

# PUBLIC HEALTH, MPH

**Banner Code:** PH-MPH-PUBH

## Academic Advising

Website: <https://publichealth.gmu.edu/students/academic-advising>  
(<https://publichealth.gmu.edu/students/academic-advising/>)

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 these highly specialized concentrations:

- Community Health Promotion
- Epidemiology
- Food Security and Nutrition
- Global Health
- Health Equity and Social Justice
- 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). For more information about application requirements and deadlines, please visit the College of Public Health Admissions website (<https://publichealth.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.

## Policies

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.

### 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

#### Public Health Core

Code	Title	Credits
GCH 500	Foundations of Public Health	3
GCH 604	Fundamentals of Epidemiology and Biostatistics <sup>1</sup>	3
or GCH 712	Introduction to Epidemiology	
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 635	Role of Government in Health Care and Public Health	3
HAP 680	Applied Public Health Leadership and Management	3
Total Credits		21

1

Students in the MPH-Epidemiology concentration **must** take GCH 712. GCH 604 will not count toward the Public Health Core requirements for MPH-Epidemiology students. Students in other concentrations may not take GCH 712 as part of their Public Health Core coursework. It may be taken as a concentration elective, as approved by the MPH program advisor.

### 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 two courses over two semesters, as follows<sup>1</sup>:

Code	Title	Credits
GCH 780	Practicum Seminar	0
GCH 790	Practicum in Public Health	3
Total Credits		3

1

Students enrolled in catalog years prior to 2022-2023 must complete GCH 792 Integrative Learning Experience.

## 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.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
GCH 607	Evidence-Based Public Health Practice	3
GCH 610	Health Behavior Theory	3
GCH 620	Public Health Promotion Strategies	3
GCH 651	Behavioral Research Methods	3
GCH 655	Public Health Equity and Justice	3
<b>Electives</b>		
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 591	Study Abroad in Public Health	
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	
GG5 540	Health Geography	
GG5 553	Geographic Information Systems	
NUTR 620	Nutrition Education	
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 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.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
GCH 726	Advanced Methods in Epidemiology I	3
GCH 804	Biostatistics for Public Health I	3
GCH 805	Biostatistics for Public Health II	3
GCH 824	Advanced Data Analysis for Epidemiologic Research	3
<b>Restricted Electives</b>		
Select three credits from the following:		3
GCH 722	Infectious Disease Epidemiology	
GCH 727	Advanced Methods in Epidemiology II	
GCH 732	Chronic Disease Epidemiology	
GCH 762	Environmental Epidemiology	
GCH 772	Social Epidemiology	
<b>Electives</b>		
Select three credits from the following:		3
GCH 515	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Health	
GCH 543	Global Health	
GCH 571	HIV/AIDS: Concepts, Principles, and Interventions	
GCH 560	Environmental Health	
GCH 607	Evidence-Based Public Health Practice	
GCH 626	Migrant Health	
GCH 632	SAS for Health Research	
GCH 651	Behavioral Research Methods	
GCH 722	Infectious Disease Epidemiology	
GCH 727	Advanced Methods in Epidemiology II	
GCH 732	Chronic Disease Epidemiology	
GCH 762	Environmental Epidemiology	
GCH 772	Social Epidemiology	

GGS 540	Health Geography	
GGS 550	Geospatial Science Fundamentals	
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.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
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	3
<b>Electives</b>		
Select three credits from the following:		3
GCH 591	Study Abroad in Public Health	
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.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
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 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	
NUTR 583	Food and Culture	
NUTR 630	Global Nutrition	
NUTR 651	Nutrition Assessment	
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 Equity and Social Justice (HESJ)

Students critically evaluate the social determinants of health, analyze the root causes of structural inequities, and develop a range of interventions and strategies to advance health equity and social justice in public health practice and policy.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
GCH 655	Public Health Equity and Justice	3
SOCW 656	Poverty, Oppression, and Inequity	3

SOCW 659	Organizing and Advocating for Change	3
SOCW 710	Behavioral Health Interventions Across Systems	3
SOCW 810	Technology Innovations to Power Social Change	3

**Electives**

Select 3 credits from the following:		3
GCH 543	Global Health	
GCH 571	HIV/AIDS: Concepts, Principles, and Interventions	
GCH 591	Study Abroad in Public Health	
GCH 607	Evidence-Based Public Health Practice	
GCH 610	Health Behavior Theory	
GCH 691	Project Management in Public Health	
HAP 742	Health Policy Development and Analysis	
NUTR 620	Nutrition Education	
SOCW 653	Immigration Policy	
SOCW 654	Social Policy for Children and Youth	
SOCW 655	Aging Programs and Policies	
SOCW 663	Global Human Rights Policy	
SOCW 664	Creative Arts in Social Work Practice	
SOCW 682	Substance Use Interventions	
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.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
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
<b>Electives</b>		
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.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
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
<b>Electives</b>		
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	
GG5 540	Health Geography	
GG5 553	Geographic Information Systems	
NUTR 583	Food and Culture	
NUTR 651	Nutrition Assessment	
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)**

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.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
GCH 535	Public Health Preparedness and Response	3
GCH 551 or GCH 560	Rural Public Health Environmental Health	3
GCH 607	Evidence-Based Public Health Practice	3
GCH 655	Public Health Equity and Justice	3
GCH 691	Project Management in Public Health	3
GCH 720	Public Health Problems in a Changing Society	3
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 AP.6.7 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 AP.6 Graduate Policies (<http://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://gch.gmu.edu/program/accelerated-bachelormaster-public-health-mph/>) 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 George Mason University 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:

Code	Title	Credits
GCH 300	Introduction to Public Health	3
ENGH 302	Advanced Composition (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	3
STAT 250	Introductory Statistics I (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> ) <sup>1</sup>	3

<sup>1</sup> 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:

Code	Title	Credits
GCH 500	Foundations of Public Health <sup>1</sup>	3
GCH 604 or GCH 712	Fundamentals of Epidemiology and Biostatistics <sup>2</sup> Introduction to Epidemiology	3
GCH 609	Community Assessment and Partnerships <sup>3</sup>	3
GCH 611	Health Program Planning and Evaluation <sup>4</sup>	3
Total Credits		12

<sup>1</sup> Substitutes for a BS in Community Health elective.

<sup>2</sup> Substitutes for GCH 335 for all concentrations except Epidemiology. Epidemiology concentration students are required to take GCH 712 which will substitute for GCH 412. Epidemiology concentration students may not count GCH 604 toward degree completion.

<sup>3</sup> Substitutes for GCH 376.

<sup>4</sup> GCH 609 is a required prerequisite. Substitutes for GCH 411.

### 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>).

Code	Title	Credits
GCH 645	U.S. and Global Public Health Systems	3
HAP 635	Role of Government in Health Care and Public Health	3
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 AP.1.4.4 Graduate Course Enrollment by Undergraduates. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/registration-attendance/#ap-1-4-4>)