

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH POLICY

Program Co-Directors: Avi Dor, Leighton Ku

The PhD in health policy develops scholars who are skilled at critically assessing the political, economic, legal, and social aspects of health policy and management. Students learn to apply innovative research tools to analyze processes and outcomes in healthcare delivery and public health settings to make informed decisions. Special emphasis is placed on the United States' health policies, systems, and population health.

Based in Washington, DC, the PhD in health policy program immerses students in a multidisciplinary scholarly environment working with faculty in the Department of Health Policy and Management and other GW experts conducting research and policy analyses in pursuit of improvements in health access, equity, costs, and outcomes and shaping the health and public health policy debate at national, state, and other levels. Program students benefit from faculty mentorship and proximity to experts and agencies immersed in the most current topics of health policy and public health in the hub of health policy decision-making and debate. The program prepares PhD candidates with the proper training to be an integral part of creating future solutions to public health challenges and a transformed healthcare system.

Visit the program website (<https://publichealth.gwu.edu/programs/health-policy-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 10 credits in PhD core courses, 19 credits in program-specific courses, at least 11 credits in elective courses; 8 credits in dissertation research; and successful completion of a comprehensive examination.

Code	Title	Credits
Required		
PhD core courses (10 credits)		
PUBH 6080	Pathways to Public Health	
PUBH 8001	Doctor of Philosophy Seminar on Cross-Cutting Concepts in Public Health	
PUBH 8416	Study Design and Evaluation Methods	

PUBH 8418	Applied Statistical Analysis
PUBH 8435	PhD Dissertation Proposal Development
PUBH 8475	Research Ethics and Integrity in Domestic and International Research
Program-specific courses (19 credits)	
PUBH 6340	Health Economics and Finance
PUBH 8405	Advanced Topics: Health Economics Research
PUBH 8417	Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis
PUBH 8620	Seminar: Foundations of U.S. Health Policy
PUBH 8622	Healthcare Payments, Systems, and Delivery Models
PUBH 8722	Public Health Policy Analysis
PPPA 8022	Econometrics for Policy Research (at least 2 credits)

Electives

At least 11 credits in elective courses. A recommended list of electives can be found in the program guide available from the School of Public Health..

Dissertation

PUBH 8999	Dissertation Research (taken for 8 credits)
-----------	---

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/>).