Public Health, MPH

Banner Code: HH-MPH-PUBH

Academic Advising

Website: https://chhs.gmu.edu/students/academic-advising/graduate-advising

Website: https://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. As a CEPH-accredited program, all graduates are eligible to sit for the Certified in Public Health (CPH) examination.

Admissions & Policies

Admissions

Admission decisions are based on a review of:

- undergraduate academic performance and recent post-baccalaureate coursework (transcripts)
- professional and volunteer experience
- statement of goals and objectives
- 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 (http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/). 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) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/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 (http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-5-3) and AP.6.9 Requirements for Master’s Degrees (http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-9), 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>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GCH 500</td>
<td>Foundations of Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 604</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Epidemiology and Biostatistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 609</td>
<td>Community Assessment and Partnerships</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 611</td>
<td>Health Program Planning and Evaluation</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>HAP 635</td>
<td>Role of Government in Health Care and Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAP 680</td>
<td>Applied Public Health Leadership and Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 21

Practicum Requirements

This required 200-hour practicum gives students the opportunity to practice and improve professional skills in a supervised setting. Students must have completed at least 21 credits toward the degree program in order to be eligible for their practicum.
The requirements to complete the practicum are in three courses over two semesters, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>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>
<tr>
<td>GCH 792</td>
<td>Integrative Learning Experience</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Credits</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Concentration**

Students must complete one concentration.

**Concentration in Community Health Promotion (CMHP)**

Students examine the social and behavioral determinants associated with the most pressing health problems in order to improve population health through the design, implementation, and evaluation of health promotion programs. Graduates of this concentration are eligible to sit for the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES®) exam.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GCH 607</td>
<td>Evidence-Based Public Health Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 610</td>
<td>Health Behavior Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 620</td>
<td>Public Health Promotion Strategies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 651</td>
<td>Behavioral Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 700</td>
<td>Social and Ecological Determinants of Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 626 Migrant Health
- GCH 640 Global Infectious Diseases
- GCH 650 Global Non-Communicable Diseases
- GCH 691 Project Management in Public Health
- GCH 730 Interventions in Public Health
- GCH 762 Environmental Epidemiology
- GGS 540 Health Geography
- GGS 553 Geographic Information Systems

**Concentration in Epidemiology (EPID)**

Students develop strong quantitative skills 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.

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<tr>
<td>GCH 712</td>
<td>Introduction to Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 726</td>
<td>Advanced Methods in Epidemiology I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 762</td>
<td>Environmental Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or GCH 722</td>
<td>Infectious Disease Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or GCH 732</td>
<td>Chronic Disease Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or GCH 772</td>
<td>Social Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 804</td>
<td>Biostatistics for Public Health I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 805</td>
<td>Biostatistics for Public Health II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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)

Students in this interdisciplinary concentration create population health approaches to implement food security and nutrition programs and policies at the local, regional and global levels. Students explore definitions, measurement, and policy implications of food security and nutrition through a multidisciplinary approach.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NUTR 608</td>
<td>Perspectives on Food Security</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUTR 610</td>
<td>Food Safety and Defense</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUTR 626</td>
<td>Food Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUTR 630</td>
<td>Global Nutrition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUTR 651</td>
<td>Nutrition Assessment, Monitoring and Surveillance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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)

Students develop competencies and apply skills to promote health in a global context, emphasizing 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GCH 543</td>
<td>Global Health</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>
<tr>
<td>GLOA 600</td>
<td>Global Competencies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 632 SAS for Health Research
- GCH 651 Behavioral Research Methods
- GCH 691 Project Management in Public Health
- GCH 730 Interventions 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)

