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**Mission Statement**

The Maternal and Child Health program at the George Washington School of Public Health and Health Services is a Master of Public Health (MPH) program designed to train individuals to become responsible and productive public health professionals with an emphasis on MCH populations. This program investigates maternal and child health from a multi-disciplinary perspective that integrates the life course, biological, demographic, epidemiological, developmental, environmental, behavioral and social characteristics that are unique to the health and well-being of women, children and families.

**Goals**

The goals of this educational program are to provide and improve:

- ◆ Knowledge and skills to assess the health care needs of women, children, and families
- ◆ Ability to plan, design, implement, evaluate and communicate programs and research targeted toward health promotion, disease prevention among women, children, and families

**Course Requirements**

All George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services (SPHHS) MPH students who select the Maternal and Child Health Program enroll in Core Courses (16 credits), Program-Specific Required Courses (9 credits), Program-Specific Electives (8 credits). The 45 total credit requirement includes a Practicum experience, where students apply their classroom education in a Maternal and Child Health organization and/or research endeavor.

**Program-Specific Competencies**

The Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health have outlined 5 basic competency areas in MCH that our program strives to attain:

1. Scientific Basis of MCH public health practice
2. Methodological/Analytical Skills
3. Management and Communication Skills
4. Policy and Advocacy Skills
5. Values and Ethics in MCH Public Health Practice

Upon Completion of the MPH, Maternal and Child Health Program students should possess the following functional competencies:

- **Assess the individual, community, organizational and societal needs of women, children, and families.**

Students should be able to assess existing health related data and data sources on the health and well-being of women, children and families. Students should be able to collect health related data, distinguish between those factors that foster or hinder health and wellbeing, and infer needs of women, children and families from an assessment of health needs. Relevant courses: PubH 6550, 6551, 6555, 6552, 6553, 6557, 6556, 6560, 6554, 6561, 6530, 6558

- **Plan MCH related strategies, interventions and programs to improve the health of women, children and families.**

Student should have the ability to formulate appropriate and measurable program objectives, involve people and organizations in planning, develop a program plan with a logical scope and sequence, design strategies, interventions and programs that are consistent with the program objectives, select appropriate strategies to meet objectives and assess factors that may affect program implementation. Relevant courses: PubH 6007, 6551, 6555, 6514, 6561, 6531, 6501

- **Implement strategies, interventions and programs to meet the health needs of women, children and families.**

Students should have the knowledge on how to implement planned programs, to initiate a plan of action, select methods that best meet the program objectives and assess program implementation materials. Relevant courses: PubH 6551, 6556, 6531

- **Conduct evaluation and research related to the health and well-being of women, children and families.**

Students should have the ability to develop plans for evaluation and research, design/evaluate existing data collection instruments, interpret results from evaluation and research and infer implications from evaluation and research into the health and wellbeing of women, children and families. Relevant courses: PubH 6550, 6551, 6555, 6552, 6557, 6556, 6560, 6554, 6514, 6531, 6501, 6530, 6558, 6502

- **Administer MCH strategies, interventions and programs.**

Students should have the knowledge to exercise professional leadership, conduct strategic planning, apply ethical standards to the administration of programs and practice of public health, and communicate and foster cooperation among the community and public to meet the needs of women, children and families. Relevant courses: PubH 6553, 6514, 6531, 6532

- **Communicate and advocate for health and well-being of women, children and families.**

Students should have the capability to use health related information resources, select resource materials for dissemination, analyze and respond to current and future needs in MCH, apply a variety of communication methods and techniques, assess appropriateness of health education messages, techniques and dissemination, influence health policy to promote the health and well being of women, children and families. Relevant courses: PubH 6550, 6553, 6514, 6561, 6532, 6503, 6558, 6502

- **Knowledge and skills to incorporate a life course perspective to the health and well-being of women, children and families.** Relevant courses: PubH 6550, 6551, 6555, 6552, 6553, 6557, 6556, 6554, 6558

