

Program Director

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Mission

The DrPH Health Policy Specialty Field is focused on understanding and learning to apply to complex and real world problems the policy framework of public health and health care. Particular emphasis is placed on areas of focus affecting medically underserved and vulnerable populations. The specialty field allows candidates to work at the nexus of health policy, public health practice, and health services research.

Goals

The goal of the health policy specialty field is to create doctoral-level public health professionals who are uniquely equipped to provide real-world leadership at the national and state levels in all phases of public health, health care, and health policy development and implementation. The objectives of this specialty field are to:

- Provide advanced training on cutting edge issues in health policy;
- Equip candidates with the research and analytic methods they need to conduct the types of advanced analysis that can make a real difference in health care and public health.

Competencies

The Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) Program prepares professionals to assume national and international leadership positions in environmental and occupational health, global health, health behavior, and health policy. The field of public health provides unique insights into the complex interrelationships between health, politics, and human development. It enables professionals to address public health issues by marshalling research and analytic skills to develop innovative approaches to understand health and to promote and advocate for improved health outcomes. Upon completion of the DrPH, students in all programs will demonstrate ability in the core competencies listed here:

http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/academicprograms/programs/doctor_public_health/Core%20Competencies.pdf

Program-Specific Competencies

Because the DrPH builds on knowledge and competencies already acquired in a master program, upon completion of the DrPH in Health Policy, students will be able to demonstrate **strengthened** functional competence on master-level competencies in health policy and **additional** doctoral-level competence required of the DrPH in Health Policy, which is designed to teach not only the substance of health policy (how public health and health services policy is developed and implemented in the U.S.) and the skills of policy analysis (including research, qualitative and quantitative, and written and oral communications skills), but also the substance and skills needed to apply theoretical frameworks and qualitative and quantitative research methods to real world problems in order to draw recommendations for policy change.

Upon completion of the DrPH in Health Policy, students will demonstrate functional competence to:

- **HPD-1.** Critically describe and comprehensively assess the political, legal, philosophical, economic, financial, and/or social framework of U.S. health policy and demonstrate high level proficiency in applying that understanding to the analysis of current health policy issues. **Relevant Courses:** PubH **6330 or 6335, 8401, 8402, 8404 (prereqs: 6315 or equivalent), 8405 (prereqs: basic microeconomics & 6340 or equivalent).**

- **HPD-2.** Rapidly locate, critically assess, appropriately use, and subtly synthesize policy-relevant qualitative and quantitative information relevant to key issues in U.S. health policy, including a full range of evidence related to the legislative, regulatory, and judicial processes, peer-reviewed literature, and “gray” literature produced by governments, policy analysis and research entities and other relevant organizations. Relevant Courses: PubH **6330 or 6335, 8404** (**prereqs:** 6315 or equivalent), **8413, 8414, 8417, 8420, 8422, 8423.**
- **HPD-3.** Expertly apply the core elements of a policy analysis to key issues in U.S. health policy (health services and public health policy) through both short and long written papers, and in oral presentations of policy analyses. Relevant Courses: PubH **8404** (**prereqs:** 6315 or equivalent), **8413, 8414, 8415, 8422, 8423.**
- **HPD-4.** Critically identify, appropriately assess and, expertly apply theoretical knowledge and conceptual models in support of health policy research, develop hypotheses that can be tested in a health policy research project, select appropriate health policy research designs and methodologies, including quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods, and understand and appropriately apply analytical strategies used in health policy research and analysis. Relevant Courses: PubH **8404** (**prereqs:** 6315 or equivalent), **8405** (**prereqs:** basic microeconomics & 6340 or equivalent), **8406, 8416, 8417, 8418, 8420, 8422, 8423.**
- **HPD-5.** Acquire the ability and the expertise to write grant and contract proposals, prepare applications, and identify and address the ethical implications of research methods. Relevant Courses: PubH **8416, 8417, 8418, 8420, 8422, 8423.**
- **HPD-6.** Acquire the ability and the skills to become a leader in the field of health policy (public health and health services policy). Relevant Courses: PubH **6330 or 6335, 8401, 8402, 8404** (**prereqs:** 6315 or equivalent), **8405** (**prereqs:** basic microeconomics & 6340 or equivalent), **8406, 8413, 8414, 8415, 8416, 8417, 8418, 8420, 8422, 8423.**
- **HPD-7.** Develop and/or teach part of a course (e.g., syllabus, guest lecture) in health policy (public health and health services policy) or related area. Relevant Courses: PubH **8415.**

Program Policies and Procedures

For program policies and procedures, please refer to the Doctor of Public Health Handbook and other resources, located at <http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/academicprograms/dphForms.cfm>

Course Distribution Summary

- Total Credits = Minimum 60
- Transfer Credit Maximum = 12
- Required Foundation Courses and Research Methods = 20 credits
- Required Specialty Field Courses = 9 credits
- Specialty Field Electives = 11 to 17 credits
- Professional Leadership = 6 credits
- Dissertation Preparation and Dissertation = 8 to 14 credits