Students address the nature and importance of policy and policy-making in today's public health system in order 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. 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HAP 602</td>
<td>Statistics in Health Services Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or HAP 719</td>
<td>Advanced Statistics in Health Services Research I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAP 715</td>
<td>Health Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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)
Students design, evaluate, and implement effective communication strategies and messages to inform and influence individual and community decisions that affect health. This interdisciplinary concentration links the fields of communication and public health.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 620</td>
<td>Health Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 637</td>
<td>Risk Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 670</td>
<td>Social Marketing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 721</td>
<td>E-Health Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 820</td>
<td>Health Communication Campaigns</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 626 Migrant Health
GCH 640 Global Infectious Diseases
GCH 650 Global Non-Communicable Diseases
GCH 691 Project Management in Public Health
GCH 730 Interventions in Public Health
GCH 762 Environmental Epidemiology
GCH 772 Social Epidemiology
GCH 804 Biostatistics for Public Health I
GHS 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

Total Credits  18

Concentration in Public Health Practice (PHP)
Students 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. 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.

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<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMM 637</td>
<td>Risk Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 535</td>
<td>Public Health Preparedness and Response</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 601</td>
<td>Introduction to Biostatistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 607</td>
<td>Evidence-Based Public Health Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 691</td>
<td>Project Management in Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives
Select three credits from the following:  3
BIOD 610 Advanced Topics in Global Health Security
BID 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 may be admitted to the bachelor’s/accelerated master’s (BAM) program and obtain any bachelor’s degree and an MPH in Public Health in an accelerated time-frame after satisfactory completion of a minimum of 150 credits.
See AP6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degree (https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7) for policies related to this program.

Students in an accelerated degree program must fulfill all university requirements for the master's degree. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP6 Graduate Policies (https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/).

### BAM Pathway Admission Requirements

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions Policies and Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degree policies. For information specific to this accelerated master's program, see the Department of Global and Community Health's Accelerated Bachelor's/MPH (https://publichealth.gmu.edu/program/view/495566/) website.

Students will be considered for admission into the BAM Pathway after completion of at least 60 credits with a minimum overall 3.25 GPA, and:

- A completed application form (available at the admissions website);
- A career goal statement, between 500 and 750 words in length, that addresses the following:
  - Why are you applying to Mason's MPH program, and the concentration you chose?
  - How will earning an MPH help you achieve your professional goals?
  - What have you learned from successes and/or challenges in your past educational, professional, and/or personal experiences? Please use specific examples, as applicable.
- Two academic letters of recommendation, one of which must come from a Department of Global and Community Health faculty member. The second letter may come from an employer if a student has had significant public health related experience.

Students may submit their application to the BAM Pathway after completion of the following classes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</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>ENGH 302</td>
<td>Advanced Composition (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 250</td>
<td>Introductory Statistics I (Mason Core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Students may take any Mason Core Quantitative Reasoning course

Students who are accepted into the BAM Pathway will be allowed to register for graduate level courses after successful completion of a minimum of 75 undergraduate credits and course-specific pre-requisites.

### Accelerated Master's Admission Requirements

Students already admitted in the BAM Pathway will be admitted to the MPH program if they have met the following criteria, as verified on the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form (http://registrar.gmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/BAMT.pdf):

- 3.00 overall GPA
- 3.00 GPA in graduate-level coursework
- Successfully meeting Mason's requirements for undergraduate degree conferral (graduation) and completing the application for graduation.

### Accelerated Pathway Requirements

Students may take up to four graduate level courses (12 credits) that count as advanced standing. These courses also substitute for BS in Community Health major-specific degree requirements. To maintain the integrity and quality of both the undergraduate and graduate degree programs, undergraduate students interested in taking graduate courses must choose from the following:

<table>
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<td>GCH 604</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Epidemiology and Biostatistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 609</td>
<td>Community Assessment and Partnerships</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH 611</td>
<td>Health Program Planning and Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits: 12

### Reserve Graduate Credit

While still undergraduates, students in the accelerated master's program may take up to 6 additional graduate credits. 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).

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GCH 645</td>
<td>U.S. and Global Public Health Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAP 635</td>
<td>Role of Government in Health Care and Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits: 6

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. See AP1.4.4 Graduate Course Enrollment by Undergraduates. (http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/registration-attendance/#ap-1-4-4)