**Additional Certificate Information is available via the SPHHS website:**

**<http://sphhs.gwumc.edu/academics/graduateprograms/graduatecertificates/graduatecertificateinmaternalandchildhealth>**

**Please see the curriculum sheets that follow.**

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES		School of Public Health and Health Services Master of Public Health Maternal and Child Health Program Program-at-a-Glance		
<b>Begin Planning Your Practicum During Year 1</b>				
<b>Required Core Courses</b>				
Required Core Course		Credits	Semester Offered	Grade
PubH 6001	Biological Concepts for Public Health	2	Fall, Spring, Summer I	
PubH 6002	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health	3	Fall, Spring, Summer 10 wk	
PubH 6003	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology	3	Fall, Spring, Summer 10 wk	
PubH 6004	Environmental & Occup Health in a Sustainable World	2	Fall, Spring, Summer I	
PubH 6005	Policy Approaches to Public Health	2	Fall, Spring, Summer 10 wk	
PubH 6007	Social and Behavioral Approaches to Public Health	2	Fall, Spring, Summer	
PubH 6008	Management Approaches to Public Health	2	Fall, Spring, Summer 10-wk	
Total Core Credits		16		
<b>Required Department-Specific Courses</b>				
Required Department Courses (9 credits)		Credits	Semester Offered	Grade
PubH 6500	Planning and Administration of Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Programs (pre-req: PubH 6007)	2	Fall, Spring	
PubH 6501	Evaluation of Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Programs (pre-req: PubH 6500)	3	Fall, Spring	
PubH 6502	Practical Data Analysis for Prevention and Community Health	1	Fall, Spring, Summer	
PubH 6503	Introduction to Public Health Communication and Marketing	3	Fall, Spring	
<b>Required Program Courses (5 credits)</b>				
PubH 6550	Maternal and Child Health I ( <b>NOTE:</b> must be taken in the first spring semester enrolled in the program)	3	Spring	
PubH 6551	Maternal and Child Health II (pre-req: PubH 6550)	2	Spring	
<b>Program Specific Electives (select 8 credits)</b>				
PubH 6552	Women's Health	2	Spring	
PubH 6553	Adolescent Health	2	Fall	
PubH 6554	Children and Youth with Special Needs	2	Fall	
PubH 6555	Reproductive Health: US and Global Perspectives	2	Fall	
PubH 6556	Maternal and Child Nutrition	2	Summer	
PubH 6557	Child Development and Public Health	2	Fall	
PubH 6558	Women, Gender and Health: A Global Perspective	2	Spring	
PubH 6560	School Health and Safety	1 – 2	Summer (1 credit) Spring (2 credits)	
<b>Electives:</b> Any SPHHS Graduate Course(s)		3	Summer, Fall, Spring	
<b>Other Required Courses</b>				
PubH 6014.18	Practicum	2	See Advisor	
PubH 6015.18	Culminating Experience	2	See Advisor	
Course Distribution		Credits		
Public Health Core Courses		16		
Department Specific Courses		9		
Program-Specific Required Courses		5		
Program-Specific Electives		8		
Electives		3		
Practicum		2		
Culminating Experience		2		
<b>Total Degree Credits</b>		<b>45</b>		

Note: All curriculum revisions will be updated immediately on the website <http://www.gwumc.edu>

**Graduation Requirements  
 MPH**

1. **Graduate Credit Requirement.** 45 graduate credits are required.
2. **Course Requirements.** Successful completion of the Core Courses and the Program-Specific Courses are required.
3. **Grade Point Requirement.** A 3.0 (B average) overall grade point average is required.
4. **Time Limit Requirement.** The degree must be completed within four years.
5. **Transfer Credit Policy.** Up to 12 graduate credits that have not been applied to a previous graduate degree may be transferred to the MPH. Up to 18 credits may be transferred to the MPH from the SPHHS Graduate Certificate. Credits must have been earned from an accredited institution in the last 3 years with a grade point of 3.0 or better.

