Accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), the 42 credit-hour Master of Public Health (MPH) degree program is designed to prepare students with the foundational public health knowledge and competencies to address the most pressing and emerging health problems and concerns nationally and globally. Graduates are prepared to work in a variety of employment sectors including local, state, and federal health and social service agencies, non-governmental and voluntary health organizations, health care, and private industry. Students may choose from six highly specialized concentrations:

- Community Health Promotion
- Epidemiology
- Global Health
- Health Policy
- Public Health Communication
- Public Health Practice (offered 100% online)

In accordance with the CEPH accreditation standards, students are required to complete:

- Coursework in the public health core: 18 credits
- Specialized coursework in the concentration: 21 credits
- Fieldwork for the applied practice experience: 3 credits
- Total Credits: 42

Admissions decisions are based on a review of:

- applicant’s undergraduate academic performance and recent post-baccalaureate coursework (transcripts);
- GRE or equivalent scores;
- professional and volunteer experience;
- written statement of professional goals; and
- letters of recommendation.

Some background in statistics, biology, and the social sciences is preferred. Applicants must meet the admission standards and application requirements specified in Admissions. Applications must be submitted using the online Schools of Public Health Application System (http://www.sophas.org) (SOPHAS). Applications are considered for the fall semester only. For more information about application requirements and deadlines, please visit the CHHS Admissions website (http://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate/deadlines.cfm).

Transfer credit is governed by the policies outlined in AP.6.5.3 Graduate Transfer of Credit and AP.6.9 Requirements for Master’s Degrees, and transfer credit must be approved by the program director and the dean. Students who enroll initially through non-degree studies should seek academic advising through the department before taking a course and should plan to submit their application to the MPH program in their first semester of study.

Requirements

Degree Requirements
Total credits: 42

Students must complete 42 credits of graduate coursework with at least a 3.00 GPA in order to graduate. Each course listed below can be used to fulfill only one requirement toward the MPH degree. A graduate course in which a grade of C or below is earned may be repeated only once. Graduate students may repeat no more than two courses.

Public Health Core

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GCH 543</td>
<td>Global Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 560</td>
<td>Environmental Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 600</td>
<td>Health Promotion Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 601</td>
<td>Introduction to Biostatistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 645</td>
<td>U.S. and Global Public Health Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 712</td>
<td>Introduction to Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 792</td>
<td>Culminating Experience</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits: 18

Practicum Requirements

The required 200-hour practicum gives students the opportunity to apply and improve professional skills in a supervised practice setting and is completed in two parts. Students must have completed at least 21 credits toward the degree program in order to be eligible for their practicum. The first part is completed while enrolled in GCH 780 Practicum Seminar. This zero-credit course is designed to provide students an opportunity to identify and arrange their practicum placements in a structured environment. In the subsequent term, students perform work as interns at their selected placement sites for 200 contact hours and make final presentations of their experiences to the faculty and fellow students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GCH 780</td>
<td>Practicum Seminar</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 790</td>
<td>Practicum in Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits: 3

Concentration

Students must complete one concentration.

Concentration in Community Health Promotion (CMHP)

The Community Health Promotion concentration prepares health promotion specialists to work in local, state, and federal public health agencies, non-governmental health organizations, the healthcare sector, and private industry. Students in this concentration examine the social, behavioral, and environmental determinants associated with the most pressing health problems, and design, implement, and evaluate appropriate health promotion programs and preventive services to improve population health. The curriculum and practical experiences for this concentration are aligned with the core competencies for the social and behavioral sciences (Association of Schools and Programs for Public Health, MPH).
Health (ASPPH) and the Areas of Responsibilities and Competencies for Health Education Specialists (National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc., 2015) and prepare students for the Certified Public Health (CEPH) examination and both the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) and the Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) examinations.

