



Overview

The Hirsh Health Law and Policy Program of the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services (SPHHS) offers unique educational opportunities to law students, practicing lawyers, and health professions students. Endowed by Harold and Jane Hirsh and home to GW's combined programs in law and public health, the program is designed to foster an interdisciplinary approach to the study of health policy, health law, public health, and health care. The Hirsh Program's overall goal is to advance a greater understanding regarding how the law influences and shapes all phases of health care and public health, as well as how the changing system affects traditional areas of the law. At the same time, the program seeks to achieve the pragmatic objectives of readying law degree candidates and practicing lawyers for the broad range of health law-related careers that are available today.

Established in 1997 and located in Washington, D.C., the Hirsh Program is structured to allow students to take maximum advantage of its location at the center of the national health policy and law debate. The program is designed to provide a solid grounding in health, ranging from the study of the health system itself to extensive coursework in health policy and law. The program serves Juris Doctor (JD) and Master of Laws (LLM) candidates as well as lawyers pursuing health law careers and all manner of health profession students.

Law-Public Health Degree/Certificate Admissions Information

Applicants to the law-public health degree/certificate programs may apply for admission to SPHHS at the time they apply to the Law School or after admission to the Law School. JD candidates who do not apply concurrently to the Law School and SPHHS are encouraged to file the SPHHS application by the spring semester of their first year of law school. LLM candidates are encouraged to apply to SPHHS at the time they apply to the Law School or during their first semester on campus.

Applicants must complete both the application for the GW Law School (JD/LLM) and the School of Public Health and Health Services (MPH/Certificate), and must receive separate acceptances from both Schools. Because admission to each program is separate and distinct, applicants who are not accepted by both Schools may still enroll in the School to which they have been accepted.

Applications for the combined law-public health programs are available at the schools' respective web sites (Law School: <http://www.law.gwu.edu>; SPHHS: <http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs>). You may request a paper copy of the SPHHS application by contacting the Office of Admission (see contact information below). Applicants applying simultaneously to both schools who are seeking a MPH degree must submit the SPHHS application, two letters of recommendation, a resume, and a Statement of Purpose. Test scores and transcripts need only be sent to the GW Law School, which then copies them for the SPHHS admissions files. Applicants applying simultaneously to both schools who are seeking a Graduate Certificate in Public Health must submit the SPHHS application, a resume, and a Statement of Purpose. Test scores and transcripts need only be sent to the GW Law School, which then copies them for the SPHHS admissions files. Applicants to the

MPH or Certificate Program who are already enrolled in the Law School submit the SPHHS application, a Statement of Purpose, and a resume.

Lawyers who are applying to the MPH or Certificate Program are not required to submit standardized test scores. For lawyers applying to the Graduate Certificate program, references are not required and transcripts are required only from the applicant's Law School.

Program Costs

SPHHS coursework taken while enrolled as a full- or part-time JD or LLM candidate is charged at the Law School tuition rate. The SPHHS tuition and fees rate are charged for summer coursework and for semesters when no Law School courses are taken. Lawyers pay the SPHHS tuition and fees rate.

Internship/Research Opportunities

The Hirsh Program offers extensive assistance in arranging internships in Congressional offices, federal agencies, and the hundreds of national health organizations located in and throughout the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Through its affiliation with the Department of Health Policy's Center for Health Policy Research, the program also engages in extensive law-related health policy research, offering Hirsh Program students the possibility of paid or for-credit training opportunities throughout their period of study. Please visit the Department's website at <http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/departments/healthpolicy/> for a description of the type of research in which it engages.

Alumni

The Hirsh Program maintains an active alumni group of lawyers and health professionals practicing in the D.C. area and throughout the country. Graduates of the Hirsh Program routinely accept positions at leading law firms, federal and state agencies, consulting firms, and universities, in and around D.C. and in other cities. The breadth of placements regularly attained by graduates in both the public and private sector illustrates the opportunities afforded under the program. Once in their chosen field of practice, alumni of the program recognize that their joint studies in law and public health are an invaluable asset on the job. Alumni in the practice of health law, on the one hand, report that their training in the SPHHS enables them to understand the myriad aspects of the health care system, including its structure, financing, and terminology. On the other hand, Hirsh Program alumni who spend their days as health professionals indicate that their training in the law earns them added respect from their employers and added credibility from the health care providers, agencies, and companies with which they interact.

Additional Information

Additional information regarding the Hirsh Program can be found at <http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/hirsh>. Or, contact Joel Teitelbaum, J.D., LL.M., Managing Director of the Hirsh Program, at (202) 994-4233 or joelt@gwu.edu. For information about SPHHS admissions, contact Emily Rhineberger, Executive Coordinator of the Office of Admissions, at sphehr@gwumc.edu or at Ross Hall, Suite 202, 2300 I Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.