

**School of Public Health and Health Services**

**Doctor of Public Health – Health Policy  
Department of Health Policy**

**2009-2010**

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

**Program Director**

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**Mission**

The DrPH Health Policy Specialty Field is focused on understanding and learning to apply to complex and real world problems the policy framework of public health and health care. Particular emphasis is placed on areas of focus affecting medically underserved and vulnerable populations. The specialty field allows candidates to work at the nexus of health policy, public health practice, and health services research.

**Goals**

The goal of the health policy specialty field is to create doctoral-level public health professionals who are uniquely equipped to provide real-world leadership at the national and state levels in all phases of public health, health care, and health policy development and implementation. The objectives of this specialty field are to:

- Provide advanced training on cutting edge issues in health policy;
- Equip candidates with the research and analytic methods they need to conduct the types of advanced analysis that can make a real difference in health care and public health.

**Competencies**

The Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) Program prepares professionals to assume national and international leadership positions in environmental and occupational health, global health, health behavior, and health policy. The field of public health provides unique insights into the complex interrelationships between health, politics, and human development. It enables professionals to address public health issues by marshalling research and analytic skills to develop innovative approaches to understand health and to promote and advocate for improved health outcomes. Upon completion of the DrPH program, students in the program will demonstrate ability in the core competencies listed here: [http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/academicprograms/programs/doctor\\_public\\_health/Core%20Competencies.pdf](http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/academicprograms/programs/doctor_public_health/Core%20Competencies.pdf) Students in the DrPH Health Policy program will demonstrate ability in the following program-specific competencies listed below:

**Program-Specific Competencies**

Because the DrPH builds on knowledge and competencies already acquired in a master program, upon completion of the DrPH in Health Policy, students will be able to demonstrate **strengthened** functional competence on master-level competencies in health policy and **additional** doctoral-level competence required of the DrPH in Health Policy, which is designed to teach not only the substance of health policy (how public health and health services policy is developed and implemented in the U.S.) and the skills of policy analysis (including research, qualitative and quantitative, and written and oral communications skills), but also the substance and skills needed to apply theoretical frameworks and qualitative and quantitative research methods to real world problems in order to draw recommendations for policy change. Upon completion of the DrPH in Health Policy, students will demonstrate functional competence to:

- **HPD-1.** Critically describe and comprehensively assess the political, legal, philosophical, economic, financial, and/or social framework of U.S. health policy and demonstrate high level proficiency in applying that understanding to the analysis of current health policy issues. Relevant Courses: PubH 209.31 (prereqs: 281 & 282 or equivalent), 283 or 284, 289, 401, 404 (prereqs: 281 & 282 or equivalent), 408 (prereqs: basic microeconomics & 285 or equivalent).

- **HPD-2.** Rapidly locate, critically assess, appropriately use, and subtly synthesize policy-relevant qualitative and quantitative information relevant to key issues in U.S. health policy, including a full range of evidence related to the legislative, regulatory, and judicial processes, peer-reviewed literature, and “gray” literature produced by governments, policy analysis and research entities and other relevant organizations. Relevant Courses: PubH **209.31** (prereqs: 281 & 282 or equivalent), **283 or 284, 289, 404** (prereqs: 281 & 282 or equivalent), **413, 414, 415, 417, 418.**
- **HPD-3.** Expertly apply the core elements of a policy analysis to key issues in U.S. health policy (health services and public health policy) through both short and long written papers, and in oral presentations of policy analyses. Relevant Courses: PubH **209.31** (prereqs: 281 & 282 or equivalent), **289, 404** (prereqs: 281 & 282 or equivalent), **412, 413, 414, 417, 418.**
- **HPD-4.** Critically identify, appropriately assess and, expertly apply theoretical knowledge and conceptual models in support of health policy research, develop hypotheses that can be tested in a health policy research project, select appropriate health policy research designs and methodologies, including quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods, and understand and appropriately apply analytical strategies used in health policy research and analysis. Relevant Courses: PubH **209.31** (prereqs: 281 & 282 or equivalent), **247, 249, 252, 260, 403, 404** (prereqs: 281 & 282 or equivalent), **408** (prereqs: basic microeconomics & 285 or equivalent), **415, 416, 417, 418.**
- **HPD-5.** Acquire the ability and the expertise to write grant and contract proposals, prepare applications, and identify and address the ethical implications of research methods. Relevant Courses: PubH **247, 404** (prereqs: 281 & 282 or equivalent), **416, 417, 418.**
- **HPD-6.** Acquire the ability and the skills to become a leader in the field of health policy (public health and health services policy). Relevant Courses: PubH **209.31** (prereqs: 281 & 282 or equivalent), **247, 249, 252, 260, 283 or 284, 289, 401, 402, 403, 404** (prereqs: 281 & 282 or equivalent), **408** (prereqs: basic microeconomics & 285 or equivalent), **412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418.**
- **HPD-7.** Develop and teach a course in health policy (public health and health services policy) or related area. Relevant Courses: PubH **209.31** (prereqs: 281 & 282 or equivalent), **412.**