**Graduation Requirements  
 Graduate Certificate**

1. **Graduate Credit Requirement.** 18 graduate credits are required.
2. **Graduate Credit Requirement for students enrolled concurrently in a SPHHS Degree Program.** 12 credits are required.
3. The Program Director/Advisor must pre-approve all course selections and course sequencing by developing a “program of study” prior to the student’s initial registration. Graduate Certificate students meet with their advisor each semester before registration. All changes in this program of study must be pre-approved by the Program Director/Advisor.
4. **Course Requirements.** Since most graduate certificate students are currently enrolled in an MPH program or have previously earned a graduate degree, most course credits will be selected from the program-specific course list. Under no circumstances may a certificate student enroll in fewer than 9 credits of program-specific courses.
5. **Grade Point Requirement.** A 3.0 (B average) overall grade point average or better is required.
6. **Time Limit Requirement.** The certificate must be completed within two years.
7. **Transfer Credit Policy.** The Program Director/Advisor may approve up to 4 graduate credits that have not been applied to a previous graduate degree to be transferred to the graduate certificate. (Exceptions: GW master’s students and alumni may transfer up to 6 credits of the master’s degree to the Graduate Certificate.) The course(s) must be relevant to the graduate certificate. Credits must have been earned from an accredited institution in the last 3 years with a grade point of 3.0 or better.

**Maternal and Child Health Course Descriptions**

**SPHHS Required Core Courses  
 (16 Credits)**

PubH (201)	6001	Biological Concepts for Public Health	2	Provides an overview of current knowledge about biological mechanisms of major diseases causing death and disability in the US and globally; understanding and interpreting the reciprocal relationships of genetic, environmental, and behavioral determinants of health and disease in an ecologic context; analyzing, discussing, and communicating biologic principles of disease from a public health perspective. Fall, Spring , Summer 1
PubH (202)	6002	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health	3	Application of biostatistical principles to critical analysis of retrospective studies, prospective studies, and controlled clinical trials, as well as studies in the health services literature. Selection, basic calculations, and interpretation of statistical methods for detection of significant associations and differences. Fall, Spring,

				Summer 10 weeks
PubH (203)	6003	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology	3	General principles, methods, and applications of epidemiology. Outbreak investigations, measures of disease frequency, standardization of disease rates, study design, measures of association, hypothesis testing, bias, effect modification, causal inference, disease screening, and surveillance. Case studies apply these concepts to a variety of infectious, acute, and chronic health conditions affecting the population. Fall, Spring, Summer 10 weeks
PubH (204)	6004	Environmental and Occupational Health in a Sustainable World	2	Examines the connection between population health and exposures to chemical, physical, and biological agents in the environment. Through the use of problem-solving frameworks, students will become familiar with data sources, methodologies and policy approaches being used to address the public health impacts of environmental and occupational health hazards, including the consequences of climate change, natural resource degradation, and industrial chemicals. The course will integrate key concepts of environmental health with principles of sustainability to illustrate how public policies and practices on the local, national and global level affect population health. Fall, Spring, Summer 1
PubH (205)	6005	Policy Approaches to Public Health	2	Introductory multidisciplinary course focusing on the interplay of all aspects of global public health on health policy problems. Students will learn how health policy is made, how health care and public health services are delivered, and how to define and analyze key health policy problems drawing on the perspectives and skills of the public health disciplines. Fall, Spring, Summer 10 weeks
PubH (207)	6007	Social and Behavioral Approaches to Public Health	2	This course will emphasize social and behavioral science theories, models, and concepts that can be applied to public health problems and interventions. This course will describe the role of social and community factors, including race/ethnicity and culture, in both the onset and solution of public health problems and describe the inter-relationship between the social and behavioral science. Fall, Spring, and Summer 1
PubH (208)	6008	Management Approaches to Public Health	2	An advanced multidisciplinary course examining global public health and health delivery issues through the use of a case study approach. Prerequisites: PubH 6001, 6002, 6003, 6004, 6005, 6007. Fall, Spring, Summer 10 Weeks
<b>Required Department Courses (9 Credits)</b>				
PubH (382)	6500	Planning and Administration of Health Promotion, Disease Prevention Programs	2	In this course students will develop skills to effectively plan, implement, and manage programs that address public health problems for defined populations in a variety of settings. The PRECEDE/PROCEED framework will be used to guide this process. Pre-requisite PubH 6007. Fall, Spring
PubH (383)	6501	Evaluation of Health Promotion Disease/ Prevention Programs	3	Provides students with the knowledge, competencies and skills to plan and implement and evaluation of health promotion-disease prevention programs for a defined population at risk. Pre-requisite PubH 6500 Fall, Spring
PubH (390)	6502	Practical Data Analysis for Prevention and Community Health (PCH)	1	Practical aspects of dataset creation, data management, rudimentary statistical analysis, and tabular and graphical presentation of results using PASW (formerly SPSS) and Microsoft Excel. Students will create codebooks, enter and clean data, derive new variables from existing ones, choose and implement appropriate analytical techniques, graph and tabulate results, and document and protect work. Examples will be drawn from commonly-encountered situations in PCH, such as needs assessments and program evaluations. Prerequisites: PubH 6002, 6003, 6500. Fall, Spring, Summer
PubH (363)	6503	Introduction to Public Health Communication and Marketing	3	Communication theories and methods used in promoting health and preventing disease. Theoretical background in communication and behavior science and practical communication development methods. Fall, Spring

