistical Analysis in Health Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 6315</td>
<td>Introduction to Health Policy Analysis</td>
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<td>Federal Policymaking &amp; Policy Advocacy</td>
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<td>PUBH 6330</td>
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<tr>
<td>or PUBH 6335</td>
<td>Public Health and Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 6340</td>
<td>Health Economics and Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PUBH 6242 &amp; PUBH 6243</td>
<td>ClinicalEpid&amp;Decision Analysis and Topics:ClinicalEpi&amp;DecAnalysis</td>
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**Advanced health policy requirement**

One of the following:

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<tr>
<td>EMSE 6740</td>
<td>Systems Thinking and Policy Modeling I</td>
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<tr>
<td>PPPA 6015</td>
<td>Benefit-Cost Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>PPPA 6016</td>
<td>Public and Nonprofit Program Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 6242</td>
<td>ClinicalEpid&amp;Decision Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 6243 &amp; PUBH 6243</td>
<td>and Topics:ClinicalEpi&amp;DecAnalysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 6247</td>
<td>Design of Health Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 6249</td>
<td>StatPackages/DataMgt&amp;DataAnlys</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 6320</td>
<td>Advanced Health Policy Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 6345</td>
<td>Health Policy Research Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 6501</td>
<td>Program Evaluation</td>
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**Elective courses (8-9 credits):**

A personalized combination of elective courses

**Practicum and culminating experience courses (4 credits):**
Graduation Requirements

1. Graduate credit requirement: 45 graduate credits
2. Course requirements: Successful completion of core and program-specific courses
3. Grade point requirement: 3.0 (B average) overall grade point average
4. Time limit requirement: The degree must be completed within four years.
5. Transfer credit policy: Up to 12 graduate credits that have not been applied to a previous graduate degree may be transferred to the Master of Public Health program. Up to 18 credits may be transferred to the Master of Public Health from the SPH graduate certificate. Credits must have been earned from an accredited institution in the last 3 years with a grade point of 3.0 or better.