**Required Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 620</td>
<td>Health Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 610</td>
<td>Health Behavior Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 611</td>
<td>Health Program Planning and Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 651</td>
<td>Behavioral Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 772</td>
<td>Social Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives** 6

Select six credits from the following:

- GCH 515 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Health
- GCH 571 HIV/AIDS: Concepts, Principles, and Interventions
- GCH 602 Global Health Issues Related to Violence
- GCH 612 Interventions in Public Health
- GCH 622 Mental Health: A Global Perspective
- GCH 626 Migrant Health
- GCH 640 Global Infectious Diseases
- GCH 650 Global Non-Communicable Diseases
- GCH 691 Project Management in Public Health
- GCH 762 Environmental Epidemiology
- GCH 782 International Research Ethics and Methods
- GCH 804 Advanced Quantitative Data Analysis for Health Care Research I
- GGS 540 Health Geography
- GGS 553 Geographic Information Systems
- NUTR 620 Nutrition Education
- NUTR 630 Global Nutrition
- NUTR 651 Nutrition Assessment, Monitoring and Surveillance
- COMM 637 Risk Communication
- COMM 639 Science Communication
- COMM 660 Climate Change and Sustainability Communication Campaigns
- COMM 721 E-Health Communication
- EVPP 506 Science of the Environment I
- EVPP 641 Environmental Science and Public Policy
- EVPP 745 Environmental Toxicology
- SOCI 635 Environment and Society
- BIOL 666 Human Genetics Concepts for Health Care
- PUAD 502 Administration in Public and Nonprofit Organizations
- PUAD 505 Introduction to Management of Nonprofits
- PUAD 630 Emergency Planning and Preparedness
- PUAD 636 The NGO: Policy and Management

Advisor-approved elective course

**Total Credits** 21

**Concentration in Epidemiology (EPID)**

The Epidemiology concentration prepares students to investigate and analyze factors that influence the occurrence, distribution, prevention, and control of disease. Emphasis is placed on the development of such skills as study design, data collection and management, data analysis and interpretation, and communication of research findings.

**Required Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GCH 722</td>
<td>Infectious Disease Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 732</td>
<td>Chronic Disease Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 804</td>
<td>Advanced Quantitative Data Analysis for Health Care Research I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 726</td>
<td>Advanced Methods in Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or GCH 805</td>
<td>Advanced Quantitative Data Analysis for Health Care Research II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 762</td>
<td>Environmental Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or GCH 772</td>
<td>Social Epidemiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives** 6

Select six credits from the following:

- GCH 571 HIV/AIDS: Concepts, Principles, and Interventions
- GCH 691 Project Management in Public Health
- GCH 726 Advanced Methods in Epidemiology
- GCH 762 Environmental Epidemiology
- GCH 772 Social Epidemiology
- GCH 805 Advanced Quantitative Data Analysis for Health Care Research II
- GCH 806 Advanced Multivariate Statistics and Data Analysis for Health Care Research
- GCH 807 Measurement Theories and Applications in Health Care Research
- GGS 540 Health Geography
- GGS 553 Geographic Information Systems
- GGS 581 World Food and Population
- CSS 600 Introduction to Computational Social Science
- STAT 501 SAS Language and Basic Procedures
- STAT 502 Introduction to SAS Statistical Graphics
- STAT 503 SAS Macro Language
- STAT 535 Analysis of Experimental Data
- STAT 554 Applied Statistics I
- STAT 560 Biostatistical Methods
- NUTR 630 Global Nutrition
- COMM 620 Health Communication
- COMM 637 Risk Communication
- COMM 639 Science Communication
- COMM 640 Controversies in Science Communication
- COMM 641 Advanced Communication Skills for STEM
- COMM 642 Science and the Public
- COMM 660 Climate Change and Sustainability Communication Campaigns
Concentration in Global Health (GLOH)

The Global Health concentration prepares students to apply the tools of public health to the promotion of health in communities, countries, regions, and the world. Concentration coursework emphasizes comparative global health metrics; the socioeconomic, environmental, and other risk factors associated with transnational health concerns; and ethical and effective strategies for preventing and controlling infectious and non-communicable diseases in diverse populations. Students gain professional communication skills and develop competencies in program planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

Required Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 605</td>
<td>Intercultural Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or COMM 705</td>
<td>Intercultural Health and Risk Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 611</td>
<td>Health Program Planning and Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 626</td>
<td>Migrant Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 640</td>
<td>Global Infectious Diseases</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 650</td>
<td>Global Non-Communicable Diseases</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives

Select six credits from the following:

- GCH 515: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Health
- GCH 602: Global Health Issues Related to Violence
- GCH 612: Interventions in Public Health
- GCH 691: Project Management in Public Health
- GCH 762: Environmental Epidemiology
- GCH 772: Social Epidemiology
- GCH 804: Advanced Quantitative Data Analysis for Health Care Research I
- GGS 540: Health Geography
- GGS 553: Geographic Information Systems
- GGS 581: World Food and Population
- NUTR 583: Food and Culture
- NUTR 630: Global Nutrition
- NUTR 651: Nutrition Assessment, Monitoring and Surveillance
- COMM 620: Health Communication

Advisor-approved elective course

Total Credits: 21

Concentration in Health Policy (HTHP)

The Health Policy concentration addresses the nature and importance of policy and policy-making in today’s public health system. Through coursework and opportunities for practical application, students are introduced to the context and process for policy-making in public health, including the current political, economic, and legal environment for health policy and the basic elements of the public policy-making process and government payment systems. Students graduate with the knowledge and abilities needed to engage with public health and advocacy organizations on policy issues and to analyze and support policy approaches in an era of scarce public resources and ever-changing priorities.

Required Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HAP 661</td>
<td>Policy Development and Analysis for Community Health Programs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAP 715</td>
<td>Health Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAP 750</td>
<td>Legal Issues in Health Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAP 764</td>
<td>Health Policy and Government Payment Systems for Health Care Services</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAP 793</td>
<td>Final Project in Applied Health Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives

Select six credits from the following:

- HAP 511: Ethics in Public Health
- HAP 632: Grants Funding and Development
- HAP 652: Essentials of Health Insurance and Managed Care
- HAP 662: Health Policy for Elders and People with Disabilities
- HAP 712: Topics in Public Policy
- HAP 742: Health Policy Development and Analysis
- HAP 745: Health Care Security Policy
- HAP 746: Health Policy Leadership
- HAP 766: Policy Implementation and Health System Management Dilemmas

Advisor-approved elective course

Total Credits: 21
Concentration in Public Health Communication (PHCM)
The Public Health Communication concentration prepares students to effectively use communication strategies to inform and influence individual and community decisions that affect health. This highly-specialized concentration links the fields of communication and public health and is increasingly recognized as a necessary element of efforts to improve personal and public health. The public health communication concentration emphasizes designing, evaluating, and implementing effective communication strategies and messages to address the health needs of diverse audiences.

Required Courses
COMM 620 Health Communication 3
COMM 637 Risk Communication 3
COMM 670 Social Marketing 3
COMM 721 E-Health Communication 3
COMM 820 Health Communication Campaigns 3
Electives 6
Select six credits from the following:
GCH 515 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Health
GCH 571 HIV/AIDS: Concepts, Principles, and Interventions
GCH 602 Global Health Issues Related to Violence
GCH 612 Interventions in Public Health
GCH 622 Mental Health: A Global Perspective
GCH 626 Migrant Health
GCH 640 Global Infectious Diseases
GCH 650 Global Non-Communicable Diseases
GCH 691 Project Management in Public Health
GCH 762 Environmental Epidemiology
GCH 804 Advanced Quantitative Data Analysis for Health Care Research I
GGS 540 Health Geography
GGS 553 Geographic Information Systems
GGS 581 World Food and Population
NUTR 583 Food and Culture
NUTR 651 Nutrition Assessment, Monitoring and Surveillance
NUTR 630 Global Nutrition
COMM 639 Science Communication
COMM 660 Climate Change and Sustainability Communication Campaigns
EVPP 506 Science of the Environment I
EVPP 641 Environmental Science and Public Policy
SOCI 635 Environment and Society
BIOL 685 Emerging Infectious Diseases
PUAD 502 Administration in Public and Nonprofit Organizations
PUAD 505 Introduction to Management of Nonprofits
PUAD 630 Emergency Planning and Preparedness
PUAD 636 The NGO: Policy and Management
Advisor-approved elective course
Total Credits 21

Concentration in Public Health Practice (PHP)
The Public Health Practice concentration (offered 100% online) is designed to advance the competencies of public health practitioners and other health professionals to fulfill their roles and responsibilities in local, state, and federal public health agencies and non-governmental health-related organizations. Students in this concentration examine the social and environmental factors associated with improving population and community health with a focus on the application of evidence-based public health concepts. This concentration emphasizes public health practice, which comprises disease prevention; community-based participatory approaches; health assessment; planning and evaluating interventions; risk communication; and leadership and management. The curriculum and practicum for this concentration align with the Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals and prepare students for the Certified in Public Health (CPH) examination.

