

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Department of Prevention & Community Health

Master of Public Health Maternal and Child Health (MCH)

2026-2027

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

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Mission Statement

The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) program at the Milken Institute School of Public Health (SPH) at the George Washington University is committed to improving the health and well-being of women, adolescents, and children through teaching, research, practice, policy and service. The MCH Master of Public Health (MPH) program is grounded in a life course perspective as an organizing framework that acknowledges distinct periods in human development and presents both risks and opportunities for interventions. Further, the academic program explores MCH from an interdisciplinary perspective that integrates the biological, demographic, epidemiological, developmental, environmental, behavioral and social characteristics that are unique to the health and well-being of women, adolescents, and children in the United States and around the world.

Goals & Competencies

The goals of the MCH MPH educational program are to provide and expand:

- Knowledge and skills to assess the health needs of MCH populations.
- Knowledge of and ability to use social and behavioral theory; behavior change models and strategies; and policies that have been shown to be successful in improving the health and well-being of MCH populations.
- Ability to plan, design, implement, evaluate and communicate programs and research targeted toward health promotion and/or disease prevention of MCH populations.
- Ability to advocate for improvements in social practices, policy and law that will provide supportive environments for the improvement of the health and well-being of MCH populations.

Upon completion of the MPH, Maternal and Child Health Program students should possess the competencies in the below table.

MCH MPH Program Competencies Mapped to Curriculum Components	
Competency	Courses (PUBH)
Assess the individual, community, organizational, and societal needs of women, adolescents, or children.	6003, 6007, 6500, 6550, 6551
Develop policies or programs based on behavioral theory frameworks to improve the health of women, adolescents, or children.	6007, 6012, 6500, 6550
Administer and implement policies or programs to improve health outcomes of an at-risk community.	6021, 6022, 6500, 6501
Conduct evaluation and research related to the health and well-being of women, adolescents, or children.	6002, 6501, 6551
Translate evidence and advocate for the health and well-being of women, adolescents, or children.	6012, 6550, 6551
Incorporate a life course perspective to the health and well-being of women, adolescents, and children.	6550

Course Requirements

All Milken Institute School of Public Health (SPH) MPH students who select the Maternal and Child Health Program enroll in MPH Core Courses (15 credits), Program-Specific Core Courses (12 credits), Program-Specific Electives (10 credits) and General Electives (6 credits). The 45 total credits requirement also includes a 2-credit capstone experience (PUBH 6564 and PUBH 6565), in which students apply their classroom education in a Maternal and Child Health applied research endeavor.

As an accredited School of Public Health, students in all GWSPH MPH programs are also required to fulfill both an interprofessional team experience and an applied practice experience. GWSPH has incorporated these requirements into the curriculum as follows:

Interprofessional Education (IPE) Experience (PUBH 6023):

MPH students are required to select an IPE experience from a host of options provided throughout enrollment to participate in a one-time, case-based or activity-based learning experience. The IPE experience is a way to actively participate in a supervised environment to work with people from other professions/programs outside of public health. Students are eligible to enroll in the IPE upon successful completion of most of the MPH core coursework including: PUBH 6002, 6003, 6007, 6011, 6012 and 6021. Students will have many opportunities to register for this zero-credit (no fee) IPE course (PUBH 6023- Interprofessional Education Experience) and will receive credit upon successful completion.

Applied Practice Experience (Practicum & EPR):

The Applied Practice Experience (APEX) may be satisfied with either a practicum or, for experienced public health professionals, through an expedited portfolio review (EPR).

The practicum is a planned, supervised, and evaluated practice experience that aims to provide students with an opportunity to synthesize, integrate, and apply practical skills, knowledge, and training learned through courses, to gain applied experience in a professional public health work environment, and to work on public health practice projects that are of particular interest to you. Information about the Practicum will be introduced through school-wide Practicum Information Sessions held by the Office of Applied Public Health and through meetings with your department practicum staff and faculty.

During the practicum, you will work at least 120 hours in the field under the supervision of the site preceptor who has agreed to directly supervise the work you are conducting. Students are required to fulfill all requirements of the 120-hour practicum to receive credit for PUBH 6000.

If you have had prior work experience, then you will find that the practicum provides the opportunity to hone skills or to gain new experience in a different area. However, if you have substantial public health experience relevant to your department/track, including 5+ years of full-time public health work for students after receiving your undergraduate degree, or 3+ years of full-time work for students who already have a graduate degree prior to beginning the MPH, then you may be able to satisfy the APEx requirement through an EPR instead of doing the practicum, with advanced approval by your department's practicum team.