Doctor of Public Health  
Health Policy  
Program at A Glance  
2009-2010

Course Distribution Summary

- Total Credits = Minimum 60
- Transfer Credit Maximum = 12
- Required Foundation Courses and Research Methods = 23 credits
- Required Specialty Field Courses = 11 credits
- Specialty Field Electives = 6 credits
- Professional Leadership = 6 credits
- Dissertation Preparation and Dissertation = 14 credits

REQUIRED FOUNDATIONAL COURSES AND RESEARCH METHODS  
23 CREDITS

Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken/ Proposed	Grade	Waive	Transferred
PubH 401	Leadership in Public Health Practice and Policy – Doctoral Seminar	2	Fall Year 1			Can not be transferred
PubH 260	Advanced Data Analysis for Public Health May Transfer. Approved by Instructor Prereq: PubH 247, 249	3	Spring Year 1			
PubH 403	Measurement in Public Health and Health Services Research – Doctoral Seminar Prereq: PubH 260	3	Fall Year 2			Can not be transferred
PubH 252	Advanced Epidemiology Methods May Transfer. Approved by Instructor Prereq: PubH 247, Pre or Co-req PubH 249	3	Spring Year 1			
PubH 249	Use of Statistical Packages: Data Management and Data Analysis May Transfer. Approved by Instructor	3	Fall Year 1			
PubH 247	Design of Health Studies May Transfer. Approved by Instructor	3	Fall Year 1			
PubH 415	Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis May Transfer. Approved by Instructor Prereq: PubH 260	3	Spring Year 2			
PubH 416	Evaluation Research Prereq: PubH 260, 403	3	Fall Year 2			Can not be transferred

REQUIRED SPECIALTY FIELD COURSES  
11 CREDITS

Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken/ Proposed	Grade
PubH 283 or PubH 284	Health Services and Law or Public Health and Law	3		
PubH 404	Advanced Topics- Health Systems and Health Policy Research – Doctoral Seminar (Prereq: PubH 281 and PubH 282 or approval by instructor)	3		
PubH 408	Advanced Topics –Advanced Health Economics Research – Doctoral Seminar (Basic microeconomics required; Prereq: PubH 285 or approval by instructor)	3		
PubH 209.31	Chair’s Seminar in Health Policy (Prereq: PubH 281 and PubH 282 or approval by instructor)	1		
PubH 289	Federal Budget Process for Health Policy	1		

SPECIALTY FIELD ELECTIVE COURSES 6 CREDITS SAMPLE COURSES BELOW						
Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken/ Proposed	Grade	Waived	Transferred
PubH 287	Advanced Maternal and Child Health Policy	1				
PubH 288	Civil Rights Issues in Health Care	2				
PubH 297	Primary Health Care Policy (Prereq: PubH 281)	2				

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP COURSES 6 CREDITS					
Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken / Proposed	Waived	Grade
PubH 412	Instructional Leadership	Varies			
PubH 413	Research Leadership	Varies			
PubH 414	Policy/Management Leadership	Varies			

**COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION**

**DISSERTATION PREPARATION AND DISSERTATION**

Course	Title	Credits	Semester Taken/ Proposed	Grade
PubH 417	Advanced Health Care and Public Health Research Design Prerequisites: Passing Comprehensive Exams, Approval of the Program Director, and a page-long abstract that includes the following: Student Name, Program Director, Faculty Advisor if different from the Program Director, Title, Objective (including population), Research Methods and Analysis Methods, Anticipated Results/Hypotheses.	2		
PubH 418	Dissertation Research DrPH Degree Dissertation Research	1 to 12		

PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT REQUIREMENTS		
	Semesters	Fulfilled

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 DrPH Program Director \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that any deviation from this Program of Study must be approved by the Program Director  
 Signatures:

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Advisor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 DrPH Program Director \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Course Descriptions  
2009-2010**

