DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN
THE FIELD OF SOCIAL AND
BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES IN PUBLIC
HEALTH

Program Director: M. Napolitano

Mission
The PhD in social and behavioral sciences in public health degree program is designed to develop public health scholars who are at the forefront of social and behavior change. The program trains students to conduct independent research that is theoretically sound and applicable across a variety of contexts in order to prevent diseases and promote health and well-being.

Goals
The goal of the PhD degree program is to train students to conduct rigorous and state-of-the-art independent research to advance understanding of social and behavioral sciences in public health. The program is designed to be four years in duration, with comprehensive exams at the end of the second year, and full dissertation work during the remaining two years.

Visit the program website (https://publichealth.gwu.edu/programs/social-and-behavioral-sciences-phd/) for additional information.

ADMISSIONS

Admissions

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Prior academic records:
A master's degree is required. Transcripts 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/).

Statement of purpose:
In no more than 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 on the application. A description of your current skills and future goals related to research, leadership, and problem solving should also be included. The Committee reviews your Statement of Purpose to determine your motivation for pursuing a career in public health.
International applicants only: Please review International Applicant Information (http://graduate.admissions.gwu.edu/international-applicants/) carefully for details on required documents, earlier deadlines for applicants requiring an I-20 GW, and English language requirements. Detailed documentation needed for this program is available here (https://publichealth.gwu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/).

PLEASE NOTE that all programs in the Milken Institute School of Public Health require the following minimum English language test scores for admission:

- Academic IELTS: an overall band score of 7.0 with no individual band score below 6.0.
- TOEFL: 100 on Internet-based.

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)
http://publichealth.gwu.edu/admissions (http://publichealth.gwu.edu/admissions/)
9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday

REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled: 48 credits, including 12 credits in foundation courses, 9 credits in statistics courses, 9 credits in methods courses, 9 credits minimum in elective courses, and 9 credits in dissertation preparation and dissertation research; successful completion of a comprehensive exam.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 8408</td>
<td>Advanced Topics: Health Behavior Research &amp; Practice Applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 8409</td>
<td>Advanced Topics: Health Communication Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 8416</td>
<td>Study Design &amp; Evaluation Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 8434</td>
<td>Behavioral Medicine and Public Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 6080</td>
<td>Pathways to Public Health</td>
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Statistics

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 8418</td>
<td>Applied Statistical Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 8419</td>
<td>Measurement in Public Health and Health Services</td>
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And at least 3 additional credits from the following:

- DNSC 6211 Programming for Analytics
- DNSC 6215 Social Network Analytics
- DNSC 6274 Statistical Modeling and Analysis
- DNSC 6275 Advanced Statistical Modeling and Analysis
- DNSC 6276 Exploratory and Multivariate Data Analysis
- ECON 8375 Econometrics I
- EDUC 8144 Discourse Analysis
- EDUC 8171 Predictive Designs and Analyses
- EDUC 8173 Structural Equation Modeling
- FINA 6271 Financial Modeling and Econometrics
- MBAD 6221 Judgment, Uncertainty, and Decisions
- MBAD 6222 Data Analysis and Decisions
- PPPA 8022 Econometrics for Policy Research II
- PSYC 8257 Current Topics in Social Psychology (ONLY Structural Equation Modeling)
- PUBH 6299 Topics in Epidemiology (ONLY Applied Meta-Analysis with R)

Methods

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 8417</td>
<td>Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Code</td>
<td>Course Title</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 6242</td>
<td>Clinical Epidemiology and Public Health: Reading the Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 8242</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Clinical Epidemiology and Public Health: Reading the Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>And at least 3 additional credits from the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 8122</td>
<td>Qualitative Research Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 8130</td>
<td>Survey Research Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 8131</td>
<td>Case Study Research Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 8140</td>
<td>Ethnographic Research Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 8142</td>
<td>Phenomenological Research Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 8231</td>
<td>Development of Psychometric Instruments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 8256</td>
<td>Introduction to Survey Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 8258</td>
<td>Qualitative Research and Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 8364</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 8365</td>
<td>Content area electives</td>
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A minimum of 9 credits, including at least one course in each of the following two categories:

**Social and Behavioral Sciences**

- ANTH 6501 Gender and Sexuality
- ANTH 6505 Medical Anthropology
- EXNS 6242 Nutrition Throughout the Life Cycle
- PHIL 6253 Cognitive Science and Public Policy
- PSYC 8211 Community Psychology I
- PSYC 8212 Community Psychology II
- PSYC 8253 Social Cognition
- PSYC 8254 Social Influence
- PSYC 8255 Attitudes and Attitude Change
- PSYC 8275 Women and Health
- PSYC 8287 Current Topics in Clinical Psychology (ONLY Structural Equation Modeling)
- PUBH 6262 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems

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**Other elective course options**

Elective courses at the 8000-level not listed above do not require approval prior to enrollment. Advance approval of the advisor is required for all other courses.

**Dissertation preparation and dissertation**

- PUBH 8435 PhD Dissertation Proposal Development
- PUBH 8999 Dissertation Research (taken for 7 credits)