**REQUIRED FOUNDATIONAL COURSES AND RESEARCH METHODS
20 CREDITS**

Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken/ Proposed	Grade	Waive	Transferred
PubH 8401	Foundations of Public Health Leadership and Practice – Doctoral Seminar	3	Fall Year 1			
PubH 8402	Leadership in Public Health Practice and Policy	2	Spring Year 2			
PubH 8416	Doctoral Research Methods I: Study Design and Evaluation	3	Fall Year 1			
PubH 8417	Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis Prereq: PubH 8416	3	Summer Year 1			
PubH 8418	Doctoral Research Methods II: Statistical Analysis Prereq: PubH 8416	3	Spring Year 1			
PubH 8419	Measurement in Public Health and Health Services Research Prereq: PubH 8418	3	Spring Year 2			
PubH 8420	Doctoral Research Methods III: Advanced Analysis and Dissemination Prereq: PubH 8417, PubH 8418	3	Fall Year 2			

**REQUIRED SPECIALTY FIELD COURSES
9 CREDITS**

Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken/ Proposed	Grade	Waive	Transferred
PubH 6330 or PubH 6335	Health Services and Law or Public Health and Law	3				
PubH 8404	Advanced Topics- Health Systems and Health Policy Research – Doctoral Seminar (Prereq: PubH 6315 or approval by instructor)	3				
PubH 8405	Advanced Topics –Advanced Health Economics Research – Doctoral Seminar (Basic microeconomics required; Prereq: PubH 6340 or approval by instructor)	3				

**SPECIALTY FIELD ELECTIVE COURSES
11 CREDITS***

*(TAKE UP TO 6 ADDITIONAL ELECTIVE CREDITS IF DISSERTATION CREDITS TOTAL LESS THAN 12)

SAMPLE COURSES BELOW – OTHER COURSES MAY BE TAKEN WITH ADVISOR’S APPROVAL

Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken/ Proposed	Grade	Waived	Transferred
PubH 6325	Federal Policy Making and Policy Advocacy (Prereq: 6305 or approval by instructor)	2				
PubH 6360	Advanced Maternal and Child Health Policy (Prereq: PubH 6305 and 6315 or approval by instructor)	1				
PubH 6362	Civil Rights Issues in Health Care (Prereq: PubH 6330)	2				
PubH 6376	Primary Health Care Policy (Prereq: PubH 6315)	2				

**PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP COURSES
6 CREDITS**

Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken / Proposed	Waived	Grade
PubH 8413	Research Leadership	Varies			
PubH 8414	Policy/Management Leadership	Varies			
PubH 8415	Instructional Leadership	Varies			

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

**DISSERTATION PREPARATION AND DISSERTATION
8 TO 14 CREDITS***

Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken/ Proposed	Grade
PubH 8422	Advanced Health Care and Public Health Research Design Prerequisites: Passing Comprehensive Exams, Approval of the Program Director, and a page- long abstract that includes the following: Student Name, Program Director, Faculty Advisor if different from the Program Director, Title, Objective (including population), Research Methods and Analysis Methods, Anticipated Results/Hypotheses.	2		
PubH 8423	Dissertation Research DrPH Degree Dissertation Research Prereq: PubH 8422	6 to 12 credits required	Multiple – may be taken in increments of 1 to 12 credits	

Student _____ Date _____

DrPH Program Director _____ Date _____

I understand that any deviation from this Program of Study must be approved by the Program Director
Signatures:

Student _____ Date _____

Advisor _____ Date _____

DrPH Program Director _____ Date _____

**DrPH in Health Policy
Course Descriptions**

PubH (291)	6325	Federal Policy Making and Policy Advocacy	2	Focuses on how the Congressional budget and administrative regulatory processes shape the funding and design of federal health care programs, ranging from entitlement programs like Medicare to appropriated programs like community health centers. Prerequisite: PubH 6305 or approval by instructor. Fall, Spring
PubH (292)	6330	Health Services and Law	3	This course addresses the relationship of law and the legal system in the United States to the individual health care delivery system. It examines how various sources of law embody health policy and affect the organization, delivery, and financing of health care, as well as the regulation of health care quality and patient rights. Summer, Fall, Spring
PubH (293)	6335	Public Health and Law	3	Examines how law can both promote and impede the public's health. Introduces students to the legal concepts that underlie the public health system and that inform public health policymaking in the United States. Topics to be covered include the role of law in public health care and policy (e.g., governmental powers vs. civil liberties, regulation of public health, tobacco regulation), managed care and public health, the role of public health officials in shaping law and policy, and public health law reform. Spring
PubH (305)	6360	Advanced Maternal and Child Health Policy	1	In-depth exploration of maternal and child health policy in the U.S., with a particular emphasis on the role of personal and public health services for women, children, youth and their families in the context of health and human services system change. Prerequisite: PubH 6305 and 6315 or approval by instructor.
PubH (306)	6362	Civil Rights Issues in Health Care	2	Examines the intersection of health care and civil rights law in the United States: the history and legacy of health care discrimination in the U.S.; the various forms of health care discrimination; legislative and regulatory interventions to combat discrimination and create/enforce/restore health care civil rights; and the unique place that abortion rights holds in U.S. law and society. Prereq: PubH 6330.
PubH (313)	6376	Primary Health Care Policy	2	Explores the politics and policy of the provision of primary health care in the U.S. Covers the rise of the field of primary care and how it is supported and financed, and the role of insurers and government in regulation and oversight in the areas of access, cost, and quality. Prereq: PubH 6315
PubH (402)	8401	Foundations of Public Health Leadership and Practice— Doctoral Seminar	3	This interactive seminar course provides doctoral students with fundamental understanding of the history and current issues associated with the four principal program areas: Health Policy, Health Behavior, Global Health and Environmental and Occupational Health. Fall Year 1
PubH (401)	8402	Leadership in Public Health Practice and Policy	2	Principles of public health practice and policy with a focus on the interdisciplinary and strategic application of skills, knowledge and competencies necessary both to perform public health core functions and to enhance the capacity to perform these functions. Spring Year 2
PubH (404)	8404	Advanced Topics - Health Systems and Health Policy Research	3	Examination and assessment of issues related to the intersection of healthcare systems and health policy, and how health policy and health services research can inform the development and evaluation of healthcare systems and health policy. Prerequisite: PubH 6315, PubH 6320. Spring
PubH (408)	8405	Advanced Topics - Advanced Health Economics Research	3	Examines a range of critical financing issues for U.S. public health and health care services/systems. Considers the role of health services research in (1) understanding the effects of these issues and (2) informing the deliberations and decisions of policymakers. Prerequisite: PubH 6340. Fall

PubH (413)	8413	Research Leadership	1 to 6	Students participate in a range of activities designed to develop and enhance their research methods and analytic skills. These activities include participating in the development and submission of sponsored research proposals; being formally affiliated with a research project, assuming responsibility for completing a real-world research project; engaging in empirical data collection and analysis efforts.
PubH (414)	8414	Policy/Management Leadership	1 to 6	Students participate in a range of activities designed to develop and enhance their management, leadership and policymaking skills as applied to problem solving in real-world settings, such as public health departments, community health centers, legislative settings, and public or teaching hospitals.
PubH (412)	8415	Instructional Leadership	1 to 6	Students participate in a range of activities designed to develop and enhance their teaching skills. These activities include course development, teaching masters level courses, acting as TA for undergraduate courses, advising students about their class performance, evaluating student performance, and developing remedial programs for students.
PubH (416)	8416	Doctoral Research Methods I: Study Design and Evaluation Research	3	Prepares doctoral students to design and conduct program and policy evaluation in public health. Intensive introduction to the principles of study program design and evaluation research emphasizing the ability to synthesize the population-based intervention literature, apply planning and management methods, describe and apply research methods from a range of disciplines, and prepare a program research proposal. Prerequisite: DrPH student or instructor permission. Fall, Year 1.
PubH (415)	8417	Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis	3	Techniques for designing and conducting qualitative research and for analyzing and reporting qualitative data relevant to program development and implementation, community assessment, and policy analysis. Prerequisite: PubH 8416, Summer, Year 1
PubH (419)	8418	Doctoral Research Methods II: Statistical Methods	3	Intensive course in data management and data analysis using STATA . Database management system techniques and data analytical strategies for the appropriate analysis of data sets obtained from a variety of studies will be presented. The student will manipulate national data sets from epidemiological studies as well as Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data. Pre-requisite: PubH 8416. Spring, Year 1
PubH (403)	8419	Measurement in Public Health and Health Services Research	3	In this course students review principles of measurement and assessment as they apply to public health and health services research constructs, review existing state-of –the-art measures of individual and population health status (e.g., morbidity, mortality, functioning and health-related quality of life) and of individual and community health behavior, and explore current measurement issues in health research. Prerequisite: PubH 8418, Spring Year 2
PubH (420)	8420	Doctoral Research Methods III: Advanced Analysis and Dissemination	3	Advanced multivariate data analyses of complex datasets and programs, including advanced cross-sectional techniques, time-series analysis, and the use of panel data. Evaluation of results, and dissemination of findings to relevant stakeholders. Pre-requisite: PubH 8417, PubH 8418. Fall, Year 2.
PubH (417)	8422	Advanced Health Care and Public Health Research Design	2	Design of protocol suitable for implementation as part of Doctor of Public Health dissertation requirement. Prerequisites: Passing Comprehensive Exams, Approval of the Program Director, and a page-long abstract that includes the following: Student Name, Program Director, Faculty Advisor if different from the Program Director, Title, Objective (including population), Research Methods and Analysis Methods, Anticipated Results/Hypotheses. Grade = Credit/No Credit. Fall, Spring
PubH (418)	8423	Dissertation Research	1 to 12	Dissertation Research for DrPH, Prerequisite: PubH 8422. Note: 6 to 12 total credits of dissertation research are required. Students may register in increments of 1 to 12 credits.