PubH	247	Design of Health Studies	3	Epidemiologic concepts and methods applied to specific research questions especially new types of public health problems. Recognition and development of the most appropriate study design for a specific health issue. Ecologic, cross-sectional, case-control, cohort studies and clinical trials. Sampling, measurement, questionnaire design, causality and causal criteria. Development of a research proposal. Prerequisite, PubH 203, Fall Year 1
PubH	249	Use of Statistical Packages: Data Management and Data Analysis	3	This course familiarizes the student with one of the most widely used database management systems and statistical analysis software packages, the SAS System, operating in a Windows environment. Throughout the course, several database management system techniques and data analytical strategies for the appropriate analysis of datasets obtained from a variety of studies will be presented. Statistical techniques covered include linear regression, analysis of variance, logistic regression, and survival analysis. Prerequisite, PubH 202, Fall Year 1
PubH	252	Advanced Epidemiology Methods	3	Advanced quantitative epidemiologic methods, with a focus on basic data analytic techniques, identifying and evaluating bias and adjusting for confounding. Dose-response, trend analysis, and multiple linear and logistic regression models. Pre- or co-requisites: PubH 249; Prerequisite 247, Spring Year 1
PubH	260	Advanced Data Analysis for Public Health	3	Advanced data analysis using the SAS System to expand on the analytic techniques gained in PubH 202 and PubH 249 and to provide students with the applied statistical skills required to analyze various types of public health datasets. Prerequisites: PubH 249, Spring Year 1
PubH	283	Health Services and Law	3	This course addresses the relationship of law and the legal system in the United States to the individual health care delivery system. It examines how various sources of law embody health policy and affect the organization, delivery, and financing of health care, as well as the regulation of health care quality and patient rights. Summer, Fall, Spring
PubH	284	Public Health and Law	3	Examines how law can both promote and impede the public's health. Introduces students to the legal concepts that underlie the public health system and that inform public health policymaking in the United States. Topics to be covered include the role of law in public health care and policy (e.g., governmental powers vs. civil liberties, regulation of public health, tobacco regulation), managed care and public health, the role of public health officials in shaping law and policy, and public health law reform. Spring
PubH	289	Federal Budget Process for Health Policy	2	Focuses on how the Congressional budget process shapes the funding and design of federal health care programs, ranging from entitlement programs like Medicare to appropriated programs like community health centers. Discussions will cover budget resolutions, appropriations bills, and budget reconciliation legislation, as well as Congressional procedures and committees through which they are considered. Prerequisite: PubH 205. Summer
PubH	401	Leadership in Public Health Practice and Policy	2	Principles of public health practice and policy with a focus on the interdisciplinary and strategic application of skills, knowledge and competencies necessary both to perform public health core functions and to enhance the capacity to perform these functions. Fall Year 1

PubH	403	Measurement in Public Health and Health Services Research	3	Reviews principles of measurement and assessment as they apply to public health and health services research constructs, reviews existing state-of-the-art measures of individual and population health status (e.g., morbidity, mortality, functioning and health-related quality of life) and of individual and community health behavior, and explores current measurement issues in health research. Prerequisite: PubH 260, Fall Year 2
PubH	404	Advanced Topics - Health Systems and Health Policy Research	3	Examination and assessment of issues related to the intersection of healthcare systems and health policy, and how health policy and health services research can inform the development and evaluation of healthcare systems and health policy. Spring
PubH	408	Advanced Topics - Advanced Health Economics Research	3	Examines a range of critical financing issues for U.S. public health and health care services/systems. Considers the role of health services research in (1) understanding the effects of these issues and (2) informing the deliberations and decisions of policymakers. Fall
PubH	209.31	Chair's Seminar in Health Policy	1	A short seminar, open exclusively to doctoral candidates and structured to offer an intimate introductory experience to in-depth consideration of critical issues in health policy. Fall
PubH	412	Instructional Leadership	1-6	Students participate in a range of activities designed to develop and enhance their teaching skills. These activities include course development, teaching masters level courses, acting as TA for undergraduate courses, advising students about their class performance, evaluating student performance, and developing remedial programs for students.
PubH	413	Research Leadership	1-6	Students participate in a range of activities designed to develop and enhance their research methods and analytic skills. These activities include participating in the development and submission of sponsored research proposals; being formally affiliated with a research project, assuming responsibility for completing a real-world research project; engaging in empirical data collection and analysis efforts.
PubH	414	Policy/Management Leadership	1-6	Students participate in a range of activities designed to develop and enhance their management, leadership and policymaking skills as applied to problem solving in real-world settings, such as public health departments, community health centers, legislative settings, and public or teaching hospitals.
PubH	415	Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis	3	Techniques for designing and conducting qualitative research and for analyzing and reporting qualitative data relevant to program development and implementation, community assessment, and policy analysis. Prerequisite: PubH 260, Spring Year 2
PubH	416	Evaluation Research	3	Principles of evaluation research emphasizing the ability to synthesize the population-based intervention literature, apply planning and management methods, describe and apply research methods from a range of disciplines, and prepare research proposals at the R01 level. Prerequisite: PubH 260, Fall Year 2
PubH	417	Advanced Health Care and Public Health Research Design	2	Design of protocol suitable for implementation as part of Doctor of Public Health dissertation requirement. Prerequisites: Passing Comprehensive Exams, Approval of the Program Director, and a page-long abstract that includes the following: Student Name, Program Director, Faculty Advisor if different from the Program Director, Title, Objective (including population), Research Methods and Analysis Methods, Anticipated Results/Hypotheses. Grade = Credit/No Credit. Fall, Spring
PubH	418	Dissertation Research	1 to 12	Dissertation Research for DrPH. Prerequisite: 417