<b>Required Program Courses (5 Credits)</b>				
PubH (370)	6550	Maternal and Child Health I	3	Public health issues affecting the health and well-being of women, children, & families. A multidisciplinary perspective that integrates the biological, demographic, epidemiological, economic, behavioral, social, cultural & environmental aspects. Spring
PubH (371)	6551	Maternal and Child Health II	2	Specific intrapersonal, interpersonal, community, and social interventions and programs that impact the well-being of women, children, and adolescents. Students critically analyze current issues and apply theory to practice by using population-focused and evidence-based frameworks. Prerequisite: PubH 6550, Spring
<b>Program Specific Electives (8 credits)</b>				
PubH (372)	6555	Reproductive Health: US and Global Perspectives	2	Reproductive health from a variety of public health perspectives, from defining reproductive health, past perspectives, needed improvements, and the factors that influence reproductive health. Fall
PubH (368)	6552	Women's Health	2	Issues of women's health through the life cycle. The process of critically evaluating women's health research & issues. Spring
PubH (369)	6553	Adolescent Health	2	Issues of physical, mental, and social development and their bearing on the health of adolescents, with special emphasis on prevention. Fall
PubH (389)	6558	Women, Gender and Health: A Global Perspective	2	Focuses on gender as a social determinant of health. Emphasis will be placed on examining the frameworks that are used in public health research to understand gender-based issues and how these frameworks affect the types of programs and intervention efforts developed. Spring
PubH (381)	6557	Child Development and Public Health	2	Examination of the development of children from a public health perspective and provide a detailed examination of the indicators of children's health that are needed to assist public health professionals improve children's health. Fall
PubH (374)	6554	Children and Youth with Special Needs	2	In order to place children and youth with special needs into a public health framework, this course presents an introduction to and an overview of children and youth with special needs due to a developmental disability. Many aspects of developmental disability will be addressed including 'concept' and definitions of disability, causes, epidemiological considerations, and development of federal legislation. The scope and range of developmental disabilities will be reviewed along with classification schemes. Both national and international distributions will be considered from a sociopolitical viewpoint. Fall
PubH (380)	6556	Maternal and Child Nutrition	2	Covers the nutritional needs of women during the child bearing years, infants, children and adolescents. The course emphasizes the life course approach to nutrition and has a special emphasis on the effects of diet during infancy on obesity and degenerative diseases in later life. Students will examine the biological basis of nutrition, identify risk factors associated with poor nutrition in individuals and populations and evaluate domestic and international programs designed to meet the nutrient needs of this important segment of the population. Summer (1 credit), Spring (2 credits)
PubH (386)	6560	School Health and Safety	1 to 2	Examines the history, organization, financing, and politics of school health programs. It will provide an overview of the core components of school health as defined by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention: health services, health education, physical education, nutrition services, counseling or mental health, school environmental health, health promotion, and family/community involvement. Summer (1 credit), Spring (2 credits)
<b>Practicum and Culminating Experience</b>				
PubH (214)	6014.18	Practicum	2	This course provides the opportunity for MPH students to apply the knowledge and skills acquired through their programs of study. A planned, supervised and evaluated practice experience that is relevant to the student's program is an essential component of a public health professional degree program. These opportunities can take place in a variety of agencies or organizations. Each program customizes Practicum requirements to meet students' needs. (Credit/No Credit) Summer, Fall, Spring
PubH (215)	6015.18	Culminating Experience	2	A culminating experience is one that requires a student to synthesize and integrate knowledge acquired in coursework and other learning experiences and to apply theory and principles in a situation that approximates some aspect of professional

