

PUBLIC HEALTH, MPH

Banner Code: HH-MPH-PUBH

Website: publichealth.gmu.edu

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 seven highly specialized concentrations:

- Community Health Promotion
- Epidemiology
- Food Security and Nutrition
- Global Health
- Health Policy
- Public Health Communication
- Public Health Practice (offered 100% online only)

In accordance with the CEPH accreditation standards, students are required to complete coursework in the public health core and one concentration, as well as fieldwork for the applied practice experience.

Admissions & Policies

Admissions

Admission decisions are based on a review of:

- applicant's undergraduate academic performance and recent post-baccalaureate coursework (transcripts);
- GRE 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 (<https://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/standards-requirements-and-deadlines>).

Food Security and Nutrition Concentration

To be admitted to the Food Security and Nutrition Concentration, students must have taken NUTR 295 Introduction to Nutrition (Mason Core) or a substitute approved by the Department of Nutrition and Food Studies.

Public Health Practice Concentration

To be admitted to the Public Health Practice Concentration, students must have at least two years' work experience in a health-related field.

Policies

Transfer of Credit

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

Code	Title	Credits
GCH 500	Foundations of Public Health	3
GCH 604	Fundamentals of Epidemiology and Biostatistics	3
GCH 609	Community Assessment and Partnerships	3
GCH 611	Health Program Planning and Evaluation	3
GCH 645	U.S. and Global Public Health Systems	3
HAP 640	Current Issues in Health Policy	3
HAP 680	Applied Public Health Leadership and Management	3
Total Credits		21

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.

Code	Title	Credits
GCH 780	Practicum Seminar	0
GCH 790	Practicum in Public Health	3
GCH 792	Integrative Learning Experience	0
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 [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.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
COMM 620	Health Communication	3
GCH 601	Introduction to Biostatistics	3
GCH 610	Health Behavior Theory	3
GCH 651	Behavioral Research Methods	3
GCH 772	Social Epidemiology	3
Electives		
Select three credits from the following:		3
BIOL 666	Human Genetics Concepts for Health Care	
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	
GCH 515	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Health	
GCH 535	Public Health Preparedness and Response	
GCH 543	Global Health	
GCH 560	Environmental Health	
GCH 571	HIV/AIDS: Concepts, Principles, and Interventions	
GCH 600	Health Promotion Methods	
GCH 612		

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	
GG5 540	Health Geography	
GG5 553	Geographic Information Systems	
NUTR 620	Nutrition Education	
NUTR 630	Global Nutrition	
NUTR 651	Nutrition Assessment, Monitoring and Surveillance	
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	
SOCI 635	Environment and Society	
Advisor-approved elective course		
Total Credits		18

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.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
GCH 712	Introduction to Epidemiology	3
GCH 726	Advanced Methods in Epidemiology I	3
GCH 762	Environmental Epidemiology	3
or GCH 722	Infectious Disease Epidemiology	
or GCH 732	Chronic Disease Epidemiology	
or GCH 772	Social Epidemiology	
GCH 804	Biostatistics for Public Health I	3
GCH 805	Biostatistics for Public Health II	3
Electives		
Select three credits from the following:		3
BIOL 574	Population Genetics	
CSS 600	Introduction to Computational Social Science	
EVPP 641	Environmental Science and Public Policy	
GCH 543	Global Health	
GCH 560	Environmental Health	
GCH 600	Health Promotion Methods	
GCH 607	Evidence-Based Public Health Practice	
GCH 632	SAS for Health Research	
GCH 651	Behavioral Research Methods	
GCH 722	Infectious Disease Epidemiology	
GCH 732	Chronic Disease Epidemiology	
GCH 752	Nutritional Epidemiology	
GCH 762	Environmental Epidemiology	

GCH 772	Social Epidemiology	
GGS 540	Health Geography	
GGS 553	Geographic Information Systems	
NUTR 630	Global Nutrition	
Advisor-approved elective course		
Total Credits		18

Concentration in Food Security and Nutrition (FSN)