Required Courses
COMM 637 Risk Communication 3
GCH 607 Evidence-Based Public Health Practice 3
GCH 609 Community Assessment and Partnerships 3
GCH 611 Health Program Planning and Evaluation 3
HAP 680 Applied Public Health Leadership and Management 3
Electives 6
Select six credits from the following:
BIOD 610 Advanced Topics in Global Health Security
BIOD 620 Global Health Security Policy
CONF 501 Introduction to Conflict Analysis and Resolution
GCH 571 HIV/AIDS: Concepts, Principles, and Interventions
GCH 691 Project Management in Public Health
GCH 726 Advanced Methods in Epidemiology
HHS 646 Social Gerontology
NUTR 630 Global Nutrition
PUAD 630 Emergency Planning and Preparedness
PUAD 631 Disaster Response Operations and Recovery
Advisor-approved elective course
Total Credits 21

Accelerated Master’s
Bachelor’s Degree (any)/Public Health, Accelerated MPH
Overview
Highly-qualified undergraduates in any major may apply to the accelerated Master of Public Health (MPH). If accepted, and depending on their undergraduate major, students will be able to earn a bachelor’s degree in their chosen major and the Master of Public Health after
successfully completing 156 credits. See AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees for policies related to this option.

Students in an accelerated degree program must fulfill all university requirements for the master's degree. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see the AP.6 Graduate Policies section of the catalog.

Application Requirements
Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Admissions. For information specific to the accelerated MPH, see Application Requirements and Deadlines on the departmental web site (http://chhs.gmu.edu/gch).

Applicants to the accelerated MPH program must have completed at least 75 credits that apply to their undergraduate degree (with at least 24 credits completed at Mason) and no more than 90 credits. Students must submit:

• a completed application form (available at the department website)
• a career goal statement that includes a declaration of their desired concentration within the MPH program
• two letters of recommendation, one of which must come from a Department of Global and Community Health faculty member.

Students may submit their applications to the accelerated MPH program upon completion of or while enrolled in the following courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GCH 300</td>
<td>Introduction to Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 335</td>
<td>Applied Health Statistics ¹</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 302</td>
<td>Advanced Composition (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ BIOL 214, PSYC 300, SOCI 313, or another statistics course may be substituted with approval by the MPH graduate program coordinator.

Accelerated Option Requirements
While undergraduate students, accelerated master’s students may complete two of the courses listed below to be applied to their bachelor’s degree. A minimum grade of 3.00 must be earned in each course. Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.00 in all coursework and in coursework applied to the major (or with permission of the graduate program director). Upon completion and conferral of the undergraduate degree in the semester indicated on the application, students submit the Bachelor’s/Accelerated Master’s Transition Form (http://registrar.gmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/BAMT.pdf) and are admitted to graduate status.

Select two from the following: 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GCH 543</td>
<td>Global Health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 560</td>
<td>Environmental Health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 600</td>
<td>Health Promotion Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 601</td>
<td>Introduction to Biostatistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 645</td>
<td>U.S. and Global Public Health Systems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 6

As graduate students, accelerated master’s students have an advanced standing. Students must begin their master’s program the semester immediately following conferral of the undergraduate degree.

Reserve Graduate Credit
While still undergraduates, students in the accelerated master's program may take up to 6 additional graduate credits from the courses listed above that have not already been taken. These “reserve credits” do not apply to the student's undergraduate degree but may later be applied to their master's degree, using the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form (http://registrar.gmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/BAMT.pdf).

The ability to take courses, including those not listed above, for reserve graduate credit is available to all high-achieving undergraduates with the permission of the department. Permission is normally granted only to qualified Mason seniors within 15 hours of graduation. See AP.1.4.4 Graduate Course Enrollment by Undergraduates.