				practice. It is through this course that faculty evaluates the extent to which the student has mastered the body of knowledge and can demonstrate proficiency in the required competencies. Each program customizes Culminating Experience requirements to meet students' needs. Summer, Fall, Spring
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**NOTE: Always see your advisor for course scheduling and sequencing strategies, but remember that proper course selection, fulfilling requirements, and on-time graduation are your responsibilities.**

The Master of Public Health (MPH) curriculum consists of three types of courses:

- Required MPH Core Courses
- Required Departmental and Program-Specific Courses, including program specific electives and SPHHS electives
- Required Practicum and Culminating Experience

The MPH core courses are designed to provide students with a broad public health context as well as a critical foundation for subsequent coursework. Early completion of these core courses ensures that students will have the base of knowledge to successfully complete the program specific courses and to get as much as possible out of them. As such, entering students are expected to enroll in MPH core courses in accordance with the following guidelines:

- We expect MPH students to complete the MPH core courses in their first year of graduate study (fall/spring/summer). This does not include PubH 6008 (Management Approaches to Public Health), which should be taken in the second half of the program of study, and which requires every other core course as a pre-requisite.
- Further, we expect MPH students to complete the following MPH courses in the first three semesters of study:
  - PubH 6001 – Biological Concepts for Public Health
  - PubH 6002 – Biostatistics or PubH 6003 – Epidemiology
  - PubH 6005 – Policy Approaches to Public Health

These guidelines reinforce the principle that core courses should be taken early. However, since the core courses (minus PubH 6008) consist of only 14 credits, it is also both feasible and desirable for full-time students (who are taking at least 9 credits per semester) to take introductory program specific courses in their first year. Full time MCH students should take the core health promotion course PubH 6007 (2 credits) in the first two semesters of study, as well as PubH 6550 (3 credits) because these courses are prerequisites for most other program specific courses.

Part-time students (who generally take 6 or 7 credits per semester) will typically concentrate on taking core courses in their first year, including PubH 6007, and then take program-specific courses in their second and third years.

In order to help assure that all students complete core courses in the first year of study, SPHHS will offer all core courses during all three semesters (fall, spring, and summer). This will allow students who wish to complete their MPH degree within two years to do so, and will allow every student to make steady progress toward completing the MPH degree.

We recognize that there may be exceptional circumstances that make it difficult for a student to complete core courses in the first year as outlined above. Any such student should discuss this situation with his or her academic advisor. If the advisor and student agree that an exception is needed, the student should complete a Graduate Petition Form explaining the circumstances, obtain the academic advisor's signature, and submit the Petition to the SPHHS Office of Student Records, 222 Ross Hall. The Associate Dean for Student and Faculty Development must approve such a petition before a student is permitted to defer any core courses to the second year.