The Food Security and Nutrition concentration is designed to provide public health students the knowledge and skills necessary to implement food security and nutrition programs and policies within a global public health context. Students will explore and apply the definitions, means of measurement, and policy implications of food security and nutrition through a multidisciplinary approach. This concentration emphasizes the role of food security and nutrition in public health at the local, regional, and global levels.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
NUTR 608	Perspectives on Food Security	3
NUTR 610	Food Safety and Defense	3
NUTR 626	Food Systems	3
NUTR 630	Global Nutrition	3
NUTR 651	Nutrition Assessment, Monitoring and Surveillance	3
Electives		
Select three credits from the following:		3
GCH 601	Introduction to Biostatistics	
GCH 626	Migrant Health	
GCH 732	Chronic Disease Epidemiology	
GCH 752	Nutritional Epidemiology	
NUTR 515	Fundamentals of Cooking	
NUTR 522	Nutrition Across the Lifespan	
NUTR 530	Introduction to Wine and Beer	
NUTR 535	Urban Agriculture	
NUTR 570	Food Science for Nutritionists	
NUTR 583	Food and Culture	
NUTR 620	Nutrition Education	
NUTR 642	Macronutrients	
NUTR 644	Micronutrients	
NUTR 670	Nutrition Research Methods	
NUTR 675	Nutrition Program Development, Interventions and Assessments	
Advisor-approved elective course		
Total Credits		18

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.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
GCH 543	Global Health	3
GCH 626	Migrant Health	3
GCH 640	Global Infectious Diseases	3
GCH 650	Global Non-Communicable Diseases	3
GLOA 600	Global Competencies	3
Electives		
Select three credits from the following:		3
BIOL 685	Emerging Infectious Diseases	
COMM 620	Health Communication	
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	
GCH 515	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Health	
GCH 535	Public Health Preparedness and Response	
GCH 571	HIV/AIDS: Concepts, Principles, and Interventions	
GCH 591	Study Abroad in Public Health	
GCH 600	Health Promotion Methods	
GCH 607	Evidence-Based Public Health Practice	
GCH 610	Health Behavior Theory	
GCH 612		
GCH 632	SAS for Health Research	
GCH 651	Behavioral Research Methods	
GCH 691	Project Management in Public Health	
GCH 762	Environmental Epidemiology	
GCH 772	Social Epidemiology	
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	
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	
SOCI 635	Environment and Society	
Advisor-approved elective course		
Total Credits		18

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.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
HAP 602 or HAP 719	Statistics in Health Services Management Advanced Statistics in Health Services Research I	3
HAP 715	Health Economics	3
HAP 742	Health Policy Development and Analysis	3
HAP 764	Health Policy and Government Payment Systems for Health Care Services	3
HAP 793	Final Project in Applied Health Policy	3
Electives		
Select three credits from the following:		3
HAP 652	Essentials of Health Insurance and Managed Care	
HAP 712	Topics in Public Policy	
HAP 745	Health Care Security Policy	
HAP 746	Health Policy Leadership	
Advisor-approved elective course		
Total Credits		18

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.

Code	Title	Credits
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		
Select three credits from the following:		3
BIOL 685	Emerging Infectious Diseases	
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	
GCH 515	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Health	
GCH 571	HIV/AIDS: Concepts, Principles, and Interventions	
GCH 612		
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 772	Social Epidemiology	
GCH 804	Biostatistics for Public Health I	
GG5 540	Health Geography	
GG5 553	Geographic Information Systems	
GG5 581	World Food and Population	
NUTR 583	Food and Culture	
NUTR 651	Nutrition Assessment, Monitoring and Surveillance	
NUTR 630	Global Nutrition	
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	
SOCI 635	Environment and Society	
Advisor-approved elective course		
Total Credits		18

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.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
COMM 637	Risk Communication	3
GCH 535	Public Health Preparedness and Response	3
GCH 601	Introduction to Biostatistics	3
GCH 607	Evidence-Based Public Health Practice	3
GCH 691	Project Management in Public Health	3
Electives		

Select three credits from the following:		3
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	
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		18

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, review the departmental web site (<https://publichealth.gmu.edu/program/view/495566>).

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 admissions website (<https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/how-apply/accelerated-masters>))
- 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:

Code	Title	Credits
GCH 300	Introduction to Public Health	3
GCH 335	Applied Health Statistics ¹	3
ENGH 302	Advanced Composition (Mason Core)	3

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.

Code	Title	Credits
Select two from the following:		6
GCH 500	Foundations of Public Health	
GCH 604	Fundamentals of Epidemiology and Biostatistics	
GCH 609	Community Assessment and Partnerships	
GCH 645	U.S. and Global Public Health Systems	
HAP 640	Current Issues in Health Policy	
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.