Graduation Requirements

1. **Graduate Credit Requirement:** 45 graduate credits are required.
2. **Course Requirements:** Successful completion of the Core, Program-Specific, and General Elective Courses are required.
3. **Practicum Requirement:** Students are required to fulfill all requirements of the Applied Practice Experience.
4. **Interprofessional Education Experience:** Students are required to enroll and participate in an authorized IPE activity (PUBH 6023).
5. **Grade Point Requirement:** A 3.0 (B average) program grade point average is required.
6. **Time Limit Requirement:** The degree must be completed within five years.
7. **Transfer Credit Policy:** Up to 12 graduate credits that have not been applied to a previous graduate degree may be transferred to the MPH upon approval. Credits must have been earned from an accredited institution in the last 3 years with a grade point of 3.0 or better.
8. **CITI Training requirement:** All students are required to complete training regarding human subject protection regulation and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). To fulfill this requirement, you must complete the Collaborative IRB Training Initiative (CITI) Course in The Protection of Human Research Subjects.
9. **Integrity Quiz & Plagiarism requirement:** All students are required to review the George Washington University Code of Academic Integrity and take the quiz within their first semester of study. The Code of Integrity and step-by-step instructions can be found here: <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/integrity>
10. **Professional Enhancement requirement:** MCH students must participate in 8 hours of Public Health-related lectures, seminars, and symposia. Professional Enhancement activities supplement the academic curriculum and help prepare students to participate actively in the professional community. Opportunities for MCH-specific professional enhancement are regularly publicized via the MCH Listserv and through the program advisors. Students must submit documentation of Professional Enhancement activities to the Office of Student Records. The documentation consists of the Professional Enhancement Form <http://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/forms> (which includes a prior approval signature from the student's advisor, a description of the program agenda, and proof of attendance).

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Master of Public Health Maternal and Child Health Program

Program-at-a-Glance
2026-2027

Required Core Courses (15 credits)			
		Credits	Semester Offered
PUBH 6000	MPH Applied Practice Experience	0	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6002*	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6003*	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6007*	Social and Behavioral Approaches to Public Health	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6011	Environmental & Biological Foundations of Public Health	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6012	Fundamentals of Health Policy	2	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6021	Essentials of Public Health Practice & Leadership 1	1	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6022	Essentials of Public Health Practice & Leadership 2	1	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6023	Interprofessional Education Experience	0	Fall, Spring, Summer
Required Program-Specific Courses (12 credits)			
		Credits	Semester Offered
PUBH 6500*	Planning and Implementing Health Promotion Programs (pre-req: PUBH 6007)	3	Fall, Spring
PUBH 6501	Program Evaluation (pre-req: PUBH 6500)	3	Fall, Spring
PUBH 6550	Maternal and Child Health I: Foundations (must be taken in the first fall semester enrolled in the program)	3	Fall
PUBH 6551	Maternal and Child Health II: Advanced MCH Research (pre-req: PUBH 6002)	3	Fall
Program-Specific Selectives (select 10 credits from the list below)***			
MCH Populations			
PUBH 6552*	Women's Health	2	Online only
PUBH 6553	Adolescent Health	2	Spring
PUBH 6563*	Global Child Health	2	Fall, Online
PUBH 6555	Reproductive Health: US and Global Perspectives	2	Spring
PUBH 6560	School Health and Safety	2	Summer
EXNS 6242	Nutrition Through the Life Cycle	2	Fall
PUBH 6240	Pediatric HIV/AIDS	1	Summer
PUBH 6477	Structural Racism and Public Health	2	Spring
PUBH 6254	Epidemiology of LGBTQIA Health	1	Fall
PUBH 6269	Reproductive Epidemiology	1	Summer
PUBH 6284	Perinatal Epidemiology	1	Summer
Policy & Advocacy			
PUBH 6399	MCH Policy	2	Spring

