

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN THE FIELD OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

Program Director: H. 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/>).

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 for the degree: 48 credits, including 5 credits in foundational courses, 18 credits in program-specific courses, at least 11 credits in elective courses, 3 credits in consulting, and at least 11 credits in dissertation research.

Code	Title	Credits
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Admissions prerequisites

The courses listed below are required minimum prerequisite courses for admission consideration. Applicants lacking these courses or their equivalent at another institution will not be considered for admission.

BISC 1111 & BISC 1112	Introductory Biology: Cells and Molecules and Introductory Biology: The Biology of Organisms	
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MATH 1231	Single-Variable Calculus I	
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MATH 1232	Single-Variable Calculus II	
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PUBH 6003	Principles and Practices of Epidemiology	
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Additional course requirements for admissions consideration

The courses listed below are additional preparatory course requirements. Applicants lacking 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
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PUBH 6853	Use of Statistical Packages for Data Management and Data Analysis
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or STAT 2183	Intermediate Statistics Lab/Packages
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Degree requirements

Code	Title	Credits
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Required

Foundational courses

PUBH 6080	Pathways to Public Health ¹	
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PUBH 6421	Responsible Conduct of Research	
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PUBH 6247	Epidemiologic Methods I: Design of Health Studies ¹	
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PUBH 8099	Doctoral Topics (PhD seminar: Cross Cutting Concepts in Public Health)	
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Program-specific courses

PUBH 6252	Epidemiologic Methods II: Advanced Epidemiologic Methods ²	
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PUBH 6865	Applied Categorical Data Analysis for Public Health Research	
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PUBH 6866	Principles of Clinical Trials	
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PUBH 6868	Quantitative Methods	
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PUBH 8419	Measurement in Public Health and Health Services ²	
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PUBH 8877	Generalized Linear Models in Biostatistics ²	
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Electives

At least 11 credits in graduate-level Public Health (PUBH) and/or Statistics (STAT) courses selected in consultation with the program director. Elective courses in other departments may be taken with the prior approval of the program director.

Consulting ³

PUBH 6869	Principles of Biostatistical Consulting	
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PUBH 8283	Doctoral Biostatistics Consulting Practicum ⁴
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doctoral program. Credits must have been earned from an accredited institution with a grade point average of B or better.

Dissertation research

PUBH 8435	PhD Dissertation Proposal Development ⁴
PUBH 8999	Dissertation Research (taken in units of 3 credits for a total of at least 9 credits)

¹May be waived for students who matriculate with a prior public health degree from a Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)-accredited institution.

²Basis for PhD general comprehensive examination.

³The program director may waive the consulting requirement based on written documentation of prior equivalent coursework or relevant work experience. Waived consulting credits may be substituted with additional elective credits or additional credits in PUBH 8999

⁴PUBH 8435 may be waived and replaced with additional dissertation research credits at the discretion of the program director.

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