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| THE GEORGE<br>WASHINGTON<br>UNIVERSITY<br>MEDICAL CENTER<br>WASHINGTON DC | School of Public Health and Health Services<br><br>Hirsh Health Law and Policy Program<br><br>Information Sheet |
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## Overview

The Hirsh Health Law and Policy Program of the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services (SPHHS) offers unique educational opportunities to law students, practicing lawyers, and health professions students. Endowed by Harold and Jane Hirsh and home to GW's joint degree programs in law and public health, the program is designed to foster an interdisciplinary approach to the study of health policy, health law, public health, and health care. The Hirsh Program's overall goal is to advance a greater understanding regarding how the law influences and shapes all facets of health care and public health, as well as how the changing system affects traditional areas of the law. At the same time, the program seeks to achieve the pragmatic objectives of readying law degree candidates and practicing lawyers for the broad range of health law-related careers that are available today.

Established in 1997 and located in Washington, D.C., the Hirsh Program is structured to allow students to take maximum advantage of its location at the center of the national health policy and law debate. The program is designed to provide a solid grounding in health, ranging from the study of the health system itself to extensive coursework in health policy and law. The program serves Juris Doctor (JD) and Master of Laws (LLM) candidates as well as lawyers pursuing health law careers and all manner of health profession students.

## Joint Degree Admissions Information

Applicants to the joint law-public health degree program may apply for admission to SPHHS at the time they apply to the Law School or after admission to the Law School. JD candidates who do not apply concurrently to the Law School and SPHHS are encouraged to file the MPH applications by the spring semester of their first year of law school. LLM candidates are encouraged to apply to SPHHS at the time they apply to the Law School or during their first semester on campus.

Applicants to the joint law-public health program must complete the application processes for both the GW Law School (JD/LLM) and for the School of Public Health and Health Services (MPH/Certificate). Admission to the joint degree program requires admissions acceptances from both Schools. However, because admission to each School is separate and distinct, applicants who are accepted by one School but not the other are free to enroll in the School to which they have been accepted.

Applications for both programs are available on the Internet (Law School: <http://www.law.gwu.edu>; SPHHS: [http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/admissions/sophas\\_inf.cfm](http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/admissions/sophas_inf.cfm)). Individuals applying simultaneously to both Schools who are seeking either an MPH degree or a Graduate Certificate must complete both the SOPHAS Application and the SPHHS Secondary Application (send a copy of your LSAT scores with your Secondary Application). Students who are currently enrolled in the GW Law School, or lawyers who are applying to the MPH or

Graduate Certificate Program, must submit both the SOPHAS Application and the SPHHS Secondary Application, but are not required to submit standardized test scores.

### **Program Costs**

SPHHS coursework taken while enrolled as a full- or part-time JD or LLM candidate is charged at the Law School tuition rate. The SPHHS tuition and fees rate are charged for summer coursework and for semesters when no Law School courses are taken. Lawyers pay the SPHHS tuition and fees rate.

### **Internship/Research Opportunities**

The Hirsh Program offers extensive assistance in arranging internships in Congressional offices, federal agencies, and the hundreds of national health organizations located in and throughout the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Through its affiliation with the SPHHS Center for Health Services Research and Policy, the program also engages in extensive law-related health policy research, offering Hirsh Program students paid and for-credit training opportunities throughout their period of study. Please visit the Center's website at <http://www.gwhealthpolicy.org> for a description of the type of research in which it engages.

### **Alumni**

The Hirsh Program maintains an active alumni group of lawyers and health professionals practicing in the D.C. area and throughout the country. Graduates of the Hirsh Program routinely accept positions at leading law firms, federal and state agencies, consulting firms, and universities in D.C. and other cities. The breadth of placements regularly attained by graduates in both the public and private sector illustrates the opportunities afforded under the program. Once in their chosen field of practice, alumni of the program recognize that their joint studies in policy, law, and public health are an invaluable asset on the job. Alumni in the practice of health law, on the one hand, report that their training in the SPHHS enables them to understand the myriad aspects of the health care system, including its structure, financing, and terminology. On the other hand, Hirsh Program alumni who spend their days as health professionals indicate that their training in the law earns them added respect from their employers and added credibility from the health care providers, agencies, and companies with which they interact.

### **Additional Information**

Additional information regarding the Hirsh Program can be found at <http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/hirsh>. Or, contact Joel Teitelbaum, J.D., LL.M., Managing Director of the Hirsh Program, at (202) 994-4233 or [joelt@gwu.edu](mailto:joelt@gwu.edu). For information about SPHHS admissions, contact Emily Rhineberger, Assistant Director of Admissions, at [sphehr@gwumc.edu](mailto:sphehr@gwumc.edu) or at Ross Hall, Suite 221, 2300 I Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.