PUBH 6378	HIV Policy in the U.S.	2	Spring, Fall
PUBH 6335*	Public Health & Law	3	Spring, Fall
PUBH 6310	Statistical Analysis in Health Policy	3	Spring, Summer, Fall
PUBH 6399	Community Health Center Practice and Policy	2	Fall
PUBH 6399	Emerging Health Policy Issues in Health Care Financing	1	Summer
PUBH 6399	Reproductive Health Policy	2	Summer
PUBH 6354	Substance Use Disorder Policy	2	Spring
PUBH 6399	Health Care on the Hill	1	Summer
PUBH 6399	Health Impact Assessments	2	Summer
PUBH 6340	Health Economics and Finance	3	Spring, Summer, Fall
Applied Methods & Program Design			
PUBH 6620	Designing Healthy Communities	2	Spring
PUBH 6503*	Introduction to Public Health Communications and Marketing	3	Fall, Spring, Summer
PUBH 6262	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems	1	Spring
PUBH 6853	Use of SAS for Data Management and Analysis	3	Fall, Spring
PUBH 6514*	Preventing Health Disparities	2	Fall, Spring
PUBH 6235	Epidemiology of Obesity	1	Summer
Global MCH			
PUBH 6451*	Monitoring/Evaluation of Sexual/Reproductive Health Programs in Low- and Middle- Income Countries	2	Online Only
PUBH 6400*	Global Health Frameworks	2	Spring
PUBH 6436	Global Health Program Management and Leadership	2	Fall
PUBH 6442*	Comparative Global Health Systems	2	Fall, online
PUBH 6465	Reproductive Health and Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Settings	1	Fall
PUBH 6481*	Global Mental Health	2	Spring
General Electives (6 credits)			
Any Graduate Course(s)		6	Fall, Spring, Summer
Culminating Experience (2 credits)			
PUBH 6564	MCH Proposal Development	1	Fall
PUBH 6565	MCH Culminating Experience	1	Spring
Course Distribution		Credits	
Public Health Core Courses		15	
Program-Specific Required Courses		12	
Program-Specific Selectives		10	
Electives		6	
Culminating Experience		2	
Total Degree Credits		45	

* These classes are additionally offered online. A maximum of 15 credits can be attributed to online courses.

*** Substitutions are allowed with advanced advisor approval.

Accelerated MPH Program in Maternal and Child Health

Milken Institute School of Public Health

Description

The MPH in Maternal and Child Health can be completed within one calendar year and is ideal for four types of students who wish to experience an intensive program of study in Maternal and Child Health in the Nation's Capital. This includes:

- Professionals with prior masters, law, medical, nursing or doctoral degrees in other fields
- Mid-level professionals with extensive health or other education or work experience
- Students who are planning to matriculate to a professional program within 18 months but wish to obtain public health knowledge to augment their future studies
- Students pursuing advanced training (e.g., medical school, nursing school) who wish to take only one year away from their primary studies to study Maternal and Child Health.

Admission and Graduation Requirements

Admissions and graduation requirements are identical to the two-year MPH. Students considering the one year curriculum are strongly advised to contact the Interim Program Director (Dr. McDonnell; mchdirector@gwu.edu) to discuss curriculum planning and scheduling. Students who opt to take longer than one year after entering the program may do so provided they meet the University's requirements for graduation.

Coursework

Milken Institute SPH provides flexible course offerings and allows on-campus students to take up to 15 credits online through MPH@GW. This is a great opportunity to accommodate the course load associated with an accelerated program. Some restrictions may apply. Students should confirm with their advisor prior to enrollment. Refer to the student handbook for more information on Flexible Programming:
<https://publichealth.gwu.edu/studenthandbook>

Sample Schedule

One-year MPH students work closely with a dedicated advisor to plan a curriculum that meets their educational goals. The sample schedule that follows is only a guide and not a requirement. **45 graduate credits** are required to receive an MPH in MCH. For questions about scheduling, please consult the MCH program director.

One year, Accelerated Sample Sequencing Schedule

Summer

Course #	Course Name	Cr
PUBH 6002***	Biostatistical Applications for Public Health	3
PUBH 6003	Principles and Practice of Epidemiology	3
PUBH 6007	Social and Behavioral Approaches to Public Health	2
PUBH 6012***	Fundamentals of Health Policy	2
PUBH 6021***	Essentials of Public Health Practice & Leadership I	1
Total		11

*** Can change out each of these with the Fall core course (see below)

Fall

Course #	Course Name	Cr
PUBH 6022	Essentials of Public Health Practice & Leadership II	1
PUBH 6023	Interprofessional Education Experience	0
PUBH 6550	Maternal and Child Health I	3
PUBH 6551	Maternal and Child Health II	3
PUBH 6500	Planning and Implementing Health Promotion Programs	3
PUBH 6564	MCH Culminating Experience Proposal Development	1
MCH Program-Specific Selectives		4
Electives		2
Total		17

Spring

Course #	Course Name	Cr
PUBH 6011	Environmental & Biological Foundations of Public Health	3
PUBH 6000	Applied Practice Experience	0
PUBH 6501	Program Evaluation	3
MCH Program-Specific Electives		6
Electives		2
Total		14

Summer

Course #	Course Name	Cr
PUBH 6565	MCH Culminating Experience	1
+2 credits SPH electives		2
Total		3

Total Credits: 45