

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH POLICY

Program Directors: A. Dor, L. 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's 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.

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, 20 credits in program-specific courses, at least 10 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 8099	Doctoral Topics (PhD Seminar: Cross Cutting Concepts in Public Health ONLY)	
PUBH 8418	Applied Statistical Analysis	
PUBH 8416	Study Design and Evaluation Methods	

PUBH 6421 Responsible Conduct of Research

PUBH 8435 PhD Dissertation Proposal Development

Program-specific courses (20 credits)

PUBH 8620 Seminar: Foundations of U.S. Health Policy

PUBH 6340 Health Economics and Finance

PUBH 8405 Advanced Topics: Health Economics Research

PUBH 8622 Healthcare Payments, Systems, and Delivery Models

PUBH 8404 Advanced Topics: Health Systems and Health Policy Research

PUBH 8417 Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis

PPPA 8022 Econometrics for Policy Research

Dissertation Research (8 credits)

PUBH 8999 Dissertation Research (8 credits)

Electives

At least 10 credits in elective courses. A recommended list of electives is available in the program guide.

Comprehensive examination

Successful completion of a comprehensive examination is required.

Graduation requirements as follow:

1. Credits: Successful completion of 48 credits.
2. Comprehensive examination: Once the course of study is completed, students are required to pass the comprehensive exam to be officially admitted to the candidacy phase.
3. Dissertation: PUBH 8435 dissertation proposal writing plus 8 credits in dissertation research are required. Once the proposal has been successfully defended and the dissertation research credit requirements has been met, the oral defense may be scheduled.
4. Grade-point average: A minimum overall grade-point average of *B* (3.0).
5. Time limit: The degree must be completed within seven years.